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MIKE OSTROSKI



MIKE OSTROSKI

Biography

With a storied career in theatre, film, and television, **Mike Ostroski** is best known for his role as the depressingly funny teacher “Mr. Byenbug” in the third season of *Fuller House* on Netflix, and as the sinister ‘Dr. Minyak’ in Nickelodeon’s *Henry Danger*.

Bolstering a broad resume in both TV and theater, Mike has also brought his talent to feature films, shooting the Bold Films Feature, *Shot Caller*, with Nikolaj Coster-Waldau and Lifetime’s *New York Prison Break* with Penelope Ann Miller. Adding to his outstanding background Mike has also been performing his award-winning solo show, *Groundwork*, co-written and directed by Derek Davidson, since 2013. *Groundwork* was nominated for Best Solo Performance at the 2016 Hollywood Fringe Festival and was a 2016 winner of The ENCORE! Producers’ Award.

Mike has appeared in episodes of *Breaking Bad*, *Criminal Minds*, *How To Get Away With Murder*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, *Fuller House*, *The Middle*, *The Muppets*, *Legends*, *Manhattan*, and *Henry Danger*. Mike has performed in over 75 productions as a 12-year member of The Barter Theatre’s Resident Acting Company. After performing *Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol* and *Taming of the Shrew* with the award-winning Duke City Repertory Theatre, Mike premiered In/Visible Theatre’s *Bumbershoot* at The New York International Fringe Festival, and performed the role of Robert Novum Smith in the new comedy *The Book Club Play* by Karen Zacarias at both The Public Theatre of Maine and The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

Mike attended The University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) for musical theatre, Miami University (Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa) for creative writing, and abroad at both Cambridge University and London’s Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Mike currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife, Kate Cook.

Twitter & Instagram: @MikeOstroski

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Events



11th Annual German Current Film Festival – October 2017



Photo Credit: Vince Trupin

Mike Ostroski

Hi Mike, welcome to VENTS! How have you been?
I've been great. Thanks so much. Thanks for having me. Excited to chat with you.

So I understand you actually studied Musical theater - what have you learned from these studies?

That's a great question. I've learned tons from the study of musical theatre. I think the most important thing I've learned is that whatever artistic form of communication you are using, if you embrace that form wholeheartedly and reach for what you, as the character, want with abandon and without apology, the audience will go with you. Musical theatre is a form that includes acting, singing, and dancing in its palette. Its topography is wide. It asks a lot from the audience. And because it does, it creates an opportunity to really learn the lesson that indeed, the audience will go with you if you go for it. When you're not doing musical theatre, say acting in a non-musical play or w/film project, this lesson still applies. They will go with you if you go for it without apology. Whatever it is. Musical theatre can be miraculous. It's a great training ground for so many things.

What made you want to eventually gravitate towards mostly comedies?

I'm currently working on two comedies, but this wasn't an intentional focus. I love comedies and dramas alike. Currently, this is just where I find myself. But I must say that I'm having so much fun and I'm so grateful to be a part of these shows.

Did you ever see yourself as a comedian?

Oh, gosh, I've never thought of myself as a comedian. I have friends who are true comedians and are working in that field. They are amazing. I have such admiration for them. I love comedies and I love the challenge and exercise of finding the humor of a scene, but I have never thought of myself as a true comedian. Someday maybe!

So let's talk about Henry Danger - as both myself and everyone knows, Dan Schneider has this really peculiar, quirky sense of humor. As an adult (I'm guessing the kid actor's perhaps gets better used to), how do you tend to approach this role as Dr. Minyak?

I love approaching a role through the lens of the question, "What is the function of this character within the greater story? Or what role does this character play?" The world of every story is different. Taking the rules of that story, the laws of physics of that particular world, seriously is so important. So when approaching Dr. Minyak, I think about how I can honor the world that Dan and his team have created. How can I cause the largest stumbling blocks for Captain Man and Kid Danger and even for myself as Dr. Minyak? How far can I go in derailing everyone around me? The result of this is usually -- and hopefully -- always really funny.

