



# Campanelli Tonight

MuchMusic alumnus Rick Campanelli struts his stuff on *Entertainment Tonight Canada*

He's not the Temp anymore. Rick Campanelli is officially earning his stripes as a senior reporter for *Entertainment Tonight Canada*.

After leaving MuchMusic last August, the Toronto resident has gone from hosting cheesy specials to interviewing some of the top celebrities in the world. The job has taught him a lot more about the television business.

"I'm doing a lot more than I ever did at MuchMusic in terms of chasing, producing and writing," he says.

Campanelli encourages Ontarians to watch the show and credits the behind-the-scenes team for making him look good.

"With a brand like *ET* you know it's going to be a reliable, credible product. Plus of course we have the greatest team of producers, writers, chasers, on-airers and crew members out there by far."

At 36, Campanelli is still one of Ontario's most famous faces.

"That's one of the best parts of my job. Talking to people and finding out a bit about

them," he says. "And it just comes easier when someone approaches me to say 'good job Rick' on the street."

Campanelli was born in Hamilton and went to school at St. Catharines' Brock Uni-

**"You really need to make a connection with the viewers"**

— Rick Campanelli

versity, where he got his degree in physical education. Shortly after graduating, the Italian soccer fan won a contest that saw him land his first job in television. It was a life-changing moment.

"The day I stepped into MuchMusic is the day I realized that I wanted to work in television," he says. "The transition (to *ET Canada*) has been pretty easy. I'm still doing interviews and on-camera work."

Developing a reputation as one of the nicest guys in the industry, Campanelli is syn-

onymous with being the everyman, taking time to talk to fans and pop stars alike. He hasn't developed any kind of an ego, and he believes his ability to relate to anyone is what's responsible for his staying power.

"You really need to make a connection with the viewers," he says. "They need to be able to relate to you somehow."

After considering careers as an astronaut, pilot and artist, Campanelli has clearly found his niche. Despite his job's obvious perks, which include attending movie premieres and red carpets all over the world, Campanelli says the best part about his job is who it has allowed him to meet.

"The best highlight in my TV career was meeting my wife at Chum TV six months into my job and starting a family with her," he says.

The reporter also offered some advice.

"If you want something bad enough in life, you shouldn't give up until you get it. Perseverance is key!"

FULL STORY: [icononline.ca](http://icononline.ca)



— Barbara Cole Photography/Global

"With a brand like *ET* you know it's going to be a reliable, credible product. Plus of course we have the greatest team of producers, writers, chasers, on-airers and crew members out there by far," says senior reporter Rick Campanelli.



— Nina Dragicevic photo

# Lil' (big) X

Hip hop's most famous Canadian video director

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Little: small in stature, short in duration, insignificant. Lil' X is none of these.

If the name isn't familiar, you haven't been reading the credits for nearly every major hip-hop single in the last five years. X directed the Destiny's Child music video *Bootylicious* (remix), Nelly's *Hot In Here*, Chocclair's *Let's Ride*, Nelly Furtado's *Promiscuous* and just about every Sean Paul video ever made. To compile a complete list would be to round up

just about every major recording artist in hip hop, R&B, rap and pop.

Born in Toronto and raised in Brampton, X started as a MuchMusic intern before elbowing his way into the New York scene. He worked the bottom rung for Hype Williams, the man largely responsible for the urban video's invention and success. After a decade, X's prolific portfolio could easily challenge Williams' in blinding star power. X has shot videos for R. Kelly, Alicia Keys, Montell Jordan, Jay Z, Deborah

Cox, Redman, Wyclef, Boyz II Men, Kanye West, Busta Rhymes, DMX and Diddy.

Having reached the top of his game, he looked around for a new one. Still in the director's chair, his next project is *Razorwire*, a feature film.

*Razorwire* is "a vampire movie with a twist" X tells ICON in an exclusive interview. Set in Brooklyn, the horror/thriller features vampire cops who kill young black men from poor neighbourhoods.

"It's set in the present while feeding off the past. Black men are disappearing and

there are no bulletins (about it) on the six o'clock news," he says of the film. "The vampires start feeding on a neighbourhood, and of course, because it's a movie ..." X pauses and his voice drops into that of the omnipresent narrator: "You messed with the wrong set of guys." He breaks out into a refreshingly unself-conscious laugh.

"I'm a real pop-culture boy, you know what I'm saying?" he says. "I grew up on *Star Wars*."

STORY, VIDEO: [icononline.ca](http://icononline.ca)

# Kristin Adams works out

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Toronto actress Kristin Adams wants to look great for the camera when it comes to sex scenes.

The 24-year-old Scarborough-born starlet took great care to lose extra pounds

before filming scenes for *Where the Truth Lies*.

"There was a lot revealed and I wanted to make sure I looked good for the part," she says. When you're preparing for the scene, you have to make sure you get into shape and watch what you're eating. I'm not that way for the rest of

the year — I like to eat."

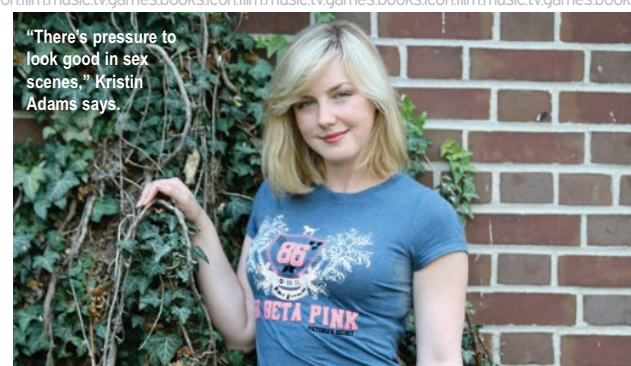
Adams' first break was a Zellers commercial that featured big hair. But she is grateful she landed a gig on her first try. Since her first silver-screen role in *Falling Angels* she's starred in Don McKellar's *Childstar*, had a leading role in *Absolution* and a part in the

mini-series *Beach Girls*.

Has there been a big lifestyle change for her? Nah, she's the same ol' Kristin.

"I still feel like I'm pretty much the same," she says. "Except I'm making more money."

FULL STORY: [icononline.ca](http://icononline.ca)



"There's pressure to look good in sex scenes," Kristin Adams says.

— Laura Gallella photo