

Vancouver native Dylan Kingwell grows up on *The Returned*



Dylan Kingwell in *The Returned* (Photo: A&E)

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Toto, I have a feeling Dylan Kingwell's not in Candy Land anymore. The 10-year-old actor may have started out doing commercials for kiddie fare like Hasbro board games and Mattel toys, but his current role on A&E's *The Returned* is anything but juvenile.

Kingwell plays Victor, a mysteriously silent boy who shows up in a town that's fraught with a pesky problem: People who died years ago have begun reappearing in the residents' lives. The March 30 episode is a big one for Kingwell's character — it'll probe whether he was involved with a horrific death.

"Victor is an eight-year-old kid who's very enigmatic and has an expression that can be plaintive or foreboding," he says. "Which basically means that sometimes you see the look of a lost little boy who doesn't know where he is, and sometimes you see a look that if you're smart you'll back away."

The Returned, which films in Kingwell's hometown of Vancouver, is a remake of the International Emmy-winning French series *Les Revenants*. And though his audition process was intense — four auditions over about a month — Kingwell sat down to watch the original series only after he started filming.

"I really liked the French version and I thought it was pretty interesting, but I just did it in my own way," he says. "It was probably one of the hardest roles I've ever done because Victor and I are pretty much polar opposites. I just practised a lot, got myself into the right mood and read the lines, and it worked."

Being one of the youngest actors on the set didn't intimidate him: "It was fun. All the adults on the set were nice to me and the crew was awesome. As long as you listen to what the director wanted you to do, and listen to the producers and try to apply their feedback as much as possible, then it's OK. It doesn't matter what your age is."

An avid hockey fan, Kingwell began doing commercial work when he was four years old. His CV also includes Jean Pierre Jeunet's film *The Young and Prodigious T.S. Spivet*, a spot in The CW's sci-fi series *The Tomorrow People* and an appearance in last year's Tim Burton film *Big Eyes*.

Though his goal is to be a director someday, Kingwell is quick to describe his ultimate acting project. Like his *Returned* character, there are mysterious elements but there's far more action to be found.

"When I was six or seven, my dad would always read a chapter of this book series called (Secret Agent) Jack Stalwart and he's a really cool guy," he says. "He goes around the world fighting crime. He could be a spy without his parents knowing. I think that role would be pretty cool for me to play."