When you signed up for the show, did you ever thought you would become this arch-nemesis?

There are several villains on the show, and I think part of the humor is allowing each of our characters to think that we are indeed THE arch-nemesis. But it's been so much fun letting Dr. Minyak seek his celebrity and notoriety as the greatest, super villain of all time. In trying to accomplish this, he gets himself into a lot of trouble. And that's really fun.

How can we expect Minyak evolve throughout this new season?

Minyak's evolution is pretty much laser-focused upon creating the weapon and plan that's even more ingenious and impressive than that last one. I think you'll find that he's right on course to keep up with this trajectory.

Speaking of "quirkiness", you are appearing on the third season of Fuller House - how did you get involved?

Michael Campion's character, Jackson Fuller, has to go to summer school before he begins his freshman year of high school. I'm his teacher.

Would you say Mr. Byenburgh is totally different to Minyak?

Absolutely. Minyak is seeking the honor of greatest super villain of all time. And Mr. Byenburgh is seeking to just get through a day without messing up too much. I think both characters really love their jobs, but that's pretty much where their roads diverge.

Can we expect a fun, loving and inspiring teacher and person for the kids or rather an evil one?

Oh, I think you should expect the former for sure. There's nothing evil about Mr. Byenburgh. He loves his job and his students. He wants them to thrive and flourish. He just seems to be having several mid-life crises all at the same time and so he's definitely a bit -- or a lot -- lost, I think. But hopefully he's adorable as he tries to find his way.

What was it like to work with a pretty 90s iconic cast?

Oh, man. They are amazing. All of them. I loved Full House growing up and I never thought I'd get to be working with them. They are all so kind and generous and welcoming. I can't say that enough. Good, good people.

What else is happening next in Mike Ostroski's world?

I'm in a beautiful short film, The Outsider, that's premiering at The Denver Film Festival this November. My wife, Kate Cook, and I are both in the cast. She does an amazing job. So proud of her. We're excited about the film getting out into the world. And I'm also really looking forward to attending a screenwriting course at UCLA this fall and spring. Hopefully I'll be able to get my own stories out into the world someday, too.

<http://en.calameo.com/read/000466640e02ba98820fd?page=14>

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Mike Ostroski – Fuller House



By: Marc Regen
October 8, 2017

Q) What are the recent projects that you are working on?

A) Most recently I've been working on both "Fuller House" on Netflix and "Henry Danger" on Nickelodeon.

Q) How would you describe your character Mr. Byenburg on "Fuller House?"

A) Mr. Byenburg is a passionate high school teacher who loves his job and his students, but who may very well be going through several midlife crisis all at the same time. He's struggling, but he's fighting the good fight.

Q) What is your biggest take away from working with the cast of "Fuller House?"

A) They are truly a family. I attended the season wrap party and they played a few videos that included photo/footage montages of rehearsals and of the show itself as well as bloopers. There was such joy in the room as they celebrated together. You can feel how much they love each other – the entire cast and crew. It's really beautiful.

Q) Do you share any similar characteristics with your character, Mr. Byenburg?

A) [laughs] Absolutely. I have a bad habit sometimes of trying way too hard to get something right. Mr. Byenburg is exceptional at this. He worries a lot about getting it just right, whatever it may be.



Q) How did you feel when you learned you got the role on “Fuller House?”

A) I was ecstatic. I loved watching “Full House” growing up and was, of course, thrilled to be a part of “Fuller House.” And it’s been a gift that has kept unfolding. It started as just one episode. This has led to another and another. Each one has been just as exciting as the previous one. I’m definitely not taking any of them for granted.

Q) You are also back reprising your role on Nickelodeon’s “Henry Danger.” Were you doing double time filming both shows?

