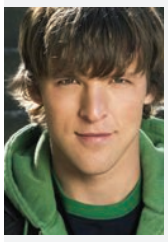
!confidential

More than decent

Chad Faust may not be a name you recognize, but you've probably seen this Victoria, B.C., actor before.

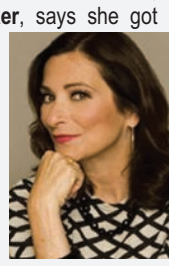


Faust has appeared in the 2003 film *Hope Springs* with **Heather Graham** and **Colin Firth**, 2004's hilarious *Saved!* alongside **Mandy Moore** and **Macaulay Culkin** and in episodes of the hit TV show *Smallville*. Most recently this hard-working actor can be seen in the 2006 flick, *Decent,* with **Rosario Dawson**.

Faust is a Canadian actor we'll be keeping our eyes on.

Fashion fluke

Canadian television's most well-known fashionista, **Jeanne Beker**, says she got started in the fashion industry by fluke!



Beker, the host of CityTv's *Fashion Television* and judge on the recent *Canada's Next Top Model,* says she hadn't planned on a career in the industry notorious for breeding vanity. "I was intent on pursuing a career in the performing arts – I wanted to be an actress." Due to a twist of fate Beker landed a job on radio and then TV.

"You can never have plans that are set in stone, and you always have to leave yourself open to possibilities. That, and a heck of a lot of hard work, will take you a long way," she says.

Terrific at TIFF

Winnipeg writer and director **Guy Maddin** showcased his film *Brand Upon the Brain!* at this year's Toronto International Film Festival.

Maddin received a standing ovation to which he half-jokingly replied, "Personally, I think I owe a debt of gratitude to **David Cronenberg** and **Atom Egoyan** for not making movies this year. That brigns it down to my tier."

Until this new success, Maddin's best-known film was *The Heart of the World*, a six-minute "prelude" for the Toronto International Film Festival to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

K-os in Texas

K-os, Toronto's answer to catchy hip-hop, will be playing at the South By South West (SXSW) music festival in march 2007.

K-os will be performing with fellow Canadian **Melissa Auf De Maur**, ex member of Hole and Smashing Pumpkins and promoting his new album, *Atlantis: Hymns for Disco*.

Held annually in Austin, Texas, SXSW features well-known artists and indie darlings from around the world and is one of the biggest music festivals in North America.

– Compiled by Laura Waterhouse

– Ken Rickard

David (Sudz) Sutherland won the Citytv award for the Best Canadian First Feature Film in 2003 for *Love, Sex And Eating The Bones.*

Sudz & Films

Scarborough filmmaker puts diversity and authenticity onto the big and small screen

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The Toronto International Film Festival is known for its glitz and glamour, but one Scarborough filmmaker knows it as the place where his career got started.

Writer and director, David (Sudz) Sutherland won the Citytv award for the Best Canadian First Feature Film in 2003 for *Love, Sex And Eating The Bones*. The recognition was the best start a young filmmaker could hope for, Sutherland tells ICON.

"Any filmmaker who lives in Canada and says that is not their goal is a liar," he says.

Sutherland grew up in Scarborough, but he says it wasn't as "rough" as it is now and he was motivated by all the different types of people around him.

> **"I did what was, back in the day, pioneering ... colour-blind casting."**
> **–Sudz Sutherland**

He got his start in Woburn high school.

"I wrote my own play and I did what was, back in the day, pioneering – called colour-blind casting," he says.

The writer and director's latest project, *Doomstown*, aired over the summer this year on CTV. The film was inspired by true events and depicted the violence playing out today on the streets of Canada's urban centres.

"In terms of writing, I based it on the people that I knew growing up. Bullies, for lack of a better word," he says.

Sutherland also took the movie to Elia Middle School in Toronto, where he screened it for 200 grade-eight students.

"The kids thought it was authentic and real, they thought it was aimed at them," he says. "It showed a lot of choices that they are making and they loved it. I wasn't prepared for the love."

Sutherland has advice for budding student filmmakers.

"I would say keep a good relationship with your parents so that you can live at their house for the 18 months that it is going to take to find ways of making money," he says. "Volunteer as much as you can and get to know as many people as you can.

