THE WALKING DEAD ON AMC

The Entertainer's Handbook

Exclusive: Laurie Holden as "ANDREA"

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Oct/Nov 2000

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THE STORY.....

Waking up in an empty hospital after weeks in a coma, County Sheriff Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln) finds himself utterly alone. The world as he knows it is gone, ravaged by a zombie epidemic. The things Grimes took for granted before the coma, no longer exist.

Now Grimes and a small group of survivors must band together and learn to live among the walking dead.

Based on Robert Kirkman's hugely successful and popular comic book series, The Walking Dead will premiere on AMC Halloween night: Oct. 31 at 10/9c. Written and executive produced by three-time Osby three-time Oscar nominee Frank Darabont and executive

executive produced by Gale Anne Hurd (The Terminator, Aliens).

Pictured to Left: FRANK DARABONT

Creator/Exec. Producer All Photos Provided by: TWD Productions/Courtesy of AMC

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ANDREA'S HISTORY

Andrea is a survivor and a central character in 'The Walking Dead' series. Andrea is a college graduate who worked as a clerk at a law firm to support herself before the undead apocalypse left her and her little sister, Amy, stranded in a world full of zombies.

Andrea's primary role within the camp is to care for the children in the group, a task she shares with her sister. She also learns to use a gun, a skill that will come in handy in the post-apocalyptic world they are stranded in.

ACTOR: Laurie Holden

IAE: What was your first professional acting gig and how did you get the opportunity?

LH: My first professional acting gig was Ray Bradbury's "The Martian Chronicles," when I was 6 years old. My step-father, Michael Anderson, was directing the mini-series and the little girl who was supposed to play Rock Hudson's daughter dropped out at the last minute and they needed a replacement. They were in a panic because it wasn't very easy to find a replacement where the show was shooting, which was on the island of Malta. So while my mom and I were visiting the set one of the producers saw me and said, "Can she act?" Of course, I was so excited and said, "Oh yeah, I'm an actress." They took a chance and that was my first gig. I was in the right place at the right time. [laughs]

IAE: What was it about TWD that drew you to the project and were you excited when you found out that you'd be playing the role of "ANDREA"?

LH: There are so many elements to 'The Walking Dead' that are exciting to me, and they each drew me to the project. For one, the people running the show are Frank Darabont and Gale Anne Hurd, both are Academy Award nominated writer, director, producers who have worked on extraordinary A-list feature films. Everything they are attached to is at the highest quality because they pay so much attention to detail. They really care about story, so of course being in collaboration with them was thrilling.

But I also think 'The Walking Dead' is really timely and fascinating subject matter because, in my opinion, there's sort of an apocalyptic feeling going on in the world today between Global Warming, oil spills, and biochemical warfare and manmade disasters. So there's this collective conscience that people share which says, there are things beyond our control and at any moment the world as we know it

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Pictured: Andrea (Laurie Holden) holds Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln) at gunpoint.

could drastically turn on its head. We've seen that in different parts of the world and I think 'The Walking Dead' taps into that conscience and fear, but in a very creative and highly entertaining way.

The stories within 'The Walking Dead' are so highly dramatic and all of the characters are so diverse, textured and complicated; it's more than just a horror, it's also drama and life. For me, it's the most innovative piece of material that I've ever read or been a part of and I'm thrilled to be onboard. I am absolutely ecstatic to be playing Andrea because she's just the coolest character. She has an incredible arc in the graphic novel and I've been having such an absolute blast on the show.

IAE: What did you like most about filming in Atlanta?

LH: I love Atlanta! The city, the people, the food, the architecture, the trees, I fell in love with all of it. I felt very much at home there and could easily live there. I absolutely loved our crew; many of them from Atlanta and surrounding southern states. They were some of the kindest, most hardworking, good people that I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. My experience shooting in Atlanta gave me a real sense of Southern family living.

IAE: What do you want fans of ANDREA to know about Laurie Holden?

LH: I want them to know that I love Andrea and I'm doing everything I can to honor the character Robert Kirkman created in the comic. Laurie Holden is the kindred spirit to Andrea, and in many ways we are the same person. Both of us knows what it's like to have lost and be a survivor; we're both warriors.

I also want to reassure those fans who may be a bit skeptical that, the relationship dynamics they will see happening between Andrea and the other characters on the show is truly awesome.

IAE: If you could sum up TWD in one word, what would it be?

LH: Groundbreaking. I don't think there's anything that's been done like this on television before. I really feel like we're a part of something extremely unique and stunningly gripping. I genuinely believe that people will be blown away by 'The Walking Dead' television series.



GLENN'S HISTORY

Glenn is a survivor and a central character in 'The Walking Dead' series. He was a pizza delivery boy with an insane amount of debt and a strained relationship with his parents, before this mysterious epidemic took over the planet.

Glenn learned a few survival skills in college that would ultimately be put to good use after the zombies appear. His importance to the group is unmatched because he is their main source for securing the supplies they need in order to survive the post-apocalyptic world they're stranded in.

ACTOR: Steven Yeun

IAE: What was your first professional acting gig and how did you get the opportunity?

SY: I suppose it was 'The Second City' which is a comedy improv theatre in Chicago (IL). I did sketches and improv there, and was also on their touring company. The first gig I had with Second City was actually on a cruise ship for about 2 months with their "NCL Spirit Cruise."

IAE: What was it about TWD that drew you to the project and how did you feel when you found out that you'd be playing the role of "GLENN"?