A) No, that hasn’t happened as of yet. I know that filming two shows at once does happen often, but the scheduling gods have been smiling upon me so far.

Q) Can you describe a favorite experience on the set of “Henry Danger” and “Fuller House?”

A) There have been so many on each of them. One that comes to mind immediately for “Henry Danger” was a time when I had booked a flight to go back home and see my family. My nieces had asked if I would visit their classes to talk about being on the show. I, of course, agreed – and then found out that I was scheduled to shoot another episode. I had to cancel my trip and I felt terrible. I wanted to make it up to my nieces and so I asked Cooper [Barnes] and Jace [Norman] (Captain Man and Kid Danger) if they would make a little video with me to share with my nieces. They said absolutely. We made it on a break during rehearsal. They were awesome. Their generosity and enthusiasm are continually inspiring. And the video has a huge hit with my nieces. I was forgiven.

And on “Fuller House” Juan Pablo Di Pace, who plays Fernando on the show and is just amazing, came up to me after my first episode and said that I was doing a great job and that maybe Mr. Byenburg should get his own show. It was such a compliment coming from him. He’s so funny. Everyone has been so welcoming and supportive.

Q) When did you know that you wanted to pursue acting?

A) I was always so excited about acting and theatre as a kid, but it wasn’t until my sophomore year of high school when it really hit me that I wanted to make this my life. *Fiddler on the Roof* set the course! Go high school musicals!

Q) You are a part of social media. Are you looking forward to the instant fan feedback you’ll receive to your role on “Fuller House?”

A) I would be honored to hear how people receive the show and my work on it. Ideally, the goal is to do what we do to be of service, to serve our audience as best we can. To hear how they resonate with the work is always such a gift.

Q) What do you hope viewers take away from watching this season of Fuller House?

A) I hope they take away a lot of great memories from the show. I hope it brings them joy. There’s so much challenge in the world at the moment. We need as much joy as we can find. And when we find it, we need to share as much as we can with as many people as we can.

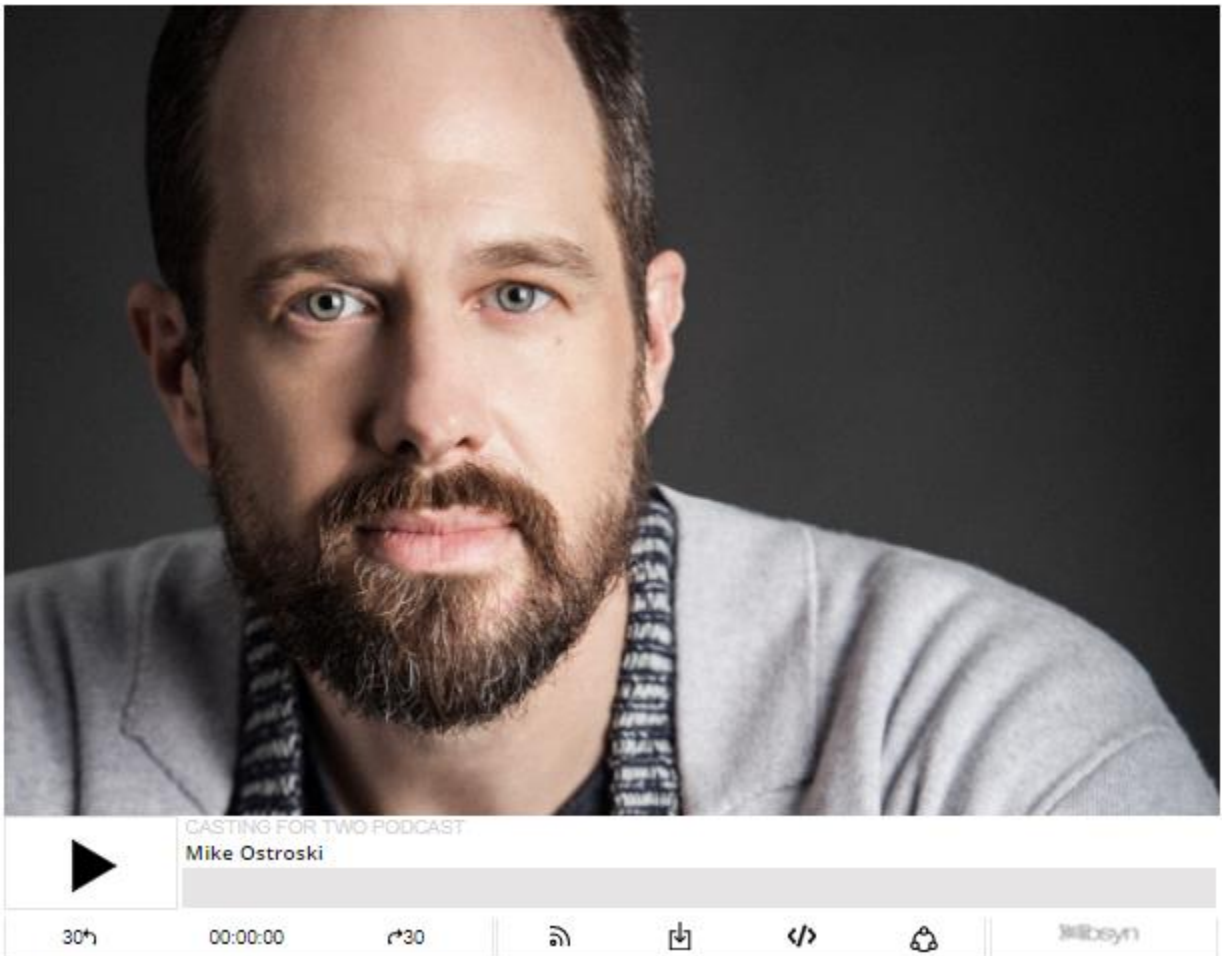
<http://starrymag.com/mike-ostroski-fuller-house/>

