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## **D'Onofrio loves being a 'messed up guy'**

Life is good now for Vincent D'Onofrio, but he still loves going to the dark side on "Law and Order: Criminal Intent." "I'm enjoying this very messed up guy," says D'Onofrio.

During a conference call D'Onofrio tells CTV.ca that Detective Robert Goren, his character on the show, gives him perspective. "I have a lot of responsibilities, like any parent or partner in a relationship, and you know, life is good now," says D'Onofrio. "I wouldn't want to trade it for some kind of troubled life like Goren has, you know?"

"Criminal Intent" is only available in Canada on CTV, and kicks off its new season Sunday.

The series, which began in 2001, is the second spin-off in the "Law and Order" franchise. Unlike the other "Law and Order" shows, "Criminal Intent" focuses more on the motives of the suspects.

Instead of a search for evidence, episodes follow Goren's mental journey into the murderer's mindset. The detective always then finds a way to expose them with a dramatic confrontation across an interrogation room table.

While the show has always hinted at the mental disorders in Goren's family, this upcoming season will go deep into the character's backstory.

Last season's shocking finale revealed that convicted serial killer Mark Ford Brody was Goren's father. The discovery went down just before Goren's mother died.

D'Onofrio looks forward to how things are going to play out for the deeply psychological detective.

"We have a show coming up where his mental health gets tested -- that's going to be interesting," says D'Onofrio.

The 48-year-old Brooklyn native has had a long career in film and TV, with one of his earliest roles as Gomer Pyle in Stanley Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket." In 1997 he was nominated for an Emmy for his appearance on "Homicide: Life on the Street." In 2004, D'Onofrio found himself pushed to the brink physically on "Criminal Intent," when he collapsed on the set of "Law and Order."

He was diagnosed with exhaustion, which led to the addition of a second team of detectives, Mike Logan (Chris Noth) and Carolyn Barek (Annabella Sciorra).

As part of the course with the "Law and Order" franchise, no detective is ever alone on the beat. Paired up with Det. Goren is Det. Alexandra Eames, played by Kathryn Erbe. Goren and Eames both work for the "Major Case Squad," a dedicated team specialized in high-profile crimes.

Erbe thinks that as Goren heads down a dark path this season, Eames will be forced to join him along the way. Last season Eames was kidnapped and is seeking the help of a therapist to deal with the trauma.

"I'm getting to explore a little more emotion with this character, and it would be interesting to deal with something more angry and aggressive."

Things won't get any easier for Eames this season. The premiere episode of this season the detective will be forced to look back at the murder of her husband in 1998.