

eyes on the PRIZE

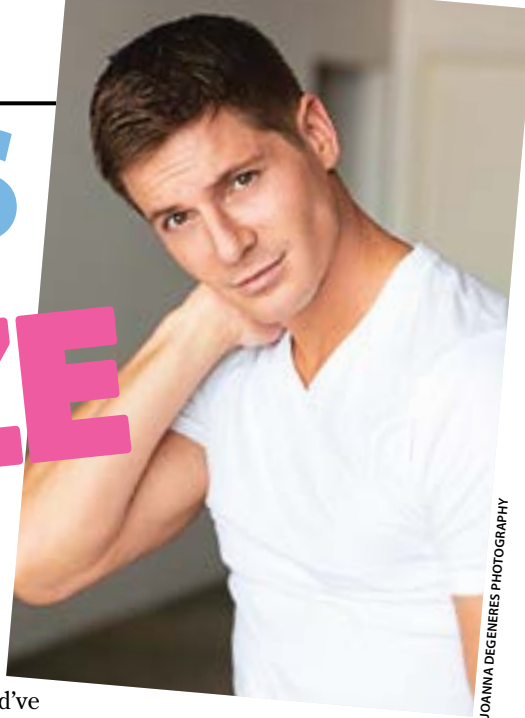
Much like *GENERAL HOSPITAL*'s Dillon, Robert Palmer Watkins is pursuing his dreams

What Robert Palmer Watkins admired most about *GENERAL HOSPITAL*'s Dillon is that "he could've stayed in Port Charles and had an easy life with his family's money and power, but he chose to leave and follow his dream of becoming a filmmaker." As Watkins follows his own dreams, he's finding that they're actually multiplying.

Drop The Beat

Prior to leaving the soap, Watkins began making music videos. Now, he's co-writing some tunes. "We got about six songs done. It's definitely an R&B/pop feel," he says. "I'm loving the creative process."

Watkins has yet to determine how he'll release his offerings but promises that "something's gonna happen this year."



JONNA DEGENERES PHOTOGRAPHY

In the meantime, he's got other projects keeping him busy, like working as a guest correspondent for *EXTRA*. "I'd gotten my feet wet co-hosting GH fan events with Laura Wright (Carly)," he says. "It's a really fun challenge that's allowing me to meet all kinds of cool people... I still get a little starstruck."



ABC

"I interviewed the *AMERICAN IDOL* judges" for *EXTRA*, says Watkins. "When doors in the entertainment industry open, who am I to not run through them?"



ABC/TODD WAURYCHUK

▲ "The Nurses Balls I did with [Hayley Erin, ex-Kiki] were really cool because they put attention on our story," Watkins reflects. "And I got to show my musical abilities!"

Coming Soon

You can catch Watkins next in the TV thriller *Looking For Mr. Wonderful*. In it, "a woman is being stalked," Watkins previews. "My character gets involved because he's both her friend and her boss."

The performer is also waiting to hear where *GREEN VALLEY*, the comedy for which he recently made a pilot, will land. "It's like *THE OFFICE* meets *WORKAHOLICS* meets *ENTOURAGE*," he laughs. "I play the goofy CEO of a fictional cannabis company."

Taking Off

This summer, Watkins is getting serious in Cyprus, where he's filming a war movie that, next to GH, could be the biggest break of his career. In it, he'll play a member of a platoon that goes in search of a



COURTESY OF ROBERT PALMER WATKINS

"Brendan Martin is amazing — he's been mentoring and producing me," Watkins says of his music partner.

fallen comrade, only to find something else that provides unexpected hope. "It's a tearjerker *and* an action movie," he says. "They're putting us through boot-camp training to make sure that we're physically ready in the mountains and jungles."

While the GH alum regrets that Dillon wasn't brought back to mourn lost love Kiki, he's proud of their love story and grateful to have been part of the cast. "It's opened so many doors for me," he reflects. "I'm in a really good place." ■

— Kelli M. Larson

PRIMETIMEUPDATE

Another ex-daytimer shines after dark

ALL MY CHILDREN'S Denyse Tontz (Miranda) is all grown up and ready to strut her stuff in ABC's new primetime sudser, *GRAND HOTEL*. In it, she shines as the feisty sister of a war vet (GH's former Morgan, Bryan Craig) who's determined to use her marketing degree to help save their family's hotel. Catch the premiere on Monday, June 17, at 10 p.m. EST.



AFF/CRISTEVEN BERGMAN