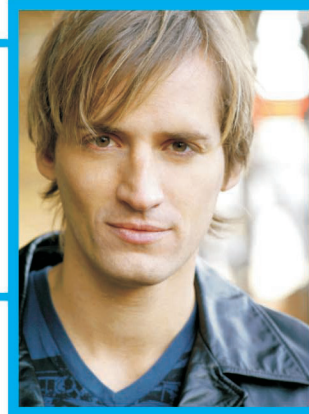


Film Talk

Discussions with writers, producers, directors and actors about glbt films and filmmaking.

By
Casper
Andreas



Former Las Vegan Charlie David in 'Dante's Cove', 'A Four Letter Word'

He is an actor, a writer, a television host, a soon-to-be film producer, a sometime model, and a former boyband member. Originally from a small Canadian town, he lived in Vegas for several years pursuing music. Now he resides in Los Angeles and primarily focuses on his first love, acting.

Charlie David is probably best known for playing the gay character

– yes, in real life this is who I am?"

His family and friends have known that he was gay since he was sixteen and David tells me that it feels great to be out professionally as well:

"It's so freeing not having to worry about things like – Who knows? Who doesn't know? Who did I lie to? Who did I ask to lie for me? My God – there's so much beauty and wonderful things in the

were with Jesse Archer, another openly gay actor.

"It was really fun to work with Jesse and we became close friends. It wasn't one of those situations when you do the scene and then you both walk to the opposite ends of the room and not talk."

Has he been in those situations?

"Yeah I've been in situations when you finish a scene and go: 'I'll be in my trailer. Goodbye.'"

David tells me how much he enjoyed working in an environment with a real sense of team effort.

"Crew and cast – everyone alike – wanted to make a really good product. And we had fun doing it! This is the type of industry that it's not easy to be involved in," he adds. "It's hard to get projects going and when it's happening I think we really have to rejoice in that. It's something we dreamt about doing since we were little kids that is now the reality."

The young actor also dreams of making his own films ("One day I definitely want to direct!"), and he has written three screenplays to date. The first two are big studio pictures and David is very excited to start pitching them now when he is back in Los Angeles. The third screenplay, *Mulligans*, is something that is doable on a low budget, which is exactly what he is planning to do. The dark comedy is shooting in Victoria, Canada in the spring of 2007 with David producing and starring.

Growing up in a small town in Canada, he was always performing. When he was seventeen he moved to Canada's west coast to go to a performing arts school where he was taught everything from dance, to singing, and acting.

A year later, a friend called him up, telling him that he was in a band in Las Vegas and that they were looking for someone to sing bass. David sang for the



Charlie David with his *Dante's Cove* co-stars, Gregory Michael (left) and Jonny Fleming (right)

Toby on the gay soap *Dante's Cove*, an original series on the gay network here! TV. The young thespian is gay off the set as well. And what's more – he is willing to talk about it.

"I came out professionally last year after I had booked *Dante's Cove*," he explains. "At that point I knew the question was going to come up and I needed to make a decision. Am I going to lie or kind of duck the question? Or am I going to stand up, be proud, and say

world to focus on beyond trying to keep that whole thing going."

I had the privilege to work with David last month when he was in New York and starred in my new film, the romantic comedy *A Four Letter Word*. Catching up with him on the phone from LA, I ask how that experience was for him. He tells me how exciting it was to shoot his first film in New York and how comfortable he felt on set.

Most of David's scenes in the film

It's Important to Tell Our Own Stories to Educate Others

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other members over the phone and got the job. He tells me what a wonderful time he had living in Las Vegas. How the city has so much more to offer than just the strip. The band, *4 Now*, was doing well and opened for acts like *Pink* and *Destiny's Child*. In the end they got a record deal with Sony, but at that point David and another band member had decided to move to LA to pursue acting, so they did.

New to Los Angeles and without representation, he read the trades to figure out what was going on and did his own mailings. Soon he landed a pilot for MTV but it wasn't picked up. He then started doing hosting gigs for NBC and MTV before deciding to go back to Canada.

"After just over a year in LA I decided to move to Vancouver and meet the casting directors there," David says. "My plan was to stay for six months but I ended up working and really liking it so I spent three years."

Last September he landed the exiting job of hosting a TV traveling show. The world's number one watched gay travel show *Bump* is airing on gay channels in the US, Canada, France, Belgium, and Israel. He has also shot two seasons of *Dante's Cove*, that he describes as "a soapy, campy, guilty pleasure show" that is a lot fun to be part of.

So does he worry that he might be typecast into just playing gay roles? Or is that perhaps what he wants to focus on?

"I enjoy playing a range of people", David says. "I'm not exclusively drawn to gay characters, but there is a certain connection that I feel with them."

He goes on to say how important it is that we continue to foster and tell our own stories, not just for ourselves, but as education for other people.

"My friends and family have started watching "gay cinema" because they know me. So they watch films like *Transamerica* and *Brokeback Mountain*, and they learn and they grow. It takes their mind and twists it in a way that it's not necessarily challenged on a day-to-day level. That's why it's so important."

Visit www.charliedavid.com to see more of Charlie David.

Casper Andreas is a filmmaker, actor and writer living in NYC. He is currently in post-production of his second feature film A Four Letter Word. He can be reached at casper@embrem.com.



Charlie David with Jesse Archer in Casper Andreas' film *A Four Letter Word* (now in post-production).

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