



# THE ACTOR WHISPERER

## on Master Classes, Movies and Moments

by Katie Reynolds

**D**avid Morin certainly puts the character in Character Actor. From his booming Southern Californian twang, to his high-energy persona; he certainly knows how to command an audience. When I met him in an upscale beachfront restaurant, our quick chat turned into a three hour soliloquy on the evolution of an actor's career, the exhilarating highs and quiet frustrations, and the constant need to move forward.

His expansive high-rise apartment in Strand with wraparound sea views is not enough to motivate the actor. "I need energy and people. Unfortunately, Strand (a sleepy beach suburb 45 minutes from Cape Town) just doesn't have the vibe. I've gotta move back to the city", David says.

David surely holds the record for the most commercial screen time. He was once dubbed the 'King of Commercials', with over 200 national network spots in the US alone. Far from being a one-trick-pony; peruse his IMDB credits and you'll find guest spots on hit shows such as *The Mentalist*, *CSI Miami*, *Dexter*, *Chuck*, *Touched by an Angel*, *Melrose Place* and *Las Vegas*, as well as roles in feature films like *Hero*, *For the Boys* and *Cold Play*.

David's most recent acting gig was as an Alabama judge in the Daniel Radcliffe film *Game Changer*, in which Radcliffe plays the

inventor of the smash-hit game *Grand Theft Auto*, who is hounded by an activist played by Bill Paxton.

It's not all work though. "I worked with Jennifer Aniston on a show called *Muddling Through*, this was just before *Friends*", he laments, "and we just had fantastic chemistry. I thought we were definitely close to dating." Thankfully his romantic luck improved with a certain Geena Davis. "I walked into the make up trailer and she locked eyes with me in the mirror. By the time I got to wardrobe the dresser told me she was interested in me!" So I ended up dating her for about 10 days", he says with an impish grin. Did I mention he also took Rita Wilson to the prom?

Despite enviable commercial success, David decided he needed a change of scene, so he packed up his stuff and headed for Africa, where he spent a few years writing, producing and directing in Kenya. But he calls South Africa his home now, and spends his Saturdays teaching acting classes to aspiring silver-screen stars. "It's all about the moments," he says, "you've got to give the film editor lots of moments to work with". At this point, he demonstrates a range of diverse emotions in a few brief flashes. It's pretty impressive. His students range from school kids to professional models, and he teaches them acting techniques in a live setting,



Bill Paxton and D. David Morin

complete with a rolling camera to capture their evolving skills. "Some of these kids are just natural actors" he says as he shows me a reel his students' recent work. And there are some additional perks to the job. "I just had a wealthy father fly me to Mpumalanga to host an acting workshop for his daughter and her friends", he chuckles.

So what's next for the veteran actor? "Well, my master classes are great fun, but my passion lies in directing. I have some meetings lined up with high-profile producers, so I'm excited to see the projects that emerge from those".

Sign up for David's Hollywood Acting Master Class at [www.register.hollywoodclass.co.za](http://www.register.hollywoodclass.co.za)



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**D. David Morin is an award-winning filmmaker, actor & director, with over 30 years in the trenches of L.A. & New York.**  
(credits: [www.imdb.com/name/nm0605514/](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0605514/))

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