

# DURHAM COUNTY

## Cast Bios (Alphabetically)

### **CICELY AUSTIN (“Maddie Sweeney”)**

Born in New Zealand to Irish-New Zealand parents, this engaging 10 year old has always stood out from the crowd. Since coming to Canada six years ago, Austin has really enjoyed combining her lively sense of humor and charm in a professional capacity. She made her television debut at age six on the Zone 3 popular children’s series *Me Too* as principal actor and series regular ‘Lori.’ Since then, Austin has acted in a number of TV shows including the popular cooking show *Ricardo & Friends* (La Presse Télé, 2006), *Canadian Case Files: The Dar Heatherington Story* (GFP Fair Play productions, 2006), and *Tripping The Wire* (Gala Film, 2005).

Film-wise, Austin had the opportunity to work with Ghyslain Côté on her internationally acclaimed thriller *Elles Étaient Cinq* (2004), and more recently appeared in two Québec films *Still Life* directed by Jeff Blatt (2006), and Conrad Pla’s *Burning Mussolini* (2006). In addition, she has performed in, and has done voice over work for, a whole host of commercials including IGA, Le Lait, McDonalds, Fondation Marie Vincent, Canadian Tire and Yoplait.

Austin has also appeared in a number of corporate videos and in corporate theatre with *TAC.com*. When she is not acting, She enjoys playing, horse-riding, music, more playing, dancing, soccer, writing, even more playing and, well... life!

### **ALEX CARDILLO (“Mark Verrity”)**

Alex is 11 years old and was born in Ireland. His mother is Irish and his father is British. Both worked in Kenya for 20 years, where Alex lived from the age of 2 weeks old. He immigrated to Canada with his family six years ago.

Alex also speaks excellent French and has a great ear for languages. He has a natural talent for most sports, and excels at speed skating, horse riding, judo, rock climbing, skiing and swimming. He is good at: dancing, singing and acting out, and has a great ability to pick up accents. He can imitate or make any noise or sound.

Alex has acted in an episode of *Family Biz*, a teen series and *Incredible World Investigators*, a youth program about our earth.

He won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the school reality competition "Larson Talent Idol" (based on Canadian Idol), and he was a winner of the 2007 *Canada's National Children's Art Calendar 2008*, for Natural Resources Canada.

### **HUGH DILLON ("Mike Sweeney")**

Combining acting with a distinguished career as a singer songwriter, Hugh Dillon is a dark horse that has been galvanized as one of North America's most respected performers.

Dillon first earned notoriety in Canada and abroad as the lead singer in the multi-platinum rock and roll band, The Headstones. Signed to Universal Music in the early nineties, the band released six albums. It was early on in The Headstones' success when Hugh caught the attention of legendary filmmaker Bruce McDonald. Bruce cast Hugh in *Dance Me Outside* in 1994. Next came his critically acclaimed lead performance as Joe Dick in McDonald's 1996 feature film, *Hard Core Logo*. Quentin Tarantino distributed the movie through his company and brought international attention to the indie classic and its lead actor.

The Genie nominated actor has since starred in the critically acclaimed Sundance Film Festival award winning movie, *Down To The Bone* alongside Vera Farmiga (The Departed) as well as notable roles in Feature Films *Lone Hero*, *Assault On Precinct 13*, *The Trailer Park Boys: The Movie* and *Ginger Snaps Back: The Beginning*.

Dillon's ability to capture honest, realistic portrayals of complicated characters has been his calling card. In 2007, he starred as Mike Sweeney in the dark and twisted serial *Durham County*. His performance as Ed Lane in the CBS/CTV co-production *Flashpoint* is his first step across the border in network primetime and will hit the small screen this July. Other television appearances have included *ReGenesis* and *Degrassi: The Next Generation*.

Dillon has never strayed far from his musical roots, bringing his music with him to film and television. His latest musical musings are featured in *Flashpoint*, *Durham County*, *Trailer Park Boys: The Movie* and the Jennifer Lynch-directed movie, *Surveillance*. In between on-screen takes, he retreated to The Tragically Hip's Bathhouse Studio near his hometown of Kingston, Ontario, to record new tracks with Hip-ster Paul Langlois (producer). His aptly titled album, *After Dark*, is out now.

### **MICHAEL DOPUD ("Glenn Stuckey")**

Michael Dopud recently starred in the first season of the MTV half-hour drama, *Kaya*, where he plays a series lead as a no-nonsense business manager of the band Crossing Coldwater's, of which, his daughter is the lead singer. He also recently worked on the Fox series *Mental*.