SY: I moved to LA last October and when I got here, like any other struggling actor, I was just looking for work. I got lucky enough to secure great representation that got me out on a lot of auditions. Before I even knew about this audition, I had already been a fan of 'The Walking Dead' comic book series. While you may hear other actors on various projects say that about a particular project they're on, I am totally sincere when I say that I am a huge fan of TWD.

I remember my best friend Andy called me from LA while I was still living in Chicago and told me, "Dude, you have to read this comic!" So I went to the Borders Bookstore and picked up the first comic, and from there I was hooked. I became an instant fan and started buying the comics.

Once I heard about this project, it hit me like, "Oh man, they're making 'The Walking Dead' into a TV show? That's insane!" But when I found out that I had a shot at being a part of it, it felt pretty amazing.

STEVEN YEUN AKA GLENN





IAE: What's the most exciting thing about being able to support yourself as an actor?

SY: Personally for me, coming from an Asian-American family where both of my parents are immigrants to the USA, an acting career is not a traditional road. Because of that, I took a big risk pursuing acting as a career and my parents were very supportive, yet worried. So it's very nice to know that they don't have to worry about me anymore. There's still some concern because this career can definitely be fleeting, but for the time being, having some security is great for me and my parents.

IAE: What do you want fans of GLENN to know about Steve Yeun?

SY: I want fans to know that the character is very close to my heart, in the sense that Glenn and I run the same road. I think what's amazing about Glenn is, if you break down who he is as a character you'll see him as a nimble guy who is willing to do any-thing at anytime. He's kind of the group scavenger,

but beyond that he's this kid who has nothing to live for at the time because he has no family who survived, that he knows of. So in this community of survivors, he's found a family and is starting to become a man. He looks at those in the community as role models and sees bits and pieces of himself in them, then uses that to grow as a person. For me, I've done that same thing because I kind of grew up with this chip on my shoulder. I always wanted to be the best at whatever I do; not arrogantly where I felt like I can accomplish anything right off the bat, but instead, it's more like, who do I look up to and how did they get to where they are. It was a great way for me to view things because it reminded me of what I had to do in order to get to the position I'm in now.

IAE: If you could sum up TWD in one word, what would it be?

SY: Ridiculous! [laughs] In every good way and good sense of that word as possible – just ridiculous. Things that you have not seen on television before, you will see on this show, including the emotional moments. It's just ridiculous.



T-DOG'S HISTORY

T-Dog's history is foggy and there has been a great deal of debating and speculation among fans of 'The Walking Dead' as to who he is. Speculation aside, he is one of the survivors in 'The Walking Dead'TV series.

ACTOR: IronE Singleton

IAE: What was your first professional acting gig and how did you get the opportunity?

IS: My first professional gig was a lead role playing multi-characters in a Georgia Public Television show entitled "Transitions." The show was about teaching high school students how to study for exams so they could make a smooth transition into college. I got the gig through a recommendation from an administrator in the theater department at UGA (Univ. of Georgia). For a college student, \$400 a day wasn't bad at all.

IAE: What was it about TWD that drew you to the project and how did you feel when you found out that you'd be playing the role of "T-DOG"?

IS: The show's creator, Frank Darabont, drew me to 'The Walking Dead,' and I was elated to find out that I had been chosen as T-Dog on such an incredible project. Once I found out that, Gale Anne Hurd, who did movies like 'Terminator' and 'Aliens,' was attached and that it was a popular comic book series by Robert Kirkman, I was ecstatic. The feeling would have been the same... no matter who I was playing. It's a great project to be a part of.

IAE: Being that you're from Atlanta, how did it make you feel to see this amazing show being shot in your hometown?

IS: To be filming a TV show of this caliber was a very emotional experience for me; and not just doing it in my hometown, but in my backyard made it that much more special. We were literally shooting TWD in parts of Atlanta that were only a hop, skip and a jump away from where I grew up and attended school. It was quite the contrast to what I had experienced growing up (in Atlanta). I've lost a lot of my peers to the prison system and the grave, which was the same fate I was projected to have. So in the fictional world of TV, I am trying to avoid the same projected demise I faced growing up; but this time I'm running from THE WALKING DEAD. Praise GOD!

IAE: What are some of the similarities between IronE and the character T-Dog?

IS: T-Dog is me! I shape the characters I portray



Film & TV



onscreen around who I am as a person. I take my life experiences and personal attributes and attach as many of them to my characters as I reasonably can to enhance the believability. Like me, he's a good and humane person with a conscience, tough but sensitive, grew up in the inner city of Atlanta, he's athletic, played college football, and he was a speech communications major. I have a dual degree in Theatre and Speech Communications. So my life is the foundation of my portrayal of T-Dog. But I couldn't make him an actor because he would have been far too dramatic. [laughs] T-Dog is an "everyman"; he's a blue and white collar, middle class citizen. But no particular occupation seemed necessary in an apocalyptic world of chaos. Only fear and survival instinct permeate everyone's psyche in the world of TWD.

IAE: If you could sum up TWD in one word, what would it be?

IS: WOW! AMAZING! OMG! Need I say more? [laughs]



Oct/Nov 2010

The Walking Dead Cast





(Andrew Lincoln)



(Jon Bernthal)





(Jeffrey DeMunn)



(Chandler Riggs



(Emma Bell)

The Walking Dead is an epic, edge-of-your-seat drama where personal struggles are magnified against a backdrop of moment-to-moment survival. A survivalist story at its core, the series explores how the living are changed by the overwhelming realization that those who survive can be far more dangerous than the mindless walkers roaming the earth. They themselves have become the walking dead. - *AMCTV.com*

ROBERT KIRKMAN

Writer & Creator of 'The Walking Dead' Comic Series

