

Agent Spender investigates Primedia

By TOM MICHIBATA
Staff

All you hear is the mischievous laugh at the other end of the line.

Toronto's Chris Owens, better known to avid *X-Files* fans as FBI Agent Spender, is speculating on possible appearances in the seventh and final season of the popular television series that investigates the paranormal.

As Spender, or "Ferret," as he was dubbed by *X-Files* star David Duchovny (Agent Fox Mulder), the 38-year-old Owens played a straight-laced and serious FBI agent and a foil to the histrionics of Mulder and his partner, Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson).

Spender was supposedly killed by his father in an episode last season, but Owens says a return isn't out of the question. After all, we're talking about a show that's always shrouded in mystery.

"He may ... or may not. It's all up to (producer and director) Chris Carter. Nobody really dies in the *X-Files* anyway," said Owens, the guest of honor at the Primedia convention this weekend at Stage West.

The convention's purpose is to promote Canada's less-heralded television, literature, film and music celebrities. Owens, will conduct seminars and sign autographs for participants who want to rub shoulders with their favorite stars. Owens likes what Primedia is doing. After all, he was a struggling actor at



OWENS

one point.

"We (Canadians) can never use enough publicity," Owens said.

Born in Barrie and raised in East York, Owens now calls the Los Angeles area home. *The I-Files* series switched its shooting location from Vancouver to L.A. before last season.

Owens said working with Carter and the rest of the crew has been a blast. He appeared in episodes over the past three seasons. As well as playing Spender, he appeared as the young cigarette-smoking man who's known as "Cancer Man."

"Working on *The X-Files* has been the most exciting opportunity in TV. Chris Carter is wonderful director. You couldn't ask for more said Owens.

The *X-Files* was Owens' first big break after a number of cameo roles in Canadian television series including *Hangin' In*, *Street Legal*, *Night Heat* and *9B*.

