



DURHAM COUNTY

Cast Bios

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*, will be out this fall.

JUSTIN LOUIS (“Ray Prager”)

Justin Louis is a talented Canadian actor with a long list of film and TV credits to his name. Some of his film credits include *Chestnut: Hero of Central Park*, *Lazarus Child*, *Dawn of the Dead* and *The Contender*. He also starred in *Fallen Arches*, which won Best Film at the 2001 Spirit Awards, and *Everything Put Together*, for which he received a Best Actor award at the 1999 Chicago Independent Film Festival.

Louis most recently played Donald Trump in ABC's movie of the week, *Trump: Unauthorized* and has appeared in other MOW's including National Lampoon's *Dad's Weekend Off*. His television credits include *Missing*, *Hidden Hills*, *The Fighting Fitzgeralds* as well as guest starring on popular television series such as *CSI*, *24*, *ER*, *Judging Amy* and *Star Trek Voyager*.

This is Louis' second time working with director Holly Dale. They worked together on her 1995 comedy/horror *Blood and Donuts*, which was nominated for three Genie awards including Best Original Screenplay. He continues to seek out interesting and exciting Canadian productions, and currently resides in Toronto to be closer to his biggest fans, his children.

HÉLÈNE JOY ("Audrey Sweeney")

Hélène Joy is the busiest actress working in Canadian television. With starring roles in two series, *Durham County* & *The Murdoch Mysteries*, a recurring role on a third, *M.V.P.*, and voicing an international animated series, Joy is an incredibly versatile and talented actress who is seemingly everywhere on television.

Joy starred as 'Audrey Sweeney' in the award-winning series *Durham County* (May 1997 on Global), for which she won a Gemini in the category of Best Performance by an Actress in a Continuing Leading Dramatic Role. Additionally, *Durham County* received 13 Gemini nominations. Joy will begin work on the second season of *Durham County* this fall. Audiences also recognize Joy as the female lead 'Dr. Julia Ogden,' in the CityTV series, *The Murdoch Mysteries* which also received Gemini 14 nominations. She can also be seen playing the team's doctor in CBC's *M.V.P.*, which just aired stateside on Disney's SOAPnet this past summer. And finally, she continues to lend her talents to voice work and is currently working on her fourth animated series, *Pearlie*.

Joy starred in *An Old Fashioned Thanksgiving* starring opposite screen legend Jacqueline Bisset for Hallmark, which was earmarked as their big holiday movie for 2008. And this past Christmas, audiences saw her in the fantastical musical film version of the Nutcracker ballet, *The Secret of the Nutcracker* starring opposite Brian Cox for the CBC.

Most audiences remember Joy from her two seasons on the hilarious CBC comedy series *An American in Canada* starring opposite Rick Roberts. The series won the 2002 Gemini Award for Best Comedy or Series while still a pilot and the next year, she 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*. And with all of this great work, she continues to be recognized by her peers and won a Leo Award in 2005 for *Desolation Sound* (Best Lead Performance by a Female for Feature Length Drama) and has been nominated for two Geminis in 2006 (Best Performance by an Actress in a Guest Role Dramatic Series for *ReGenesis* & Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Supporting Role in a Dramatic Program or Mini-Series for *The Murdoch Mysteries*). 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*.

A native of Perth, Australia, Joy trained at the prestigious Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Her early career began on the stage touring Australia-wide in various roles with the famous Sydney-based Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company. Joy then went on to play such classic roles as 'Juliet,' 'Ophelia' and a very young 'Lady Macbeth,' for the Melbourne Theatre

Company. Additionally, Joy also found TV and film work in her native land with roles in *The Man From Snowy River* and *Water Rats*.

Joy now calls Toronto home but in her time off, her passion for traveling has taken her all over the world. When at home, she is renovating her house and practicing guitar. And as a new Canadian, Joy is also very excited to finally be studying French.

