



STEVE BACIC

My heart pounds away in my chest, begging me to slow my pace. As dusk starts to hit the forested trails of the North Shore, I desperately try to keep up with my tour guide for the day. I was pretty sure I was in reasonably good shape, but this is ridiculous.

A distant voice shouts back, "Are you OK? Should I slow down?"

"No, I'm fine; totally cool..." I wheeze out my answer, as somewhere off in the trees, Vancouver actor Steve Bacic is pounding away at the ground. His legs are a fluid motion over this favorite piece of local real estate that carves and lunges along the steep embankments below Grouse Mountain and the Great Beyond. I stop for a minute to cough up a lung. How did I get myself into this predicament? Let me back up a bit...

Earlier that day, I met up with Bacic (pronounced "basic") to get a taste of what it was really like to be a part of what has become the hottest growth industry for British Columbia over the past twenty years. Along with the growing number of Who's Who-L.A. power players visiting our province every year, the biz has dragged billions into the local economy and employs hundreds of thousands.

"I get a lot of work done here", Bacic says. "It's great for multitasking."

I started the day at Bacic's office or, more precisely, the North Shore gym where he keeps himself finely tuned for upcoming roles. Bacic gives the equipment a workout as his mind focuses in on script pages.

For an actor whose credit-list spans back to the days of *21 Jump Street*, Bacic's done OK for

himself—his sleek black Jaguar is evidence of this. More recently, he's been known for his recurring roles on *Stargate SG-1* as well as for playing the lead role of "Telemachus Rhade" on the hit series *Andromeda*. Rolling along Marine Drive, the phone rings. Bacic's been edgy all morning, once again waiting on that next gig—in this business, you never really can afford to relax.

"You're always waiting for that phone call", Bacic says.

Spend a little time with a hard working guy like Bacic, and it soon becomes apparent that the idea that acting is little more than sunglasses and cocktails is a gross misconception. Bacic works hard at what he's doing, both on and off the set. The work schedule is often unpredictable and sporadic, meaning that you need to be in a constant state of readiness—you need the ability to turn it on at a moment's notice. In fact, as Bacic wolfs down various shapes and sizes of protein and calories at lunch after his morning workout, the phone vibrates constantly. A job he's up for is slated to start the next day on the other side of the country. He learns from his "people" that casting choices on the other characters are delaying a commitment from the studio. Typical.

So what is Bacic up to when he's not pounding the North Shore trail-network, hustling the next job or rehearsing tomorrow's "pages"? Because he is relatively unknown in Vancouver, Bacic can cruise through most airports and public arenas undetected. But send him to Europe for any one of the dozens of *Andromeda* or *Stargate SG-1* fan conventions, and it's a whole different ballpark.

"They fly in from all over the place", Bacic says. "I used to go as often as six times a year, but I've cut back a bit."

Think I'm kidding? Have a look at Bacic's Web site (search under "Basic Bacic" on your favorite Web browser), click on the forum, and the testimonials will present themselves. Close to 250 users are registered on the site, with over 60,000 entries posted in the forum since the site was launched in 2004. I ask Bacic where the webmaster is, and find out to my surprise that the fan site, Web forum, and brains behind the operation are all based in Copenhagen. Just another indication of how far our locally-filmed entertainment reaches.

So what has kept a good looking guy like Bacic grounded and still living in Vancouver after all these years? As we made our way out the door and on to our next adventure, the sun had broken outside—time for sunglasses.

"To stop missing is the worst", Bacic responds. I thought about what he could have meant for a minute, and realized what he was talking about: to stop missing where you come from and what's important to you—home. He's shot films all over the country, travels most years to L.A. for what is known as "pilot-season" (the annual casting sessions for the upcoming TV season), and has circled the globe for dozens of fan conferences. Spending long periods of time away