

Port Moody grad up for a Leo Award

Al Miro is nominated for his portrayal of Max, a gay porn actor, in Daddy's Boy.

[Janis Warren](#) / Tri City News

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Al Miro Photograph By Jordan Matter

High school drama helped Al Miro master English.

Then, the Italian immigrant had moved with his family to Coquitlam and the teen wasn't used to speaking the language.

But under the direction of Peter Nicholas Smyth and other teachers at Port Moody secondary, where he graduated as class valedictorian in 2003, Miro quickly became fluent while studying school plays.

He was Gerald McBoing-Boing in a Dr. Seuss production and appeared in Pippin as well as The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged).

Recently, Miro watched his school performance tapes with some unease. "I didn't know what I was saying but I was really committed to it," the Vancouver resident said with a laugh. "I was an outsider when I came here but theatre was my home."

Now, the Capilano University acting graduate is getting rave reviews for his performance in a gritty film called Daddy's Boy.

And on Sunday, Miro is up for a Leo Award — honouring the best of B.C. film and TV — in the category of Best Supporting Performance by a Male in a Motion Picture.

(Also nominated for the accolade are Cameron McDonald for No Men Beyond This Point, Garwin Sanford for The Birdwatcher, David Nykl for The Devout, Ryan McDonell for The Devout and Behtsh Fazlali for The Evil in Us.)

Miro said being recognized by his peers "is pretty huge. Like my character in Daddy's Boy, you're always looking for validation in the industry.... It would be such a prestigious award to win."

In the movie, Miro is Max, a gay porn actor in Toronto who lives with his distant father, who happens to be dying. Max hides his sexuality and career but feels he must open up to his dad before he passes. "He just wants to find peace. He wants his father to know who he is and he can't find that love until he's honest. He wants acceptance."

Miro said when he read the script for Daddy's Boy, the narrative reminded him of one of his favourite flicks: My Private Idaho starring River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves, which is loosely based on Shakespeare's Henry IV.

Since Daddy's Boy premiered at Cinequest Film Festival in San Jose, it has been screened at the MiFo LGBT Film Festival in Miami and, this summer, has a number of festival debuts around North America.

As for his next film, Miro just wrapped up another gritty show: Dark Harvest, a thriller, with Cheech Marin and James Hutson. As well, he can be seen later this year in the romantic comedy The Good Catholic with Danny Glover.

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