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Daniel Baldwin appears in the film *Sidekick*, about a comic-book junkie obsessed with superheroes. More film fest stories / B3

## Daniel Baldwin pays it forward

Actor's appearance offered 'a little notoriety' to help Canadian indie flick

MARI SASANO  
*Special to The Journal*  
 EDMONTON

Daniel Baldwin is, yes, one of those Baldwins — brother of Alec, Billy and Stephen. You probably know him best from his role as Beau Felton on the acclaimed television series, *Homicide: Life on the Street*. He's the character actor brother, as opposed to Alec, the classic leading man, or Billy, the pretty boy.

So how'd a guy who's part of one of Hollywood's sibling dynasties get to be in *Sidekick*, a little Canadian independent film?

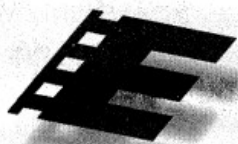
"I was doing (another) film with Ted Danson in Toronto and my assistant said that his friends from college were making this movie. So I said, 'Let me read it.' They had no money, no time and they were shooting it on digital — all strikes against them. But they had such passion to make the film, so I said yes. I think that if you're lucky enough to draw from the well, you have a duty to replenish it."

So on his days off, Baldwin went to a Toronto comic-book shop to shoot his scenes, as a way of paying it forward.

"I have been blessed to work with some pretty powerful names: Oliver Stone, Barry Levinson, Stephen Frears, Michael Mann, to name a few," he says.

"And rather than get frustrated and storm off to my trailer, I decided I would help these kids learn what was freely given to me. And I learned from them, too. To watch that enthusiasm!

"These kids really wanted to make this movie. And I carry a little notoriety to



Edmonton International  
**FILM FESTIVAL**

### MOVIE PREVIEW

#### Sidekick

**Director:** Michael Sparaga  
**Starring:** Daniel Baldwin, Perry Mucci  
**Classification:** 14A  
**Parental warning:** Coarse language  
**Showing:** Tonight at 7 at Empire City Centre, 10200 102nd Ave.

help them sell this."

His generosity might also have something to do with the fact that he enjoys working in Canada. "I have a Canadian flag tattooed to my thigh," says Baldwin, who has owned a home in B.C. for years.

"The charm of your country is your people. So warm and friendly. Once you get past the 'Hey, Baldwin!' celebrity stuff, people will look me in the eye and talk about things that matter."

His experiences here have proven to him that there is the potential for not just a good, but a great domestic film industry.

"Many people in my business regard filming in Canada as renegade film, run-away productions. But what do you do when the premier of Alberta gives you tax breaks? And you can't say there aren't enough crews. There are more than enough now. When I do the (American) dollar versus the Canadian dollar, add the provincial tax credits, how would I not want a \$2-million picture to look like a \$3½-million one?"

"Where are the Canadian films? You get the stereotypical two American stars in a production but they just go to the States to sell it. Why not give me the \$2 million for the honour of staying in this beautiful country?" he jokes.

This isn't the 45-year-old's first time in Edmonton, either, and he's happy to be coming back for tonight's screening.

"I love Edmonton! I did a movie up there (*Framed* in 1999), and before I decided to buy a house in B.C., I thought about Edmonton. But my ex didn't want to live in Alberta; it's too cold. But when I was there, I thought that Alberta was the most ecologically sound place in the world."

See BALDWIN / B2

### QUESTIONS FOR DANIEL BALDWIN?

E-mail them to  
 culture@thejournal.canwest.com and  
 we'll ask him during our online chat  
 with the actor Tuesday at  
 edmontonjournal.com.

## Watch for him next season on Sopranos

BALDWIN  
*Continued from B1*

lately — a welcome change from the past spring and summer, which were plagued by his problems with alcohol and drugs.

"I saw all these cars with plugs sticking out of the front grills. I thought that they were electric cars, until someone smacked me and said, 'You idiot. It just gets so cold here that they have to plug them in to warm up the engines.' I love Alberta. I like Calgary, but I love Edmonton. It's so big and clean. But can we turn up the temperature a little?"

Work has kept him extremely busy

“... I love Alberta. I like Calgary, but I love Edmonton. It's so big and clean. But can we turn up the temperature a little?”

Daniel Baldwin

"I've just finished *The Sopranos*, a big spot that airs in March. And I'm doing a demo for a reality show. I can't say much more, but it has to do with acting. Then I'm shooting in Chicago. I have four films coming out in the next six months.

"When I'm sober, I'm a busy and productive human being. It's important, this return to sobriety and attending AA."