Dopud has had recurring roles on such TV shows as: *Battlestar Galactica*, *Stargate Atlantis* and *Smallville*. He also guest starred on *Traveler* and *The L Word* as well as the critically acclaimed *Canada Russia 72*.

His theatrical credits include: *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, *In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale*, *Snow Buddies* and *Ace of Hearts*. He has also appeared in *300*, *BloodRayne II: Deliverance*, *Chaos*, *White Noise*, *Alone in the Dark*, *Rollerball* and *I Spy*.

A former professional football player in Canada, Dopud began his acting career in stunt work. He has been set on fire, hit by a car and thrown through windows, walls, down stairs and off buildings. As a stunt double, he fought with The Rock in *Walking Tall*, Jason Statham in *Chaos*, Vin Diesel in *The Chronicles of Riddick* and Jessica Alba in *Dark Angel*. In 2005, he received a nomination at the Taurus World Stunt Awards for his work in *Walking Tall*.

### **CLAUDIA FERRI ("Roxy Calvert")**

Claudia Ferri most recently starred in *40 is the New 20* by writer/director Simon Boisvert. She also appeared in: *The Last Templar* (NBC), *The Christmas Choir* (Hallmark) and *Wargames-The Dead Code*. She had starring roles in the features: *Dédé, à travers les brumes* (Max Films) and *Les Grandes Chaleurs* directed by Sophie Lorain. Other credits include: *Race to Mars* (Discovery Channel), TVA's *Nos Étés I*, Lifetime's *Tipping Point*, the CBS MOW *Saving Milly*, *End Game in Kosovo* and *Naked Josh*. For her role of Dr. Audrey Habedian in *Ciao Bella* (CBC/Radio-Canada), she won an Award for Best Actress at the 2006 Montreal ACTRA Awards.

In Cinémaginaire's *Mambo Italiano*, Claudia starred as Anna, the pill-popping daughter of an Italian family trying to deal with her brother's hidden homosexuality. For her work she won a nomination in the Pretty Funny Performance category at the 2004 Canadian Comedy Awards and another nomination at the 2004 Jutra Awards. Claudia also starred as Frida Kahlo in *Viva La Frida!* (Official Selection at the Montreal International Festival New Cinema New Media –2002) - a docu-drama based on Kahlo's life.

Whether playing dramatic or comedic characters, Ferri has clearly made her mark as a versatile and solid performer.

### **MICHELLE FORBES (“Penelope Verrity”)**

Michelle Forbes has been able to bring an intense quality to each and every role she tackles. She is among one of our most prolific actors, currently working on three television series both in the US and Canada.

In November 2008, Forbes made her debut in the groundbreaking Alan Ball series for HBO *True Blood*, starring as Maryann, a wealthy local who has mysterious intentions. She also returned as Kate Weston in the critically acclaimed HBO series *In Treatment*, opposite Gabriel Byrne and Dianne Wiest. Lastly, Forbes is also starring in the dark, award-winning Canadian series *Durham County* which airs on The Movie Network in Canada and on ION in the US. She joins the cast as Dr. Penelope Verrity a forensic psychiatrist who is fighting her own psychological collapse.

After years of various theatre and television roles, it was in the 90's that Forbes appeared in such independent films as *Kalifornia*, starring opposite Brad Pitt and David Duchovny, and *Swimming With Sharks* with Kevin Spacey, to name a few. In 1996, Forbes was asked to join the award-winning series *Homicide: Life On The Street*, having met Tom Fontana that same year when she starred opposite Stockard Channing in the television movie *The Prosecutors*.

Forbes then went on to do the critically hailed yet controversial and short lived series *Wonderland* for ABC as well as *Johnson County War*, an epic western filmed for the Hallmark channel. Terribly fond of working in the UK, her other series credits include a three year stint on the lauded BBC television series *Messiah* opposite Ken Stott, and a recurring role on the BBC1 drama *Waking The Dead*. She is also a veteran of the 2nd season of *24*, playing Lynn Kresge.

In 2005, Forbes received rave reviews when she starred as Admiral Helena Cain in the intelligent and politically charged *Battlestar Galactica*. In addition to her extensive television work, Forbes has continued to appear in such independent films as *Dandelion*, which was received admirably at Sundance.

When not working, Forbes makes her home in Los Angeles and London.

