

Scene & Heard

FULLY COMMITTED

When it came time for DAYS's Kate Mansi and Robert Scott Wilson to shoot Abigail and Ben's first face-to-face encounter since his incarceration, the two actors fully understood the significance of the scene. "From the minute we arrived on set, Robert and I felt the weight of that encounter," says Mansi. "On that day in particular, we didn't rehearse together and kept our distance, which was rare for us." When the two arrived on set, a lighting problem delayed shooting. The actors used the technical delay to their advantage. "We didn't take our eyes off each other, and the tension in the air felt so thick. I think we were just sort of trapped in the moment," she recounts. "I knew that if I broke [character] and left set, I would lose it. But I also knew if we just stood there, I might throw up from the anticipation of what was coming for Abby and myself. It was the strangest

thing, as if we had slipped and got stuck between real- and pretend-time. So I suggested that we use the time and the space as an opportunity to do the scenes without any of the actual lines, but through improv, to see what we could discover. When they finally fixed the problem and we started shooting, I didn't see even a glimpse of Robert. At that point, it was only Ben and Abby in that room. Robert and I just let ourselves get out of the way and went for the ride without any hesitation. That's what I loved most about working together: We were both always game to explore anything for the sake of our characters and the scene, even if it sounded, well, a little crazy."

RUDE AWAKENING

This year, Aussie native Daniel Goddard (Cane, Y&R) will celebrate his 20th year of living in the United States. "My wife [Rachael] is an American citizen and my two kids [Ford and Sebastian] are citizens, so I will finally file for dual citizenship," shares the actor. "It's funny, if you ask Americans, they'll say I sound Australian, and if you ask Australians, they'll say I sound American. I guess I'm a hybrid now." Goddard claims a Down-Under accent gives him more social leeway in the U.S. "It's not what you say, it's how you say it," he explains. "I could insult you with the roughest comments, but say it in a 'you're my mate' way and it's not offensive. And in Australia, when someone gets hurt, you usually laugh at them. If someone falls over or runs into a tree, you just laugh. In America, it's, 'Oh, my God, are you okay?' But in Australia, we're more like, 'If you were watching where you were going, that wouldn't have happened. You're an idiot, aren't you?' If you're too serious in Australia, people will put you down to stop it."



After 20 years in America, Y&R's Daniel still embraces his Aussie roots.

TECH CRUNCH

As Robert Palmer Watkins (Dillon) settles in to life at GH, he has taken advantage of both high-tech and low-tech options for increasing his workplace productivity. On the low end, he explains, "Kirsten [Storms, Moxie] noticed that I'd been carrying my scripts in my hand, kind of disorganized, that I was losing pages, and I didn't have the right highlighters and stuff like that. She was like, 'I'm going online right now and I'm buying you everything you need to be organized!' She bought me a new binder with all of these folders inside so I can separate the scenes I'm in, and she got me a variety pack of highlighters. It was so sweet of her and it's totally made a difference." On the more cutting-edge side, he and his co-stars have been using Skype to rehearse from home. "It's so awesome, because we can be on our phones, but still see the person and get an idea of how they're going to do their lines. The first time I did that was with Emme Rylan [Lulu] and it worked out so great, I started doing it with Kirsten, as well."



GH's Robert can thank his co-stars for helping him stay organized.

EMBRACEABLE YOU

With the new season of DANCING WITH THE STARS underway, Chaz Bono (Reverend Rydell, B&B), who finished seventh during season 13,



Being a dancing star changed Chaz's life before he appeared on B&B.

offers this advice to the current cast: "The key with that show is to embrace it," he says. "Embrace everything about it, because the people who do well are the ones that have this huge, life-changing experience. For me, it was really fun and really hard—but it was the first thing that started to change my life and get me onto this road of acting and producing. I found myself. It was a different art form than the one that I love, but it was performance-oriented, and I was surrounded by creative people again. It made me feel alive because it pushed me physically, emotionally and mentally. It opened me up, and you're really supported there. It's a great group of people to work for and with. It's also great to see the people in the audience from past seasons and get to know them, like my buddy Florence Henderson! That's also something I got out of that experience. So, if any of the new contestants are reading this, don't fight it. Embrace it!"

PHOTO: WENDY GILBERT/WIREIMAGE.COM

Robert and Kate were excited about their most recent DAYS interaction.



PHOTO: JILL JOHNSON