

Steve Buscemi

I hear you're calling in from the set of *The Sopranos*.

I'm directing the next episode — Episode 5. We're in pre-production right now. It's the fourth episode I've directed.

You also recently directed a movie, *Lonesome Jim*.

Yeah, it's a comedy about a young man from Indiana who tries to make it as a writer in New York. But he can't hack it, so he moves back in with his family and has a nervous breakdown in the comfort of his own home. The problem is that his older brother is even more depressed than Jim, so they compete to see who will have a breakdown first.

Will it be in theaters soon?

The Independent Film Channel is releasing it sometime this fall or winter. I know it will definitely play at the theater they acquired — the Waverly in New York City — but I don't know where else it will be shown.

What kind of theater do you like to watch movies in?

I like ones with character. At the Sundance festival, we showed *Lonesome Jim* at the Eccles Theater, which is the largest venue there. And sitting in the audience I could just feel that everyone was with it. I'm a fan of the old classic movie houses, but unfortunately those are really rare now.

Movies like that often find a wider audience on DVD.

That's the way it worked for the other movie I directed, *Trees Lounge*. I don't expect *Lonesome Jim* to have a wide release or a long life in theaters. I hope it does, but with something like this, it's all about word of mouth.

Are you a fan of DVDs?

There's a whole set of John Cassavetes movies on DVD [*Five Films*] that's pretty cool.

You recently acted in Sirius satellite radio's *Theater of the New Ear*. What can you tell me about that?

Carter Burwell, who writes the music for the Coen Brothers movies [*Fargo*, *The Big Lebowski*], was asked to perform his scores in London. But he thought it would be more interesting to write something new instead. So he asked the Coens and Charlie Kaufman [*Adaptation*] if they'd write these radio plays, which we performed for a live audience at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn.

What was it like?

It was great fun, and the cast was amazing — people like John Goodman, Philip Seymour Hoffman, and Marcia Gay Harden. While I've done radio plays before, this was the first time I'd done *live* radio.

How do you listen to music?

Mainly on an iPod and speakers. But I've gotten back into using a turntable, so I've dug out a lot of my old albums, like Nick Lowe. Back when I was into vinyl, I didn't like jazz like I do now, so I've been buying Thelonious Monk, Miles Davis, and John Coltrane.

I know you've been a firefighter as well as an actor and director. How do those experiences compare?

Acting for me is when you get that adrenaline rush that's comparable to going into a burning building — there's that nervousness, that fear, but you're with people you trust, and it's something you experience together. And when it's over, you feel good. I've never gotten that adrenaline rush from directing, but I definitely felt it doing that live radio piece.

S&V

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