"Let's tell more stories that are more relevant to people's lives," he adds.

Dressing different

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- CTV

Carly McKillip is slowly turning into her character on *Alice, I Think*. At least in the fashion department.

McKillip, who plays Alice McLeod on the hit CTV series about a teenage misfit living in Smithers, B.C., has developed Alice's fashion sense.

"When I looked at the clothes, I thought they were so quirky and out there. And when I put them on, they felt so comfortable, like I was in my own skin," says McKillip, 17. "I'm not dressed like everyone else and that's kind of liberating. I'm constantly picking out stuff that she would wear."

Besides being keen on the frilly polka-dot dresses from the '70s, McKillip notes other similarities with Alice.

"We both mix up our words a lot," she laughs. "We call them on set 'Aliceisms' – when she means to say one thing, but by accident she says another – and I do that a lot in my own life."

As an up-and-coming actress in Canada, McKillip says it can be overwhelming at times.

"I've been acting since I was four, so this seemed like a natural step for me. And it was an incredible experience for me, and I learned a lot," she says. "But it was very intimidating walking on the set with such professionals."

While waiting to hear whether season two is a go, McKillip is working on graduating high school.

FULL STORY: icononline.ca

Cavanagh rolls with the punches

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Tom Cavanagh knows about the love-hate relationship actors often has with their business. Except, he only believes in the first part.

The Ottawa-born actor with the famous ear-to-ear smile carried NBC's *Ed* for four seasons and had regular appearances on *Providence* and *Scrubs*.

This year brought more television projects – bright sparks that unfortunately never caught fire.

CBS cancelled *Love Monkey*, a short-lived series Cavanagh fronted, wrote for and produced. Then he starred in *My Ex Life*, a sitcom directed by Kelsey Grammer, which was turned down for the fall season.

"*Love Monkey* … doesn't feel like a failure," he tells ICON. "It depends what your evaluation criteria are. And for us – eight episodes of a show in New York City with a cast I thought was really talented – it's impossible for me to look at it as anything but an incredible experience."

Cavanagh says success is only the icing on the cake. Working with top TV talents and forming lasting friendships are what he values most. Plus, he notes, a new television landscape means success has become increasingly elusive for everyone.

"The network executives in this day and age are not people that stand by a show based on quality – they'll tell you that to your face," he says.

"With the advent of reality television there's plenty of quick fixes. It's a different landscape than when there were four networks and they would stay with *Friends* or *Seinfeld* until they found an audience."

Cavanagh says he would still take up a new TV project if it piqued his interest.

"It's pilot season, you end up reading a lot of scripts," he says.

But at the moment, the wind seems to be blowing him towards bigger screens.

This summer he played the dad in the popular family flick, *How To Eat Fried Worms*.

And 2007 brings a trio of feature films: *Gray Matters*, alongside Heather Graham; a role in Mary Stuart Masterson's *The Cake Eaters*; and the leading role in horror flick, *Sublime*.

Working with top TV talents and forming lasting friendships are what Cavanagh values most.

– Tom Cavanagh publicity photo

Kenny dishes on Spenny

Cont'd from page 1

!: Has the show impacted your friendship at all – has it made you better friends or worse enemies?

S: Let's just say our friendship is strained. The television show tends to magnify our already dysfunctional relationship. But I wouldn't say we were enemies. When you know someone as long as I've known Kenny, and shared so many experiences, he's kind of like family.

!: Are there too challenges that were too crazy when you started filming and you felt you have to stop?

S: No.

!: What would you say has been the most strategic thing you've done to one another in a competition?

S: I think in the "Who can be better woman?" competition deciding to be a career woman with children was a good strategy.

!: Do you get recognized on the street?

S: Yes, and people are generally very supportive. They really want to see me win and instinctually sympathize with the untenable positions Kenny puts me in.

!: Can you see yourself challenging one another until you're in geriatric care?

S: I can barely handle the show on a day-to-day basis. Hopefully my golden years will be filled with grandchildren rocking chairs, wisdom and good books, and not idiotic competitions and eating Kenny's toenails.

Kenny vs. Spenny premieres Oct. 19 on Showcase.