LAURENCE LEBOEUF (“Sadie Sweeney”)

After practically being brought up in the Quebec acting world thanks to mom, Diane Lavallee, and dad Marcel Leboeuf, both professional actors, it's no surprise that a young Laurence Leboeuf grew up with one interest: acting. By 11, she snagged her first French acting job working on Radio-Canada's acclaimed series *L'Ombre de L'Epervier*. When that production wrapped, Leboeuf moved on to another series, *Tag*. She played Isabelle, a rebellious daughter coming to terms with her mother's absence and her family's growing issues.

In 2005, Leboeuf moved into English speaking roles by playing 'Cody Meyers' in the YTV series *15/LOVE*, for which she received a nomination for best supporting actress at the Canadian Gemini awards. Although she didn't take home the prize, her aspiration to have a successful foray into the English market was realized. Soon after performing in three seasons of *15/Love*, Leboeuf was cast in the feature film *The Secret* alongside David Duchovny, and *Human Trafficking* with Mira Sorvino and Robert Carlyle, directed by Christian Duguay.

In the spring of 2006, Leboeuf worked on the Quebec feature *Ma Fille Mon Ange* and in late fall shot her very first U.S feature entitled *The Trouble with Cali*. She was directed by Paul Sorvino, who also played her father in the movie.

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!

SONYA SALOMAA (“Traci Prager”)

Sonya Salomaa is most proud of her starring role in the 2006 feature film *Black Eyed Dog*, directed by Pierre Gang and produced by Grana Productions. Filmed in New Brunswick, this feature is a universal tale of the small town girl who didn't follow her dreams and the resentment that comes with that. Salomaa plays 'Betty,' a tough, street-smart waitress who always imagined herself as “the next” Joni Mitchell. 'Betty' dreams of leaving her small town to pursue fame and fortune but at 30, she is still waiting tables while her singing voice has been muted for years.

The Hollywood Reporter praises Salomaa's performance as “a fine central performance as a woman who has buried her ambitions and an ambitious screenplay by Jeremy John Bouchard that aims for Fargo territory go a long way to making Pierre Gang's *Black Eyed Dog* worth seeing... Salomaa carries the film persuasively as a survivor who tones down her beauty, coarsens her speech and toughens her attitude to deal with her bleak existence. As the possibility of salvation emerges from the harrowing situation she finds herself in, the choices she makes become entirely believable.”

Solomaa also plays the lead female role of Maya Kandinski in the hit series *The Collector* seen on Citytv across Canada and in 66 countries worldwide.

Solomaa has only been performing for five years. During this time, she's had guest starring, recurring and lead roles on shows such as *Dark Angel*, *The L Word*, *STARGATE SG-1*, *Andromeda*, *Dead Like Me*, *Glory Days*, *Saved* and numerous movies of the week and feature films including *Thralls*, *House of the Dead* and *Fatal Reunion*.

Solomaa has won two Leo Awards for Best Supporting actress in a one-hour drama for her role of Maya on *The Collector* in 2005, and was also nominated for a Leo Award for Best Lead Actress in a Feature Length Film for her role in the movie *Firefight* in 2004.

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*.

KATHLEEN MUNROE (“Nathalie Lacroix”)

In a few short years as a professional actor, Kathleen Munroe has created an interesting body of work that spans features, episodic television and television drama. She recently wrapped two seasons co-starring as ‘Annabelle Banks’ on ABC Family/Sony Pictures’ drama series *Beautiful People*. Feature film leads include *Nowhere Man*, *The White Dog* and *Drummer Boy* as well as a substantial presence in the Canadian feature *Eternal*. She has made guest appearances in a number of television series including *The Dresden Files*, *Kevin Hill*, and in pilots for MTV, ABC and WB Network.

Munroe makes her home in Toronto. In her spare time, she pursues a specialist degree in Cinema Studies at the University of Toronto, where she was recently invited to study with Atom Egoyan in a small interdisciplinary seminar. She also enjoys playing piano and guitar, reading, writing and traveling.

