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here! news
presents an exclusive interview with
Chad Allen
star of
Third Man Out



Our here! correspondent recently arranged to meet 'out actor' Chad Allen, poolside at a West Hollywood hotel for a little lunch and conversation. After being kept waiting for over half an hour, the writer dialed Chad via a cellular telephone and much to the reporter's dismay, he found that Chad had been in a car accident on his way to said meeting. Luckily the fender-bender occurred near where Chad's boyfriend resides, so he was able to run in, grab an ice pack and head on his way.

Chad arrives at the rooftop pool, a bit shaken, but in one adorable piece sporting a paper-towel-covered ice pack on his neck. His energy is up and peppy. One would never know he had just been rear-ended. In his characteristically playful way, he plops down in a chair, puts his feet up and takes a bite out of his turkey burger. They begin:

here!: So, Chad, who would you say are your detective inspirations?

Chad Allen: Well, I grew up with Columbo and I loved him, tough with a sense of humor. And of course, Nick Charles from the Thin Man mysteries...smart, dapper, also tough and witty.

here!: Were you looking to follow the old school images of detectives or were you thinking of more recent examples while planning for this role?

CA: Ron Oliver (director) and I share a love of noir film. The modern stuff was already there so we didn't have to work too hard in that area. The challenge was to bring the old, not the new.

here!: Had you read any of the Donald Strachey Mystery novels prior to making "Third Man Out?"

CA: Yes I had read several, including "Third Man Out" and although I have not read all them, I have read most. I have all of them on a shelf at home.

here!: Do you relate to the character of Donald Strachey, or do you feel that the film mimics you or your life in any way?

CA: Good question... I think Donald is deeply rooted in my life... as are all the characters that I play... although they are each unique to me they are not estranged to me... there is more of me in Donald than in most of the characters I have played. Particularly the duality of his personality...the dark beat 'em up stuff vs. the campy fun side.

here!: What, besides the fact that the character is gay, drew you to this project?

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CA: It is a classic noir-ish film series... mixed with the fun of shows like the old Columbo series. I especially loved the idea that Donald was called a "private-eye." You never hear that term anymore.

But more than anything, it is and was the relationship between Timmy and Donald that drew me to the project. We have not had these types of relationships on TV before. And here! is dedicated to telling these stories and showing these relationships, which is what I love about them.

here!: What has it meant for you to be working with an all gay network?

CA: It's awesome... it means you get to be yourself more often of the time. Not that I would hide who I am, but, for example, when I go to the offices at here!, the president of the network pulls me into his office to ask about which boy I'm currently dating or if I want him to set me up with a cute boy he met. Believe me, that does not happen at Fox.

Also, when you have to go on press junkets, everyone is gay...so we go out to gay bars and clubs and get to be goofy (the PR department in particular)... everything gay is just a lot more fun.

here!: As an out actor, have you found it difficult to find roles?

CA: No, I am working now more than ever

here!: What advice do you have, if any, to give to gay actors considering coming out in Hollywood?

CA: I say you come out when it is the good news about who you are and not a second before, and hopefully not a second after too. Politically I think it is important for those of us who are out to be fully out!

here!: As one of the few child actors to successfully make it as an adult actor, what do you attribute to this success?

CA: I always cared more for the craft than for the other Hollywood trappings (read: bullshit). And I think that above and beyond everything else, it is easy to become a bad actor when your focus shifts to becoming a celebrity. Also, it is working in the theater that has kept me coming back. It makes you love and respect the work. If anything, it is the fame that has kept me away.

here!: What do you like to do in your spare time?

Pick on my roommate the actor from that other gay TV series on here!. (Greg Michael, star of upcoming here! Original series, "Dante's Cove.")

Seriously, I do pretty much the same as anyone else.

here!: What's next for Chad Allen?

CA: First I am going to call the insurance company and then get my car fixed and then back to work at the production company (Myth Garden) to try and keep making more gay movies. Is that what you meant?

As Chad takes the final sip of his iced tea, the paper towel slips away from the ice-pack poised on his shoulder and our trusty reporter comes to see that it's not an ice pack at all, but a bag of frozen broccoli and carrots. Somehow, it seems absolutely fitting for this impish clown.