



# MAGAZINE CONFIDENTIAL

By MIKE COHEN

## Lost alum Jorge Garcia talks about joining Hawaii Five-0 cast

When the fifth season of Hawaii Five-0 begins Friday night, September 25 (9 p.m.) on Global TV and CBS, Jorge Garcia joins the cast as a full-time member in the role of conspiracy theorist Jerry Ortega.

Garcia is best known for playing Hurley on the cult hit *Lost* from 2004 to 2010. Hawaii Five-0, the highly successful reboot of the 1970s and 80s classic show

school classmate who proved to be a valuable asset to unit boss Steve McGarrett (Alex O'Loughlin).

"When I did three episodes in a row last January, that is when it seemed like a seed was being planted," said Garcia, who completed his Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). "Around pilot system it turned into an offer. The

On *Once Upon a Time*, another popular series in which storybook characters come to life, he played the Giant at the top of Jack's Beanstock in three episodes. That series too has former *Lost* writers. "That was lots of fun," he said. "It is filmed in Vancouver, where we did Alcatraz. A really great group of people on that show very fun and welcoming. They'd come do little activities like go-kart racing."

"Jorge very quickly made Jerry an unlikely and valuable part of the Five-0 Ohana," said Lenkov. "We have many opportunities planned to put Jerry's unusual and infectious desire to put the bad guys to good use."

### UP CLOSE WITH THE BOSS

Peter M. Lenkov is one of those true success stories, someone who had an objective in his youth and achieved it big time. He grew up in Chomedey, the son of Abe and Ellen Lenkov, with two brothers and a sister. At the age of 21 he headed to Los Angeles to pursue a career writing scripts for the TV and movie industry. Through pure hustle he began working on a series of TVB projects, rising to the position of producer pretty quickly. This included the popular series *Nikita* in 2000-2001. He soon landed some top-ranked series such as *The District*, *24* and *CSI New York*. Five years ago he stepped in as the executive producer of Hawaii Five-0, a reboot of the original 1970s cop drama.

The series, which I watch religiously, has a very distinct Chomedey ending. Just as the final credits are rolling off the screen, the name 101st Television pops up with a house and the animation of someone shoveling the walk and then a snow plough comes by and fills the pathway with the white stuff. "That's my old house in Chomedey," Lenkov told me by phone last week. "I do not know how many people actually wait until the end of the credits. But my parents always do and that's all that matters."

Lenkov still lives in Los Angeles, but generally spends one week a month in Hawaii. Filming for this dramatic fifth season began over the summer and continues through next spring. The season premiere is this Friday night (9 p.m.) on Global TV and CBS. Did he ever believe the show would have such staying power? "No," he responded. "I had hoped it would do well, but how many series last five years? David Staph, the president of CBS, told me that when you reach 100 episodes you have really made



Tony "Cakeman" Medeiros with a fan

it. We will achieve that in November."

The show stars Alex O'Loughlin Steve McGarrett (Alex O'Loughlin), who heads a government mandated task force on crime known as Hawaii Five-0. Co-stars include Scott Caan, Daniel Dae-Kim, Grace Park, Chi McBride and Jorge Garcia. Since the series started, McGarrett has played a cat and mouse game with a nasty crime boss named Wo Fat. "In the 100th episode a lot of questions will be answered about Wo Fat," Lenkov promises.

When CBS switched the shows to Friday, some media pundits wondered if it would survive on a night where many previously successful programs have died. That did not happen to Five-0 as their ratings remained strong. "It worked out well for us," he said. "I like the 9 p.m. timeslot and we added a younger demographic. Kids aged 10 to 12 are now watching the show with their parents. They do not have to get up for school the next day."

While Lenkov was too young to follow closely the original Hawaii Five-0, his dad "was a massive fan. I was very young, but I remember sitting by his knee when he watched the show. So I wanted to do it partly because of that."

As the show runner, Lenkov has the final say on everything. That includes choosing the cast and guest stars. Carol Burnett will be back in a recurring role this season as McGarrett's aunt. Lenkov has had Ed Asner on both Five-0 and *CSI New York*. "Ed is a friend of mine," he says. "Carol Burnett has become one as well."

