

Pursuing his passion

Pragmatic, methodical approach pays off for home grown actor

(Windsor, Ontario, April 2, 2015) – Like many adults his age, Scott Miller has most likely forgotten a lot of the finer details of much of the material he was taught in school.

Looking back on his education though, he's grateful for remembering the most important lessons.

"I might not remember a lot of what I learned," he says from his home in Australia, "but I do remember what they really taught me about who I am as a person."

A graduate of both St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School and St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic High School, Miller is now living his dream, plying his trade as an actor while running a hotel and restaurant in Sydney's Northern Beaches, an hour outside Brooklyn, Australia where he's been living with his family for a little more than two years.

His most recent credit is the role of Sergeant Wilks, a co-lead character in the sci-fi thriller *Alien Outpost*, which was screened in select theatres and is available for download on iTunes and video on demand. Directed by Jabbar Raisani (*Game of Thrones*, *Fantastic Four*, *Fright Night*, *Predators*, *Machete*), it tells the story of a documentary crew following an elite team of soldiers in the wake of an invasion from outer space.



"It's a very specific genre," Miller said. "It really feels like you're right in the action."

Miller landed the role just after moving to Australia a few years ago so that his wife could be closer to her family. He found an Australian agent there and started putting auditions on tape, which eventually led to a Skype conversation with Raisani. In a couple of weeks, he was headed to South Africa, where he spent about six weeks on location in the spring of 2013 shooting the film.

“It was really the first time that I’ve been able to delve into a character for any length of time,” he said.

Prior to that co-lead, he had played a number of supporting roles on such television shows as *The Killing*, *End Game*, *Supernatural*, and *Alcatraz*. As for film, the only other role he’s had so far in a major cinematic production was a small part in *2012*, a doomsday scenario sci-fi thriller that starred John Cusack and Woody Harrelson. He thought he would have a more significant speaking part, but a lot of the lines he shot ended up on the editing room floor. He doesn’t consider it a waste of time however, noting that he learned a great deal just by being on the set with some major Hollywood actors, while working acclaimed director Roland Emmerich.



Miller got his start in acting in 2000 when he moved to Vancouver to study at the acclaimed Lyric School of Acting. He began his career on stage, performing in a number of original plays and then moving on to writing and directing his own shows.

“That’s not because I thought that’s what *real* actors do, but because film didn’t want anything to do with me,” he said.

Along with friend and fellow actor Warren Christie, Miller had decided to move to Vancouver to act because Toronto was just too close to home.

“We just wanted to pursue our passion in a place where we had a little more anonymity,” he said.

After graduating from high school in 1994, Miller went to the University of Windsor where he studied biology and went on to be a record setting wide receiver for the Lancer football team.

“I wasn’t really all that gung-ho about science but I recognized the importance of getting a degree,” he said. “I really found it interesting to see all the jobs I could get that weren’t related to science, just by having one.”

After graduating from university, he did a few jobs related to science, working as a field chemist for a water treatment company in Vancouver, and as a land surveyor, but eventually started taking acting classes.

Eventually he went to Korea in 1999 to teach English and see the world “much to the dismay of my parents,” he said. “It took them about a week to believe me that I was actually going.”

When he came back to Canada, and really focused on his acting, he found an agent who landed him some commercials and a few small parts.

“I probably had about 20 or 30 ‘no’s’ before I even got a sniff,” he said, noting that he was always pragmatic enough to make sure he had a second job to support himself. In fact, it’s that approach to life that he would offer up as advice to any students considering a vocation like his.

“A career in acting isn’t less work, or easier work than many careers,” he said. “In fact, it’s one of the hardest things you’ll ever do. You can do all the right things but it doesn’t mean you’re going to get a job. It’s like studying your whole life to be a doctor and then being told you don’t get the job because of the color of your hair. Although I was never the top student in my class, I always protected myself by taking care of life’s responsibilities, and making sure I had something to rely on.”

Perhaps it was growing up in a small town like McGregor where no one locked their doors at night and being raised in a school system that puts a premium on faith that instilled those kinds of values in him, he supposed.

“Religion wasn’t pushed on me,” he said. “It was always kind of a guideline that was there for me. It was more about having faith in what I don’t really understand, or in what was going to happen next to me. When I was wondering if I was doing the right thing, I had a lot of faith in believing that something good was going to happen when it was supposed to happen, if I just let it happen.”

As for the future, Miller is currently waiting on production of a new straight to video film project called *Paradox*, set to shoot in June. Besides that, he is continuously auditioning for television pilots while taking care of his family and patiently – but not passively – waiting to see what’s next in store.

“It’s really all about being okay with wherever I’m at and finding joy in what I’m doing,” he said.

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