



BASIC INSTINCT

Steve Bacic always knew that the role of Telemachus Rhade in *Andromeda* was right for him. Here he explains why...



THE FUTURE looks none too rosy for Telemachus Rhade in *Andromeda*'s fourth season cliffhanger *The Dissonant Interval*. He is aboard the disintegrating space station Arkology, which is being overrun by the Magog. Rhade's newfound love is fatally wounded in the scuffle and she dies in his arms. Just as he's about to be sucked into Space, Trance suddenly teleports the Nietzschean as well as herself and all the rest of the *Andromeda* Ascendant crew to the Seefra system where they'll be safe. He may have cheated death, but the experience has left Rhade a changed man. It's something that was a very long time in coming, as his alter ego, the talented actor Steve Bacic, explains.

"Rhade was a lost soul," notes Bacic. "As much as he seemed to be in control, he wasn't. His pragmatic make up was a façade. It was all due to his

Nietzschean DNA and having been brought up in a military family. There was that whole generation after generation of Rhades that carried on a legacy of Gaheer Rhade. As we find out later this (fifth) season, Telemachus entered into the military in an attempt to escape a tragedy that occurred in his personal life.

"In serving aboard the *Andromeda*, he eventually got to Arkology. It's there he discovered a different way of thinking and being. That's what made him give up his heart for a second time, but his love for Louisa [Majorie Monaghan] was more spiritual and emotional rather than physical. Of course, all that was destroyed, and who did Rhade blame? Not himself, but Captain Dylan Hunt [Kevin Sorbo]. Dylan brought hope back into my character's life, and once again it was taken away from him. Rhade ended up on Seefra-1 and had nine months to brood and basically survive before Dylan showed up.

"Through the process of survival he actually tried to kill himself. By that I mean Rhade started drinking a lot and put himself into dangerous situations. However, thanks to his training and instincts, his will to live was too great, and all those situations only helped make him a better and stronger fighter. By the middle of the season Rhade manages to pull himself together, but he still has a journey to go on. In many ways he's still lost and is searching to get somewhere. That's enabled me to take my character outside the proverbial box if you will, and have much more fun playing him."