COMICCON REVISITED



Peter M. Lenkov and Jorge Garcia

of the same name, has been a ratings smash hit. Chomedey native Peter M. Lenkov is the executive producer while Côte Saint-Luc's David Wolkove is a writer and story editor. The program has become a bit of a destination point former *Lost* cast members. Daniel Dae Kim, who plays Chin Ho Kelly, has been a regular since day one. Terry O'Quinn (John Locke) had a recurring role while Henry Ian Cusick, Tania Raymonde and Cynthia Watros have all had guest shots. Some of the writing staff also worked on *Lost*, which was filmed in Hawaii.

In a telephone interview with *The Suburban*, Garcia spoke about Five-0 and life since *Lost*'s dramatic final episode. While he immediately got a number of guest roles, it looked like he had found a winning *Lost*-type of show in *Alcatraz*. He portrayed Diego Soto, a PhD in both criminal justice and civil war history and author of books on *Alcatraz* who became the FBI's "go to" person when people who were thought to have been dead since 1963 suddenly come back to life in modern day San Francisco. Despite a great premise, the show was cancelled after its first season.

A number of other guest spots followed, including on high profile shows like *How I Met Your Mother* and *Once Upon a Time*. On Hawaii Five-0 he immediately became a fan favorite over the course of five episodes as Chin Ho Kelly's old high

role is great. It's been really fun. So much of the crew are people I already knew. It was kind of like coming home at a certain level."

Will Jerry actually become part of Five-0, a special government task force created to investigate serious crimes in Hawaii? "So far Jerry still has his visitor's badge that keeps him on the outskirts," said Garcia. "But it is not as if he not trying to be part of it."

As the love able Hugo "Hurley" Reyes on *Lost*, Garcia was a huge fan favorite. His character was famous for using the word "dude" repeatedly, something that is even depicted in great detail on YouTube. The word is slipping through his lips now on Five-0. "Yes they have started to work some 'dudes' in," he said. "On *Lost* it was always in the script. I'm not saying I did not say the word 'dude.' I grew up in California and that was part of the vernacular. I never said 'dude' to the extent Hurley did."

What do most fans share with Garcia about *Lost*? "A lot say how much they loved it; that it was their favorite show," he says. "Every now and then someone likes to point out that they did not like the ending. I had no problem with it. Hurley got the island."

The cancellation of *Alcatraz* was difficult, Garcia admitted. "I feel like *Alcatraz* did not get the chance to become the show we were hoping to make," he said.

So I finally made it to my first Montreal Comiccon (www.montrealcomiccon.com) event recently at the Palais des congrès. I have never seen anything quite like it. Over 51,000 attendees of all ages walked through the halls of the Palais to take part of the great pop culture gathering that has become a must in Montreal. They came dressed as Wonder Woman, Super Man, Spider-Men, Starfleet officers or Disney princesses, braving the sudden chill to be surrounded by their brethren and idols. Over three glorious days, thousands of fans beamed and smiled as they posed for pictures, attended celebrity Q&As, hunted down that elusive collectible and had fun with friends and fam-



Sam Kloda and Brent Spiner

ily members. The event's remarkable growth and popularity has been such that the organization is now at a crossroads. "Our goal and our priority is that our visitors and all those who support us benefit from a great experience," said Alex La Prova, Co-President of Montreal Comiccon. "That is why we've booked the entire convention center for next year. In order to accomplish this, we had to move the event dates. Therefore, the 2015 edition will be held from July 3 to 5."

A wide array of guests from the TV, film and entertainment worlds were present to meet their fans, including crowd-pleasers Sir Patrick Stewart, Stephen Amell, Robert Englund and Norman Reedus. On the Friday night, Hulk Hogan shared touching, humorous and life-changing stories at the special event Hulk Hogan: Uncut. On Saturday, one of the most anticipated and best attended special events was Star Trek: TNG – Engaged!, where nine cast members were welcomed to the stage by a small orchestra from Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal and Dr. McCoy from 2009's Star Trek, Karl Urban. Later that evening, dreams became a reality for 100 fans of Arrow, who had the chance to meet and greet Oliver Queen himself (Stephen Amell) in an intimate and relaxed setting (an event organized in partnership with Z).

