

Lifetime film touts Unity man's efforts to locate boy

By Chris Foreman, TRIBUNE-REVIEW Wednesday, October 6, 2010

During its six-season run, "Lost" rated as one of the most popular shows on television, but Mark Miller never saw an episode.

Then again, Miller, the founder of Unity-based American Association for Lost Children, doesn't watch much television.

Still, he's hopeful that a recently filmed cable movie about one of his highest-profile international rescues will attract more attention -- and donations -- to his missing-children charity.

Terry O'Quinn, who starred as the mysterious John Locke on "Lost," is playing Miller in the Lifetime movie "Taken From Me: The Tiffany Rubin Story."

The film details Miller's trip in March 2008 to South Korea to help Rubin, a New York school teacher, rescue her 7-year-old kidnapped son, Kobe Cason Lee. Kobe's father, Jeffrey Lee, took the boy to a town near Seoul after falling behind on child-support payments.

The movie is expected to be aired next year, but no date has been set by Lifetime.

"Hopefully this will be something big," said the 51-year-old Miller, who has helped to return more than 100 children to their custodial parents since he started the Christian-based charity in 1987. "Maybe this will stir interest."

The nonprofit group has been appealing its property taxes in Westmoreland County, seeking an exemption based on the contention that Miller complements law enforcement by relieving some of its burden. He doesn't charge parents anything.

"It adds credibility to the whole deal," Miller said.

Production crews filmed for 17 days in Vancouver, Canada, and three days in South Korea before wrapping up in late August, said Executive Producer Anne Carlucci.

O'Quinn and Oscar-nominated actress Taraji P. Henson, who portrays Rubin, signed on to the project without reading the script, Carlucci said. She is a big fan of "Lost" and O'Quinn.

"Terry has a very Zen quality, and that was how I imagined Mark to be -- as someone who's a very contained, compassionate, soft human being. And when I did my homework on Mark, that's what I found him to be," Carlucci said.

Rubin's sister-in-law learned about Miller's organization after authorities said they couldn't participate in overseas efforts to retrieve Kobe. Lee pleaded guilty in U.S. federal court and was sentenced to three years in prison.

Rubin said she was taken aback by Lifetime's interest in the rescue of Kobe, who turns 10 Thursday.

Leading up to the production, Rubin spoke with a writer to go over the entire story and had a two-hour conversation with Henson so that the actress -- nominated for her role in "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" -- could get Rubin's perspective.

Rubin said she's hopeful the movie will show frustrated parents that a similar dilemma can end well.

"It's a really great resource," she said of Miller's agency. "They're really helpful, and they do a great job."

Miller joined the Queens. N.Y., mother on a 15-hour flight from New York to South Korea on Easter Sunday after getting a tip about where Lee had enrolled Kobe in school.

Two days later, after Miller and Rubin scoped out the school, Kobe ran out to her when she called his name.

"It's such an interesting statement about mothers," Carlucci said. "Mothers will do anything. It's in the gene pool -- they'll do anything to protect their kids. They'll go into Korea and snatch their child back."

Lifetime Movie, *Taken From Me: The Tiffany Ruben Story*, comes out Spring, 2011. Terry O'Quinn, who played John Locke in '*Lost*' is playing the role of Mark Miller, Founder of AAFLC; and Taraji Henson, who was an Oscar nominee for '*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*', will be playing the mother rescued missing child, Kobe Lee, who was recovered in South Korea.

http://www.tvsquad.com/2010/07/30/terry-oquinn-and-taraji-p-henson-cast-in-lifetime-movie/

http://www.deadline.com/2010/07/taraji-henson-to-star-in-a-lifetime-movie/

American Association For Lost Children, Inc.