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Mike Ostroski

Published: October 13, 2017



Ep221 features a very special guest from the shows "Henry Danger" and "Fuller House" everyone welcome actor Mike Ostroski! Things talked about in this episode are Chris's Portland trip, finding acting, Breaking Bad, Happy Valley, Henry Danger, doing an accent, playing a villain, keeping characters hanging by a thread, Fuller House, playing characters just on the edge, favorite productions and favorite movie/role.

<http://castingfortwo.com/post/166353094723>

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Mike Ostroski Interview

By NaludaMagazine - October 20, 2017

Our interview with talented actor, writer, director and producer Mike Ostroski who is best known for his roles on Breaking Bad and Criminal Minds. Mike is currently on a new role as the depressingly funny teacher “Mr. Byenburg” in the third season of Fuller House on Netflix. The brilliant actor is also reprising his role as in the new season of Nickelodeon’s Henry Danger as the sinister “Dr. Minyak”. Bolstering a broad resume in both TV and theater, Mike recently made the jump into the world of movies shooting the Bold Films Feature, Shot Caller, with Nikolaj Coster-Waldau and Lifetime’s New York Prison Break with Penelope Ann Miller. Adding to his outstanding background Mike has also been performing his award-winning solo show, Groundwork, co-written and directed by Derek Davidson, since 2013. Groundwork was nominated for Best Solo Performance at the 2016 Hollywood Fringe Festival and was a 2016 winner of The ENCORE! Producers’ Award. Mike has appeared in episodes of Breaking Bad, Criminal Minds, How To Get Away With Murder, Brooklyn Nine-Nine, Fuller House, The Middle, The Muppets, Legends, Manhattan to name a few.



Please tell us a little about you?

I'm a boy from Ohio who loves the theatre. All things performative, really. Following this passion and has led me all over: New York City, the mountains of Virginia, London, New Mexico, and now Los Angeles.

Describe yourself in 3 words?Tall. Hopeful. Curious.

