

# Local boy makes good: Lenkov at the helm for Hawaii Five-0's sixth season



Mike Cohen

With the season six premiere of the action-drama *Hawaii Five-0* set to air this Friday evening on CBS and Global, then it must be time for my annual interview with Peter M. Lenkov.

Lenkov is the executive producer of the hit program, a remake of the 1968 to 1980 classic starring Jack Lord. This contemporary take focuses on an elite

federalized task force whose mission it is to wipe out the crime on the Islands'. The main characters are Detective Steve McGarrett (Alex O'Loughlin), Detective Danny "Danno" Williams (Scott Caan), Officer Chin Ho Kelly (Daniel Dae Kim), Officer Kono Kalakaua (Grace Park), Officer Lou Grover (Chi McBride), Dr. Max Bergman (Masi Oka) and oddball conspiracy theorist Jerry Ortega (Jorge Garcia). It is a fantastic show, with a superb local connection: Lenkov is from Chomedey and one of his producers/writers is Côte Saint-Luc na-

tive David Lenkov, whom he calls "a real asset in developing storylines."

Friday's opener is loosely based on a legend that pirates attacked Hawaii in the 1880s. "We actually open up the season seeing that pirate attack in a flashback," Lenkov told me from Hawaii. "It's our version of *Pirates of the Caribbean*, where pirates are attacking the palace and the streets of Waikiki. And that sort of launches us into a modern-day treasure hunt for what they had stolen."

Lenkov has a knack for getting great guests stars, including the likes of Ed Asner, Treat Williams, Darryl Hannah, Melanie Griffith, Joe Jonas and more. "We do have some great recurring characters this year such as Sarah Carter and Julie Benz," he says. "Carol Burnett is also returning, as well as Larry Manetti and Willie Garson."

Lenkov helmed *CSI New York*, *The District* and *24* before taking charge of *Hawaii Five-0*. Did he ever believe it would last six years? "You never take anything for granted in show biz, so the answer is 'absolutely no,'" he noted. "That said, I was very confident in our pilot so I knew we had a good shot."

What does he credit for its longevity? "Location, location, location and casting," he laughs

I asked Lenkov whether we will ever see any kind of Montreal theme in an episode. "Who knows?" he asks rhetorically. "Maybe McGarrett and Danny chase a criminal to Montreal, get some snow under their feet, and hit Moishe's for a steak and Wilensky's for a special. It could be cool. Perhaps one day. In the meantime, you can see my old Chomedey house at the end of each show when the credits conclude."

**COHEN CHATTER:** The Temple Emanu-El Beth Shalom in Westmount has rescheduled an election debate originally planned for a few weeks ago. It will take place on Sunday, Sept. 27 (10 a.m.) around the theme of "Building a better world at home and abroad: A Canadian Debate." The panelists will be Westmount riding candidates Marc Garneau from the Liberals, James Hughes



Peter M. Lenkov

of the NDP and Richard Sagala of the Conservatives. Senior Rabbi Lisa Grushcow will be the moderator. There is no admission charge...Dr. Suzanne Levitz will talk about reconciling Jewish medical ethics with modern medicine at the Chevra Kadisha Congregation in Snowdon at noon on Wed. Sept. 30. Advance reservations are required... Musica Camerata Montréal will present the first concert of its 46th season next Saturday Sept. 26 (6 p.m.) at the charming Chapelle Historique du Bon-Pasteur at 100 Sherbrooke East. It will feature works by Weber, Frank Bridge and Brahms and the musicians are Berta Rosenohl (piano), Luis Grinhauz (violin), Bertrand Robin (viola) and Leo Grinhauz (cello). Info: [www.cameratamontreal.com](http://www.cameratamontreal.com).

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