



Getting inside the mind of the bad guy

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Getting inside the mind of the bad guy

EDITION: 2

SECTION: FEATURES:ENTERTAINMENT

COLUMN: THE PRESS TV WEEK

RETURNING SERIES IN SHORT

What: Criminal Intent

Where: TV3

When: 9.30pm, Sunday

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CRIMINAL Intent, the hit show from ground-breaking producer Dick Wolf, offers an additional dimension to crime drama by exposing major crimes from the criminal's perspective. Vincent D'Onofrio stars as Detective Robert Goren, an exceptionally bright homicide investigator with well-honed instincts. Likewise, his partner, Detective Alexandra Eames (Kathryn Erbe) brings an independence and stylish edge to her work that meshes well with Goren. "Bobby Goren takes you through a different story every week," says D'Onofrio. "Sometimes it's a `whodunnit' or sometimes a `whydunnit.' The fun and interesting thing about our show is that the audience knows things my character doesn't and, as the story moves along, will realise that I know things that they don't. The whole story is a game and we all get to play." Born in Brooklyn, New York, D'Onofrio grew up in Hawaii, Colorado and Florida. He eventually returned to New York to study acting at the American Stanislavsky Theatre with Sharon Catten of the Actors Studio. While honing his craft, he appeared in several films at New York University and worked as a bouncer at dance clubs in the city. In 1984, he became a full-fledged member of the American Stanislavsky Theatre, appearing in The

Petrified Forest, Of Mice and Men, Sexual Perversity in Chicago and The Indian Wants the Bronx. That same year, he made his Broadway debut in Open Admissions. With a haunting portrayal of an unstable Vietnam War recruit in Stanley Kubrick's gritty Full Metal Jacket in 1987, D'Onofrio gained attention for his intense and compelling talent. D'Onofrio executive-produced and portrayed 1960s counterculture icon Abbie Hoffman in the film Steal This Movie, opposite Janeane Garofalo, and starred opposite Jennifer Lopez and Vince Vaughn in the science-fiction noir film The Cell. The actor believes his experience playing bad guys has come in handy for his work on Criminal Intent. "I have played so many bad guys that I have a whole library of material that I have collected," he says. "I am well versed in psychiatry and psychology. Even though I am playing the good guy now, it always comes in handy to know how these people work, it means you have the upper hand when you are interrogating them." With such a varied career, D'Onofrio says he still gets excited about going to work on the set of Criminal Intent each day, even three years on. "I don't think I will ever do another television show again, because I have been so lucky here. I have had the opportunity to be collaborative and invent the show along with everybody else," he says. "It's like when you do a really good film. You can't ever repeat it in the same way." *

CAPTION:

Well matched: Vincent D'Onofrio and Kathryn Erbe star as Criminal Intent's crime-fighting team.

KEYWORDS: TELEVISION ENTERTAINMENT

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