What is your background?

I'm from Ashland, a small town in Ohio, and knew relatively early that I wanted to perform, specifically to sing on Broadway. I set out to accomplish this by cobbling together a theatrical education from anything I could get myself into: school plays, summer theatre, etc. Eventually, I attended the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) for musical theatre. I loved it, but soon decided that I wanted a different education and transferred to Miami University of Oxford, Ohio. I shifted my focus to writing, but continued studying acting and voice. I spent my final semester abroad at Cambridge University and then after graduating, moved to NYC to begin auditioning. I was lucky enough to sign with an agent a few months in. The first audition he arranged for me was for an amazing theater company in the Virginian mountains, The Barter Theatre. I did their spring repertory that year and then was invited to join their Equity resident acting company – where I had the great good fortune of staying and working for a little over twelve years. Wanting to begin pursuing TV and film work, I moved westward to New Mexico to dive into the flourishing film industry there. The goal was to get a reel together. After doing so, I moved to Los Angeles. I've been auditioning and working here for the past four years. It's been such an amazing whirlwind.

How did you get started in the industry?

As a student in the public schools in my town, I auditioned for school plays and the like. My first real professional gig was that spring repertory at The Barter Theatre in Virginia. If you've never been, please treat yourself. Such a beautiful place. They do such great work there. Regarding TV and film, I had done some really exciting independent projects, but the first well-known project I booked was a role on Breaking Bad which shot in New Mexico.

What was your first acting role?

Oh, gosh. Haha... In elementary school, I was in the ensemble of The G.I.G.O. Effect, a children's musical about computers. G.I.G.O stands for Garbage In, Garbage Out. It introduced kids to the basic concepts of computing. This was when personal computers were just coming out. We had so much fun doing the show. I'll never forget it.

What is the best and worst part of being an actor?

The best part is when the stars align and everyone is on the same page, bringing their best craftsmanship and their most open hearts to the table...and a story is brought into the world that can communicate deeply to an audience. The experience can be transcendent. And the worst part is the rarity of the opportunity to do so.

Best advice ever given?

Focus on the action, not the fruit of the action.

Now tell us about “Fuller House”? And your character Mr. Byenburg.

Fuller House has been such a joy. The third season begins at the beginning of the summer. One of the series regulars, Michael Campion, plays Jackson Fuller. Jackson thinks he will have a summer of relaxing and video-gaming before beginning high school as a freshman in a few months. His mother, Candace Cameron-Bure, says – to his horror – that instead, he's gotta go to summer school. I play Mr. Byenburg, Jackson's summer school teacher. And then later, we meet Mr. Byenburg again as one of his teachers when he finally enters high school later in the season. Mr. Byenburg loves his job and his students very much, but seems to be having several midlife crisis all at the same time.

And also about “Henry Danger”?

Henry Danger follows the adventures of Kid Danger and Captain Man as they fight crime in Swellview. There are a handful of villains that recur on the show, popping up again and again hoping to finally succeed in one dastardly plan after another. I play Dr. Minyak, an evil genius who believes that he is the greatest super villain of all time. He's always coming up with a new scheme or weapon that is even more impressive than the previous one. He's a ton of fun to play.

What other projects you are currently working on?

I've got a short film, *The Outsider*, that is premiering at The Denver Film Festival this fall. My wife, Kate Cook, is the lead in the film. She does beautiful work. I'm really proud of the film. I'm excited about attending the premiere.

I'm also going back to school. This fall I'm beginning a one-year screenwriting course at UCLA. I've just started it and I'm so excited about it. I can already tell that it's going to be both deeply challenging and rewarding.

What have you learned from your other actors and producers?

Stay in touch, keep your sense of humor, and seek out the bravest choices possible on whatever project you are working on at the moment.

What do you think of Social Media in the Entertainment business?

