

KEVIN SPACEY landed the lead role in new film CASINO JACK by connecting with late director GEORGE HICKENLOOPER on Facebook.com.

The American Beauty star's production partner alerted him to a post on Hickenlooper's Facebook page that said the actor would be a good candidate to play embattled lobbyist Jack Abramoff in the movie.

Spacey's

colleague then struck up a friendship with Hickenlooper on the social networking website, leading to an onscreen collaboration.

Spacey says, "George wrote on his Facebook page that he thought I would be a good candidate to play Jack Abramoff..."

"My producing partner, I guess you call it poking, or friending, on Facebook - they started talking. Before I knew it George was on a plane to London (to meet him) and I was doing the film."

Hickenlooper died from an accidental overdose in October (10) while he was promoting Casino Jack, the director's last film.

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