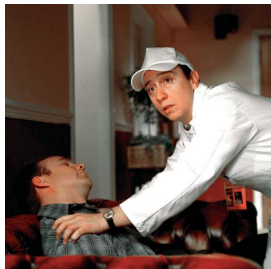


DAVID MCKAY IS MCTAGGART



Sitting in his trailer on the Shoebox Zoo set in Leith, clad in medieval garb of brown plaid and warm woolly tights, David McKay smiles wryly and says: “This role is great for me.”

Used to being cast as ‘a wee Glasgow ned’ the role of jack-of-all-trades servant McTaggart to both Michael Scot and Professor Toledo is a complete departure for the Glasgow-born actor, writer and director. According to David, his part in Shoebox Zoo gives him a scope to play against type.

“McTaggart is serving two masters; Michael Scot and Professor Toledo for a crime he didn’t commit. Back in the mists of time, he took the book somewhere for safe-keeping so that it wouldn’t corrupt Michael or his pupils.

“Michael Scot believes that McTaggart was involved in the theft and jailed him for 11 years in his dungeon. Until the book is found, he has to walk the earth and be a servant to Toledo and Michael.”

But David explains that the character McTaggart is not a simple, one-dimensional figure, but turns up throughout the series in many different guises.

He laughs, “McTaggart is a great role to play because he is so many different characters, a chauffeur, a janitor, a library cleaner and even a harlequin. He appears in different roles in order to protect Marnie from harm, especially from the tyranny of Toledo.”

Probably best remembered for his role as put-upon drug addict Liam in the Ken Loach film, My Name is Joe, in which he co-starred with his friend and fellow Shoebox Zoo actor, Peter Mullan, it’s the first time the actor has been in a children’s drama.

However, David co-directed six episodes of award-winning Granada sitcom, My Parents Are Aliens, with Shoebox Zoo director Justin Molotnikov.

“That was great crack,” he says. “But at the tail end of 2002, I realised that I had been directing almost constantly for five years and I made it my New Year Resolution for 2003 to get back into acting.”

Since making that resolution, the born-again actor has never been busier. He appeared in the critically acclaimed theatre production Shining Souls at Glasgow’s Tron theatre last summer before working on Ken Loach’s latest film, Ae Fond Kiss.

Happy to be working again with his old mate, Peter Mullan, David is looking forward to seeing how Peter’s children and his own nieces and nephews react.

“I think the story is great. It has warlocks and wizards, castles, cobblestones and trickery, very much an olde worlde Scotland and I think kids and families are going to go wild for it.

“And to top it all, it has a brilliant lead to identify with in wee Vivien. What more could you ask?”