I think that any new method of communicating with fellow artists and audiences can be wonderful, as long as we are always in control of it in our personal lives – and it doesn't start to control you. It's a tool for us to use. We just need to always be in control of it and not let it be in control of us.

Your idea of a perfect Sunday is?

Sleep in a bit later and then a trip to the farmer's market and/or then brunch with good friends. Reading for pleasure. Pace has a lot to do with a good Sunday. Things at a slower pace is ideal.

What's your favorite music?

Acoustic folk music. James Taylor. The Avett Brothers. Old Time music. I love it all.

What's a normal day in your life?

Normally (hopefully) an audition or some filming bookended with writing in the early morning and late afternoon. Some sort of hike or walk. Time with my wife and friends and family. Getting time to play the banjo a bit is always a great ending to the day.

What is your favorite healthy food?

Avocado. Or arugula! I love arugula!

And your favorite cheat food?

Haha. Something sweet. I'm such a sucker for a slice of carrot cake. And nachos. Haha...

How do you see yourself in 5 years?

I live on a farm with my family off the grid somewhere super green. There are goats. And a giant garden. And friends. And music. I work all over the world in both film and the theatre, but somehow get to see my family a lot.

Do you support any charities? I'm a big fan of anything environmental. I think my favorite is 350.org. Bill McKibbin is brilliant.

Where we can follow you? @mikeostroski on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#). And mikeostroski.com **Quote:** "Get busy living or get busy dying." – Andy Dufresne from Shawshank Redemption

Holiday Destination: My folks' farm. My brother's house. My aunt and uncle's place in Chicago. Anywhere there's family.

Food: My mom makes the world's most amazing bread. My folks have a wood stove in their living room. In the winter months, she bakes a lot and lets the loaves rise near the stove. It is heaven.

Restaurant: I think my favorite restaurants in Los Angeles at the moment are either Village Pizzeria in Larchmont or Osteria La Buca nearby. My friends have an amazing pie shop called The Pie Hole. It's pretty magical, too. And they're great people.

Drink: I love coffee. Unfortunately I like it like candy, with a lot of cream and sugar. But it's best with friends or while writing.

Celebrity Crush: Tilda Swinton and Paul Giamatti.

Song: "Hard Times Come Again No More" By anyone. But James Taylor has a beautiful version.

Sports Team: Hmm.... Currently, LA Dodgers!

Movie: Dead Poets Society.

<http://www.naludamagazine.com/mike-ostroski-interview/>

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CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT: MEET MIKE OSTROSKI



By Sammi Turano

Mike Ostroski is quite possibly one of the most recognizable character actors in film and TV. He has been in Modern Family, Breaking Bad, The Middle and How To Get Away With Murder, just to name a few! Now he has a recurring role on the hit Netflix series Fuller House, where he plays Jackson's teacher "Mr. Byenburg."

We first saw Mike appear on Fuller House during the season three premiere. He is Jackson's summer school teacher and has quite an interesting personality. He appeared in another episode, where he continued to impress us with his personality and quick comedic timing. (Trust me, if you haven't already binged watched this season, do it NOW, because you will see how amazing Mike is in this role.) He says it was an amazing experience to be on the show, especially because of the cast. He had nothing but good things to say about everyone he got to work with, especially Candace Cameron Bure, who plays DJ Fuller. For him, it was a wonderful opportunity and one he hopes continues as the show progresses. He says that he isn't sure what will happen next show-wise, but he is willing to keep coming back as long as they will have him on the show.

As for what else he is working on, Mike says that in addition to working on more acting jobs, he is perfecting his skills on a very specific talent. He can play the clawhammer banjo, which is a version of the popular string instrument. Folk music is something that is very important to him and very big in Virginia, where he used to call home. He hopes people learn more about it and also enjoy the music that is so important in his life. Perhaps they can get him to play on Fuller House?)