### **GREYSTON HOLT (“Ray Prager Jr.”)**

Greyston Holt was born in Calgary, Alberta and at the age of two his parents bundled him up and moved to Vancouver, British Columbia. Shortly after arriving in Vancouver, his parents decided to make their home on Salt Spring Island, the largest of the Gulf Islands. It was idyllic, crime free, lakes, forests, a safe and healthy place to grow up. During his high school years, Holt took up guitar, formed a band and played at various venues on the island and in Vancouver. He also took an acting class for the “extra credits” and fell in love with this new avenue of expression.

After moving to Vancouver to enroll in full time acting courses and secure an agent, Holt was cast in the award winning Spielberg mini-series *Into the West*. After that, came a lead in the TV feature *Just a Girl*, based on the true story of Gwen Araujo, a transgendered boy who was beaten to death for daring to be different. In August 2006, shortly after that film aired, Holt was taped for a role on *Durham County*. He got that role and shot six episodes in the fall of 2006.

Holt had a guest starring role on *Smallville* and a series lead in a pilot, *Sabbatical*, in which he played Jordan. On his return from Regina, he booked a supporting lead role on the feature *Lost Boys 2* and, shortly afterward, booked his first lead role in *Slap Shot: The Junior League*. With the shooting finished on that project, Greyston headed back to Montreal for Season 2 of the award winning *Durham County*.

### **GEORDIE JOHNSON (“Jonathan Verrity”)**

Geordie Johnson's career encompasses TV, movies and theatre. Aside from many guest appearances in TV shows and starring in the syndicated *Dracula: The Series* (1990), he recently appeared in the hit movie, *The English Patient* (1996), and played Franz Liszt in HBO's Composers' Specials Series: *Liszt's Rhapsody* (1996) (TV).

In 1996, Mr. Johnson returned to the Stratford (Ont) Festival after an absence of several years, to play Edmund in *King Lear* and the lead role of Chance Wayne in *Sweet Bird of Youth*, for which he was nominated as Best Actor in a Drama by the Stage Door Awards. He won a Dora award (1988) for Outstanding Performance in a Play (Leading Role) for his performance in *I am Yours* at the Tarragon Theatre and a Gemini Award (2000) for Best Actor in a guest starring role in the television series *The City*.

### **HÉLÈNE JOY (“Audrey Sweeney”)**

Hélène Joy is a busy actress on Canadian television. She won a Gemini in the category of Best Performance by an Actress in a Continuing Leading Dramatic Role for her portrayal of Audrey Sweeney on *Durham County's* first season and she plays the female lead “Dr. Julia Ogden,” in the CityTV series, *The Murdoch Mysteries* which also received 14 Gemini nominations. Joy also plays the team's doctor in CBC's *M.V.P.* and she continues to lend her talents to voice work including the animated series, *Pearlie*.

Joy was seen most recently in *An Old Fashioned Thanksgiving* starring opposite screen legend Jacqueline Bisset and the fantastical musical film version of the Nutcracker ballet, *The Secret of the Nutcracker* starring opposite Brian Cox.

Most audiences remember Joy from her two seasons on the hilarious CBC comedy series *An American in Canada* which won the 2002 Gemini Award for Best Comedy or Series while still a pilot and the next year, Joy was nominated for her first Gemini, Best Ensemble Performance Comedy Series/Program. After the series wrapped, Joy found work in guest starring roles in several television series, which led to recurring roles on *ReGenesis* and *This Is Wonderland*. Select additional television credits include: *The Chris Isaak Show*, *The Twilight Zone*, *Puppets Who Kill*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *The Outer Limits*, *Stingers* and *First Wave*.

### **PATRICK LABBÉ (“Tom Bykovski”)**

Patrick Labbé is one of Quebec’s best-known French language stars. His film roles include four installments of the box office success *Les Boys*. He had the lead role in Claude Lelouch’s *Hasard ou coincidence* and principal roles in *Ma vie en cinémascope*, *Les Muses orphelines* and *La brunante* among others. Labbé was recently seen on English television in the lead role of the CBC drama *October 1970*. He starred in the mini-series *Trudeau II* directed by Tim Southam and had a guest role in the upcoming comedy series *Moose TV*.

On French television, Labbé won a 2002 MétroStar (Quebec’s version of The People’s Choice Awards) for his portrayal of Simon in the Gemeaux Award winning series *La vie la vie*. His lengthy list of television principal roles includes *Nos étés*, *Virginie*, *Lance et compte*, *Fortier*, *Cover Girl*, *Chambre en ville* and *Graffiti* to name a few.

Labbé enjoys the challenge of working in both French and English and mostly recently, appeared as Wilbrod on *Nos étés II*.

