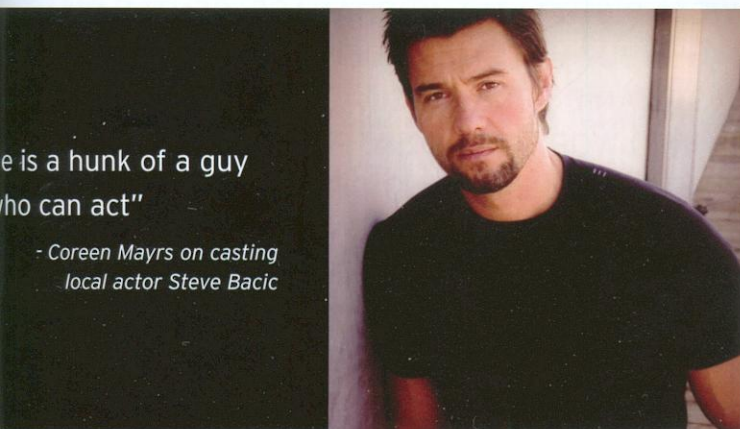


Making the argument that a local actor can step into a role that might, in the minds of Hollywood producers, be reserved for Americans gets easier for Mayrs. She says that as the years go by there is more trust between the local casting directors and the US-based producers and directors. She says that while there is still some frustration inherent in the job, it is far better than it was when she started out.

"One of the things that make it easier is an improvement in the relationship between the casting director and the filmmakers. There is a lot more trust for the most part because the filmmakers are often familiar with the performers we are bringing into the room because they have either shot here before, or are familiar with their work having seen it, for example, last week on television, and they therefore feel comfortable hiring them. Often we will cast a Canadian performer without even bringing them into the room by using demo tapes or dialogue. Of course, there are a lot of variables involved. Some producers come up to Vancouver not having been here before and are naturally not as open to Canadians playing larger roles and budgets and distributor requirements can affect decisions. But we always attempt to have a dialogue that opens the filmmakers up to considering local talent for roles that might not have otherwise been anticipated as roles that would be offered to Canadian performers. There are still some difficult and frustrating moments but it was a lot more frustrating 15 years ago. Back then, the studios budgeted for a larger number of American actors to be brought up. Now, there is a trend to hire as many people as possible from here because they have confidence in their abilities."

The new approach to relationships between Vancouver casting directors and Hollywood has helped actors get bigger films and television shows that would not have been available in the past. Mayrs says that if she feels confident in a new actor, she will make sure that they learn the process of auditioning. That way, they will be ready to do the work required to get the role that was meant to be theirs. As an example, she cites the case of a natural actor who would probably have been overlooked without a little help from her friends in casting.

"We had an agent call us and tell us that he had just taken on a really interesting girl who was a model but hadn't done much acting. We were intrigued by his pitch and decided to bring her in for a role in a pilot we were casting. After she read for Heike, Heike came immediately into my office and said "there is something there". We agreed that we would bring her in every day for the next while to audition no matter what the part



is a hunk of a guy who can act"

- Coreen Mayrs on casting local actor Steve Bacic

was so that she could lose the fear of auditioning. She got to that point quickly so we started to phone our casting director friends in LA to let them know that we thought we had a movie star in the making up here in Vancouver. It was the first time we'd felt so strongly about a new find. You can imagine how bummed we were when pilot season went by and nobody bit. And then, right at the end of pilot season, an LA Casting Director friend called out of the blue and said to me "I am stuck...I need a girl with a movie star quality to play a role in a pilot, and I've searched all over North America and can't find her. Any ideas?" A couple of later Evangeline Lilly was in Maui shooting *Lost*. ■



LLSR Inc.







KINO-FLO
Barfly 100 & 200
 2 Bank or Single
 Compact w/ control
 Hide It or Fly It
 42 FC @ 6Ft on 2Bank

Ph 604-298-3224

www.LLSR.com

Fx 604-298-2023



GROSSMAN & STANLEY
 BUSINESS LAWYERS

JOHN P.H. NICOLLS
ENTERTAINMENT & BUSINESS LAW


- Rights Acquisitions/Options • Tax Credit Issues
- Co-Production Agreements • Bank Financing
- Distribution/Sales-Agency Contracts
- Employment • Book Publishing/New Media
- Copyright/Trademarks • Production Legal Work



International Experience - Local Knowledge
 #800-1090 West Georgia St., Vancouver, BC V6E 3V7
 Tel: (604) 683-7454 Fax: (604) 683-8602
 E-mail: jnicolls@grossmanstanley.com
www.grossmanstanley.com

Thousands of the finest quality costumes for every occasion

- Corporate Events
- Theatre
- Halloween
- Easter
- Christmas
- Theme Weddings
- Scottish Formals
- Animals
- Wigs
- Custom Mascots



WATTS
Costume Rentals
 Since 1935

.....

217 West 6th Avenue
 (2½ blocks east of Cambie)
Vancouver

.....

604-876-5611
www.wattscostumes.com

.....