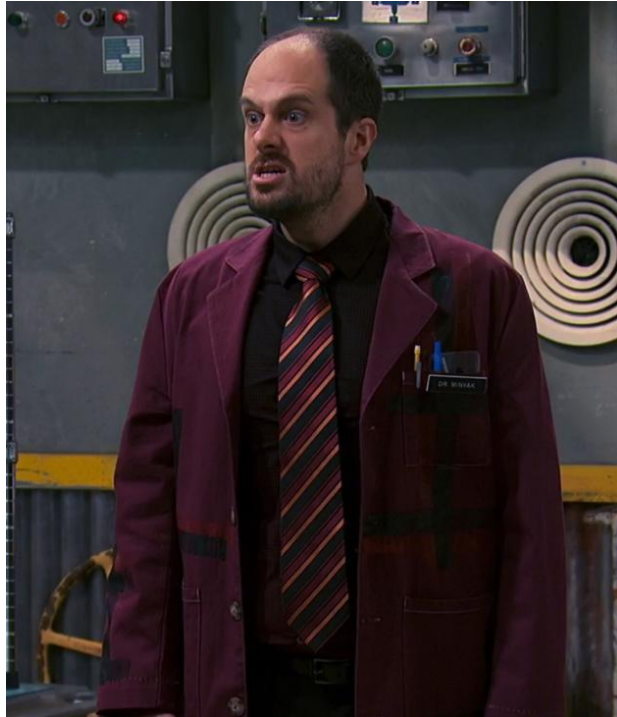
No matter what he does though, he will continue to shine and make us smile!

<http://www.tvgrapevine.com/index.php/sammi-s-interviews/22370-celebrity-spotlight-meet-mike-ostroski>

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AlbuquerqueJournal

Accidental enchantment: Mike Ostroski finds a home in New Mexico through screen roles



After moving to New Mexico, Ostroski began to book roles in many of the New Mexico-made films.

He's been in "Breaking Bad" and "Manhattan" and, most recently, "Shot Caller" with Nikolaj Coster-Waldau and Lifetime's "New York Prison Break" with Penelope Ann Miller.

Not to mention that he's appeared in "How to Get Away with Murder," "The Middle," "Brooklyn Nine-Nine," "The Muppets" and "Legends."

His latest roles on Netflix's "Fuller House" and Nickelodeon's "Henry Danger" are big ones.

In "Henry Danger," Ostroski plays Dr. Minyak – a role he's tackled since 2014. The series is in its fourth season.

The series follows Henry Hart, who has a part-time job as Kid Danger, the sidekick to Captain Man.

Dr. Minyak is the villain.

"Dr. Minyak believes that he has potential to be the greatest super-villain of all time," he says. "He's trying to be a super-villain in small-town America."

Ostroski's role is recurring and is a perfect fit for him.

AlbuquerqueJournal

“If you’re interested in working in the industry, TV is where it’s at,” he says. “Production lasts a long time, and as an actor, you hope for a recurring role.”

In “Fuller House,” Ostroski plays Mr. Byenburg in the third season, which is streaming on Netflix.

“Fuller House” is the sequel to the popular show “Full House,” which ran from 1987 through 1995.

The series centers on D.J. Tanner-Fuller, a veterinarian and widowed mother of three sons, whose sister Stephanie Tanner and best friend Kimmy Gibbler – along with her teenage daughter – live together at the Tanners’ childhood home in San Francisco.

“This was the first TV show I’ve done in front of a live studio audience,” he says. “I play the teacher who is having a midlife crisis. There’s a lot going on in his life. It was fun on so many levels. Whenever I wasn’t doing any scenes, I was watching the cast and crew. They are editing so fast because they are editing for the audience. It’s such a giant show.”

Getting a recurring role on “Fuller House” also came with some nerves.

“I was a fan of the original show,” he says. “When I got this audition, I just wanted to do it justice. This show has a place in pop culture. It’s a giant step.”

<https://www.abqjournal.com/1076701/mike-ostroski-finds-a-home-in-new-mexico-through-screen-roles.html>

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