### **LAURENCE LEBOEUF (“Sadie Sweeney”)**

Quebec native Laurence Leboeuf is one of Canada’s fastest rising stars. She was nominated for the Best Actress Award at the 2008 Gemini Awards for her role as Sadie Sweeney in Season One of *Durham County* and she recently won the coveted Best Actress Award at the 2008 Prix

Gémeaux for her seminal portrayal of Louise Lavigueur in *Les Lavigueur, la vraie histoire*, the hit Radio-Canada series based on the true story of a poor family that falls apart after winning millions in the 6/49 Quebec lottery.

Laurence also co-starred next to Michel Côté and Karine Vanasse in the Quebec feature *Ma Fille Mon Ange*, which earned her the 2008 Jutra Award for Best Supporting Actress, as well as a Genie nomination. A short time ago, Laurence wrapped *The Trouble with Cali*, directed by Paul Sorvino. This marks her first American feature in which she plays the title role.

In the summer of 2007, she worked alongside Marina Hands and Tony Ward in *The Story of Jen*, written and directed by François Rotger. Laurence plays Jen, a young girl who is seduced by her mother's boyfriend. The France-Canada coproduction will have its world premiere in Paris this spring.

A poised and articulate 23-year old, Laurence is the daughter of veteran thespians Diane Lavallée and Marcel Leboeuf. Born into the world of the performing arts, she was passionate about acting from an early age. At eleven, she snagged her first acting jobs working on Radio-Canada's acclaimed series *Virginie* and *L'Ombre de L'Épervier*. In 2002, Laurence moved on to another series, *Tag*.

Amazingly, Leboeuf did not learn English until 2004, when she landed a plum role in the YTV series *15/Love*. In 2005, Laurence was nominated for Best Supporting Actress at the Canadian Gemini awards for *15/Love*.

One of her objectives was to break into the English market. To say her stint on *15/Love* was successful would be an understatement. Soon after *15/Love*, Laurence was cast in Vincent Perez's feature *The Secret* alongside David Duchovny, and in Christian Duguay's *Human Trafficking*.

While acting is her first vocation, she is also socially conscious. Last year, she took time out of her busy schedule and travelled to El Salvador along with other Habitat for Humanity volunteers, to help build a house. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating poverty around the world by building affordable housing.

In addition to *Durham County* Season Two, Laurence most recently appeared on the CBC show, *Being Erica* starring Erin Karpluk and Michael Riley.

## **ROMANO ORZARI (“Ray Prager”)**

Romano Orzari’s training began in a Montreal Quebec Drama Festival workshop with Joe Dowling. This sent a young Orzari packing to New York City, to continue his studies. He spent five years at schools such as The Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute, intensive workshops with Ron Stetson in the Sanford Meisner Technique and a workshop with Group Theatre alumni Bobby Lewis. But it was his remaining three years at the Stella Adler Theatre Conservatory that really fortified his love and respect with the art of acting.

Before completing his studies, he landed his first paying gig with nationally acclaimed Italian director Pupi Avati, portraying Hoagy Carmichael in the film *Bix*, which was officially selected for competition at the 1991 Cannes Film Festival. Unfortunately Orzari’s rising career came to a skidding halt with a car crash in Northern Italy that left him facially scarred and battered. While still recuperating in the hospital, he was offered a role in Avati’s next film *Brothers and Sisters*. The film went on to be officially selected at the 1992 Venice Film Festival.

Then came the film *Burnt Eden*, written and directed by his close and long time friend Eugene Garcia. Romano was awarded The Yves Montand Best Actor award at the 1997 Kiev International Film Festival. The film went on to win top honors at the Montreal Festival of New Cinema and was showcased at IFP West in Los Angeles respectively for the same year. This film helped Romano land the lead role in the multiple nominated TV show *Omerta*, for which he garnered two nominations for Best Lead Actor: One for The Geminis in 1999 and the other for Le Gala MetroStar in 2000.

Numerous pictures for US television and cable ensued, including work with well known colleagues such as Ben Gazzara, Ryan O’Neal, Linda Hamilton, Rutger Hauer, Pam Grier, Jim Belushi, Taryn Manning and Michael Lombardi. In *Baby for Sale*, starring Dana Delany, Romano was nominated for a 2006 ACTRA Award for Best Male Performance in a Drama.

At the 2007 SMMASH Film Festival, Orzari was nominated for best male lead actor for his work in the multiple award-winning indie film *The Overlookers*, penned and directed by Christopher Warre Smets. For Warre Smets’ second feature *The Last Hitman*, Orzari acted opposite Joe Mantegna. Other credits include: *Punisher: War Zone*, *Out of Control*, *3 Saisons* and *La Cuisine*.