

# Hawaii Five-0 boss has not forgotten Chomedey roots



**Mike Cohen**

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 TV 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 a shovel in the snow. A 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



Peter M. Lenkov and Jorge Garcia

years? David Staph, the president of CBS, told me that when you reach 100 episodes you have really made it. We will achieve that in November."

The show stars Alex O'Loughlin as Steve McGarrett, 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."

See *The Suburban Magazine*, online Friday, for more on Lenkov and Five-0.

*Have something to share? Email me at [mcohen@thesuburban.com](mailto:mcohen@thesuburban.com) or leave a message at 514-484-9203, ext. 307. Follow me at [www.twitter.com/mikecohencl](http://www.twitter.com/mikecohencl) and at <http://blog.thesuburban.com>.*



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