

ANTHONY DONALDSON IS PROFESSOR TOLEDO



As master illusionist Professor Toledo, Anthony Donaldson is evil personified.

“Yes, it’s true, I’m not a nice character,” admits the actor, who lives just up the road from the set of Shoebox Zoo, in Leith Walk. When the annals of TV Baddie history are written, Professor Toledo will no doubt be a good contender for top spot.

Toledo, who always dresses in white, is a truly dangerous adversary. “I play a classic baddie,” Anthony explains. “The kids who have come on set to work days here and there have compared me to Simon Cowell from Pop Idol.”

But there are reasons behind Professor Toledo’s evil streak.

“The Wizard Michael Scot created me and was ashamed because I didn’t turn out the way he planned. Toledo is able to do anything he wants. He has magic powers and a complete disregard for human life. He treats people like little insects to be played with so that he can achieve his goal.”

A graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama back in 1994, Edinburgh-born Anthony worked in theatre for several years before landing parts in Scottish Television’s Taggart and Inspector Rebus as well as the BBC Scotland soap River City.

In his scenes with Shoebox Zoo animal, Wolfgang, voiced by Simon Callow, Anthony has had to learn how to act with nothing, which he admits has been an “odd experience”.

“It’s a bit weird staring into space and keeping up your concentration. You have a marker and then it goes and you’re just left with the voice to act with. But the relationship between Toledo and Wolfgang is very interesting. Toledo knows exactly what makes him tick.”

However, Anthony is a bit concerned with always landing parts which involve him playing a dark character.

“I don’t know why I keep getting cast as the baddie. I played a drug dealer called Mental Minto in Inspector Rebus and in River City I popped up again as a drug dealer. Maybe I have a bad boy look.

“But this is a dream job for me.”