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 *Grafitti* 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*.

JOEL KELLER (“Jake Sharpe”)

Joel Keller is probably best known for his portrayal of Detective Ed Oosterhuis in the award-winning crime series *Blue Murder*. He has starred in the drama series *Sue Thomas F.B. Eye* and starred opposite Taye Diggs in the pilot for *Kevin Hill*. Other credits include the series regular role of “Rich” in the UPN/MTV series *Platinum*; and a featured role in the Lifetime TV movie *Scared Silent*, with Penelope Ann Miller. His television movie credits also include *Piano Man’s Daughter* opposite Wendy Crewson and Stockard Channing; *Sleeping Dogs Lie*, again teaming with Wendy Crewson; *Brotherhood Of Murder*, with William Baldwin and Peter Gallagher.

Keller recently appeared in the film *All Hat* opposite Keith Carradine and Graham Greene. Other film credits include *The Man* starring Samuel L. Jackson and Eugene Levy; Jerry Ciccoritti’s *The Life Before This* co-starring Sarah Polley, Stephen Rea, Joey Pantoliano, Alberta Watson and Catherine O’Hara; and the pivotal role of ‘Fletcher’ in the award winning, critically acclaimed *The Hanging Garden*.

Keller also executive produced the award winning short film *Past/Present* starring Shawn Ashmore and Hawthorne James. The film premiered at the 2002 Washington Film Festival, and was subsequently screened at major film festivals across the U.S., including the New York Film Festival where it won awards for Best Short Film and Best Actor (Shawn Ashmore).

CLAUDIA FERRI (“Roxy Calvert”)

Claudia Ferri recently starred in *Race to Mars*, directed by George Mihalka for the Discovery Channel, as one of five astronauts who go on the first mission to Mars. Other recent credits include: TVA’s *Nos Étés I*, Lifetime’s *Tipping Point*, and the CBS movie of the week *Saving Milly* as Madeleine Stowe’s childhood friend. In *End Game in Kosovo*, she plays ‘Tina,’ Louise Arbour’s personal secretary. She was also brought on to the second and third seasons of Showcase’s *Naked Josh* in the role of ‘Dr. Audrey Habedian,’ a very classy sexy woman who re-joins the faculty and butts heads with Josh to finally become his lover. Ferri was also seen nationwide and in New York on the Steve Galluccio bilingual TV series *Ciao Bella* (CBC/Radio-Canada). The half-Italian actress plays the series lead role of ‘Elena.’ This won her an Award for Best Actress at the 2006 Montreal ACTRA Awards.

In Cinémaginaire’s *Mambo Italiano*, Ferri stars as ‘Anna,’ the pill-popping daughter of an Italian family trying to deal with her brother’s hidden homosexuality which won her a nomination in the Pretty Funny Performance category at the 2004 Canadian Comedy Awards and another nomination at the 2004 Jutra Awards. Dubbed “the comedy of the summer,” the film hit theatres in Canada and the US. Ferri also stars 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.

JEAN-NICOLAS VERREAULT (“Jayson Graves aka ‘Big Guy’ ”)

After finishing his studies at the National Theatre School in 1995, Jean-Nicolas Verreault performed in numerous theatre productions.

In 1996, Verreault made his television debut in the short film *Nicolas Monette, le Belmont*. He continued to pursue his work in theatre while his work in television grew with appearances in *Un gars, une fille*, *Tabou* and *Radio-Enfer*.

In 1997, he starred in the film *J’en suis!*. Two years later, Verreault was tapped by Director Denis Villeneuve for the featured role in the critical success *Maelström*, which went on to win numerous Genie and Jutra Awards.

Following this success, Verreault’s roles on the large and small screens flourished. His feature films include Gilles Carle’s *Hochelaga*, *La Loi du cochon*, *la Turbulences des fluids* and *le Survenant*, as well as the lead-role in the dramatic television series *Les Aventures tumultueuses de Jack Carter*.

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