On the exhibition floor, booths carrying toys, comics and unique collectibles were attractions, in and of themselves. Long lines formed in the Autograph Area (sponsored by Télétoon la nuit) at celebrity signing booths for guests like Billy Boyd, Julie Benz and Emily Kinney. Video games proved to be popular, with fans wanting to experience new games on Sony PlayStation, or get the scoop on

what's around the bend for WB Games and BioWare. Walking around, fans may have rubbed shoulders with the City's Mayor, Mr. Denis Coderre, who attended the event for the first time.

I could not believe the lineups to get autographs and photos of the stars. While I began taking photos on my own from afar, I was told - as were others - at a certain point that flashes were not allowed. Later I was informed no photographer of the stars was permitted at all.

Tony "Cakeman" Medeiros was a big hit, debuting his super hero outfit and showcasing super hero themed cakes which will no doubt be appearing at a party near you. Medeiros, vice-president of the Cantor's Bakery operation and editor of the very popular family website www.sandbox-world.com, was dressed as Montreal's first sweet superhero. Cakeman looks a lot like Batman. He has three candles on his head instead of pointy ears, oven mits instead of gloves and utensil belt of forks and knives in place of a utility belt. "Cakeman has no super powers," Medeiros says. "He just makes cakes and delivers them." The reaction to Cakeman was strong. Medeiros said he posed for an endless array of photos.

Meanwhile, businessman Sam Kloda was spotted at Moishe's Steakhouse with Brent Spiner, who played Data on Star Trek the Next Generation.

#### WONDER WOMAN PAOLA ROJAS

As I walked through the exhibit hall I saw so many interesting average folks in elaborate attire. One such individual was Paola Rojas, a 22-year old resident of Laval who works part-time at the Cinéma Colossus. She loves attending these conventions and on this occasion she was dressed up as super heroine Wonder Woman. Every second person asked if she would stop and pose for a picture.

"The only 'pose' people asked me for was to make it look like I was cutting their throat with my sword, which I kind of found funny since it made me look more like a villain than a heroine," Paola stated. "I love cosplay,"

"Cosplay?" I asked myself. "What is cosplay?"

Well I learned a new word over the weekend as cosplay is short for costume play, a performance art in which participants called cosplayers wear costumes and fashion accessories to represent a specific character or idea that is usually identified with a unique name. Cosplayers often interact to create a subculture centered on role play.

As for Wonder Woman, Paola said: "She has been my favorite heroine in the DC universe since I was little. I chose the version of injustice because it looks really awesome and I found it interesting that it is different from the typical design she's used to."

While Paola, boyfriend Cedrik and some friends spent all three days last weekend at Comiccon along with countless thousands of others, she has also been to Otakuthon for the last eight years. This is Quebec's largest fan-run festival promoting Japanese animation (anime), Japanese graphic novels

(manga), related gaming and Japanese pop-culture. Last summer she travelled to Gatineau for G-Anime, another convention focusing on Japanese animation.

For Paola, this all remains a fun hobby. She will return to school in the winter and study to become a makeup artist. Photographer Rob Olsen graciously sent us some movie star-like photos of Paola which I have been able to share with you in this edition. Maybe Lenkov will use the cosplay idea for a future episode and hire Paola as a guest star?

#### RED CARPET SOIREE

The Montreal Center of Canadian Hadassah WIZO (CHW) will be hosting a Red Carpet Art Soirée on Wednesday evening, October 1 at Galerie de Bellefeuille (1367 Greene Avenue). The CHW Art Soirée is a new twist on its fabulous art auction. Guests will have the opportunity to participate in a silent auction featuring all of their favorite artists as well as to purchase from Galerie de Bellefeuille's extensive collection of over 1,000 works of art in its newly renovated space. The entire proceeds of the silent



Hulk Hogan signs an autograph

auction and a percentage of the gallery's sales that evening will support CHW's projects for Children, Healthcare and Women. For almost 100 years, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) - a women's volunteer organization - has been dedicated to the support of Children, Healthcare and Women in Israel and Canada. Projects we've funded in Montreal include LOVE Quebec, the Montreal Children's Hospital, the Missing Children's Network, and women's shelters. Tickets are \$75 each. Info: 514-933-8461 or www.chw.ca/montreal.

Have something to share? Email me at mcohen@thesuburban.com or leave a message at 514-484- 9203, ext. 307. Follow me at www.twitter.com/mikecohencl and at blog.thesuburban.com.



Paola displays her Wonder Woman sword