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*DeVoyt*



# X-HERO

## David Duchovny on his fourth season as X-FILES agent Fox.

By Debra Warlick

Look for your favorite renegade FBI agent to find love—or at least a date—with someone other than the most important woman in his life, his partner. David Duchovny, co-star of *THE X-FILES* said he hopes this will happen for the characters portrayed by himself and Gillian Anderson as he began filming in Vancouver for the show's just-started fourth season.

When the show started, not many (especially television critics), thought the series would last, but the quirky horror's cult following moved mainstream. The series has, at last count, found a place in the Nielsen's Top 20. Garnering a Golden Globe and a slew of Emmy nominations (including best drama series) goes to show just how wrong the critics can be. Duchovny and Anderson have graced the covers of numerous magazines—including a provocative *Rolling Stone* cover with the two stars lounging in bed. Anderson was nominated this year for an Emmy for best dramatic actress and Duchovny has become a regular on David Letterman.

The ratings have more than doubled since the show's 1993 debut and in its third season, it won a first-ever time slot victory with a two-parter regarding the mysterious appearance of Mulder's sister, who disappeared when they were children—seemingly abducted by aliens.

As *THE X-FILES* enters its fourth season in a new time slot (Sunday night, which draws the network's biggest audience), Mulder and Scully might just



Duchovny as FBI agent, Fox Mulder, with Gillian Anderson as partner Dana Scully in second season's "Soft Light." Anderson garnered an Emmy nod.

find time to develop personal lives, noted Duchovny during an August interview in a downtown Vancouver bar. The hotel bar was dimly lit, with only a few other patrons dotting the nearby tables at a late hour. It's after midnight, and the Fox television show has just wrapped up a 12-hour shooting schedule.

Looking surprisingly alert after such a grueling day, Duchovny took a swig from his bottled beer and invited questions. The number one question has got to be: where is the show headed this season? "Hopefully, this year the characters may be seen more outside of just their investigative pursuits," said Duchovny, 36, who has scrapped his professional German suit for a pair of faded blue jeans and grey t-shirt. "I'll have a relationship with someone other than Scully, although

that's an important one. And it wouldn't be just for the sake of having a relationship."

And who might the love interest be?—another vampire (played second season by his former girlfriend, Perrey Reeves) or maybe a being from another world? "She would probably be someone with the government, and have her own agenda," he said. That makes sense—the course of love could not run too smooth for the angst-touched conspiracy basher.

To some female viewers, who would love to have Mulder remain true in his chaste attraction to his partner, this might be disturbing. But as Fox Mulder's romantic side has only been glimpsed at through his tryst with the repentant lady vampire and his stash of soft-porn magazines, this direction might be

more realistic.

Duchovny is a touch more tender than his television counterpart in his view on love. After reading *Three Squirt Dog*, a novel written by Rick Ridgway and published by St. Martin's Press, Duchovny noted he was affected by the portrayal of first love. "It's about your first love, when love and sex were the same thing. Remember that? Back when you were 17 or 18?" he said a little wistfully. "It's sweet and innocent, but it's funny, too."

And as for television viewing, Duchovny noted that his favorite show to watch is *DR. KATZ: PROFESSIONAL THERAPIST*. "The acting's great, even though it's a cartoon. And it's very funny."

Does he prefer the *X-FILES* scripts that center on UFOs and aliens, or ones that explore the psychic realm? "I don't care one way or another about which topic is covered," he said. "I just like the ones where Mulder is involved more deeply in the plot. He doesn't have to be the main focus, but I'd rather be reacting instead of editorializing."

Although his character is chock full of little-known facts concerning government cover-ups and alien abductions, presenting this knowledge gets a little boring for Duchovny. "It's more interesting if I'm not giving a tedious recitation of facts, going over the back story," he said.

Viewers who watch the credits may have noticed that Duchovny is sometimes listed as a storyline contributor. One of his credits includes his suggestions for the two-parter featuring the possible return of Mulder's sister. Does he plan on





In second season's "Little Green Men." Jeans and a T-shirt are the actor's favorite off-screen fashion statement as well.

continuing his concepting efforts? "Sure, if I have a good idea, I'll share it with Chris [Carter, the show's creator]," he said.

Although Duchovny recently received kudos from *TV Guide* for his fashion style while he's in character and his legion of female fans offer up only approval for his red Speedo worn in one episode, his off-the-set choices in apparel are a little odd. At last year's Golden

Globes, Duchovny was decked out in what looked like funky draperies. What exactly happens when he walks off the set? Duchovny's August appearance on David Letterman—dressed in what looked like an off-white safari suit and a goatee—prompted his host to comment in a less than complimentary way on his outfit. Does he like to take fashion risks? "I'm not really into clothes, I usually just wear jeans, T-shirts," he said,

gesturing to his casual attire. "But when I'm going [out to award's shows, premieres, etc], I want to have fun with it."

The other ways Duchovny enjoys himself include swimming as often as he can and living near the water. His Malibu home is on the beach, and his Vancouver residence is also on the water. Someday he looks forward to raising a family. "I'd like to have kids some day. I'm ready to go," he said. "I'm a good father to my dog [Blue]."

As frequently happens when talking to Duchovny, who has a wicked dry wit countered by a surprising solemnity, you can't be quite sure how serious his responses are.

Duchovny noted he would like to do more feature films, but for now, he must often contend with grueling 16 hour days for 10 months each year. He has said in other interviews that the idea of doing Mulder for much longer is not a pleasing thought. "I've done him to death."

Duchovny also hosts *RED SHOE DIARIES*, a soft-porn

**"Hopefully...I'll have a relationship with someone other than Scully, although that's an important one... someone with the government and her own agenda."**

anthology series that airs on Showtime, which can only boost his reputation as a sexy guy. He has appeared on the big screen in *KALIFORNIA* and *THE RAPTURE*.

Duchovny recently finished filming *PLAYING GOD*, a feature film due for release next spring. In the picture, he plays a drug-addicted doctor who screws up in an operating room, leaving him to become the personal physician to an unsavory mobster. He said he's not really nervous about the opening, his first as the main star and top-biller. "It's done, there's not much I can do about it now," he said in his laconic drawl.

The hour is late, and Duchovny has a morning call on the set. He wants to get in a swim before beginning a long day of shooting—perhaps in one of his famous Speedos. □

With series' creator Chris Carter and Anderson, picking up the show's 1995 Golden Globe Award.



Uncovering the secret of the "Anasazi," second season's powerful kickoff to year three. Duchovny's main story focus is a strong focus on Mulder.

