

Talent, Persistence, Training & Determination:

Edmonton Actor, Kevan Kase

Next time you watch *Battlestar Galactica* or *Smallville* and think that the lives of the actors are far removed from life in Edmonton - think again. Kevan Kase has appeared in both the above - mentioned television shows and also happens to be from Edmonton. While he now lives in Vancouver, Kevan visits his hometown often and says: "(The city) holds a special place in my heart." In keeping with the Summer Fun theme for our July/August issue, Kevan also calls Edmonton "one of the most beautiful and fun places to be during the summer."

When *Edmonton's Child* spoke with Kevan, he was sincere, friendly and eager to encourage other young aspiring actors and actresses. Kevan's own dream began in high school when he realized his passion for entertaining. His training began during this time and Kevan has since extensively studied film and theatre acting with several excellent coaches.

Kevan encourages those interested in acting to seek training and to "pursue it with (their) entire being." Many excellent acting programs exist in Edmonton such as the University of Alberta drama program, as mentioned by Kevan. And while training is very important, determination is essential. "Don't let anyone tell you differently if acting is what you want to do in your heart." Kevan also says that persistence and a constant desire for professional improvement are important traits for any actor.

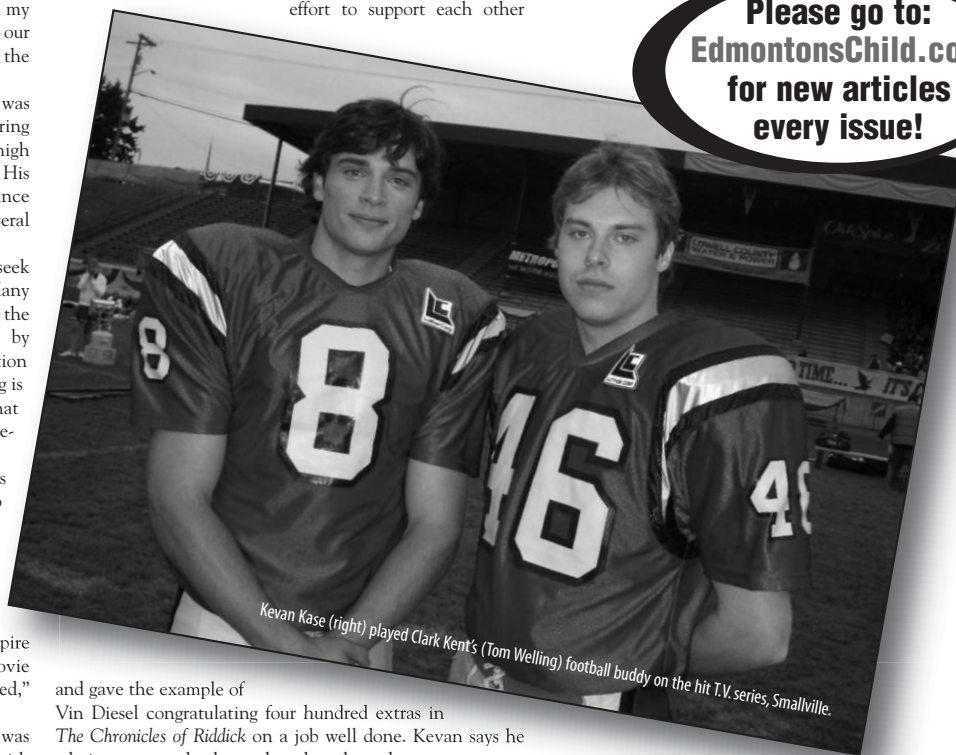
When Kevan made his career choice, his martial arts mentor said: "When a person decides what he wants to do with his life, he must ask himself three things. Are you good at it? Can you make a living at it? And, does it help others?" The first two answers are clear and Kevan also firmly believes that acting benefits others. Kevan explains that when people are faced with stressful circumstances, a movie, show, or play can sometimes inspire a new perspective. "You may see a character in a movie handle a situation in a way you may not have imagined," says Kevan.

Kevan's sincere, two-feet-on-the-ground nature was really apparent when asked what it was like to work with

actors whom he admires. Kevan has had the chance to work with many famous actors, including Keanu Reeves in the upcoming movie, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. While he admits to feeling star-struck on occasion, he also has come to see the real people behind actors' public personas. He's been most impressed when actors really make an effort to support each other

others. And on that note, our conversation came to a close with *Edmonton's Child* thanking Kevan for sharing his experiences and inspiring words of advice.

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Kevan Kase (right) played Clark Kent's (Tom Welling) football buddy on the hit T.V. series, *Smallville*.

and gave the example of Vin Diesel congratulating four hundred extras in *The Chronicles of Riddick* on a job well done. Kevan says he admires actors who love what they do and want to support

Kevan's Tips for the Stage:

Acting is a complete experience whereby the actor transforms into the character: taking on the character's behaviours, mannerisms, patterns of speech and facial expressions. While not a new concept, the idea of truly morphing into a character leaves little room for stage fright. An actor might feel nervous before going on stage and these nerves may even help to heighten the quality of a performance, according to Kevan Kase. But once he or she becomes a character, his or her mind should focus upon capturing all the nuances of the character's persona.

❶ "Always work towards learning more": Acting is just like training as an athlete. You can learn certain techniques from books, but unless you work your acting muscles, you will not continue to improve.

❷ "Use your life experience": Kevan says that: "at the core of all acting is emotion and relations." He says that he can always find some common ground with a character.

❸ "Act in the moment": If you are really acting in the moment, you can focus upon the scene, your fellow actors, and the real emotions that drive the scene. You shouldn't hear anything but the sound of the person with whom you are acting on the stage.

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