SEAL Team's Max Thieriot Ready to Continue Journey

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There was a time when Max Thieriot thought television work would be a gamble.

"When I started acting there was this weird sort of thing about doing TV back then," said Thieriot. "People would tell me to keep doing movies. Don't do TV. I feel like television became extremely competitive. The writing became really great. All of a sudden they were developing these great stories and great characters in TV. Clearly there is no divide between television and movies [now] … everybody's doing everything it seems."

The Internet Movie Database says Thieriot's first movie was Catch That Kid (2004). Thieriot has already suited back up for the second season of SEAL Team. It airs on Global and CBS.

"I knew [SEAL Team] would be physical," he said. "There were a lot of things I thought I had an understanding of, and I was sort of thrown off by some of these stories these guys have. We are really fortunate to work with a lot of different SEAL Teams. And other branches of the military and different special operations units.

"So getting to hear these guys' stories and trying to figure out their psyche, what makes them work, what makes them tick. To me that's what's been the most eye-opening. That's the greatest part of doing this show. I always had a great appreciation for military … this just takes this appreciation to a whole new level."

SEAL Team is created by Benjamin Cavell. The military drama, in a nutshell, follows the lives of one of the most elite teams of the Navy SEALS. Not just seeing the high stakes missions either, but dealing with their personal stakes too. David Boreanaz leads the charge as Jason Hayes. Thieriot is the rookie to the unit, Clay Spenser.

TV WORLD

Carlton Cuse, Kerry Ehrin and Anthony Cipriano were the driving forces of bringing Bates Motel to the small screen. The series focused on Norman Bates – of course, from the Alfred Hitchcock 1960 classic film, Psycho. Vera Farmiga played Norma Bates. Freddie Highmore was Norman. It would be Thieriot's first foray into television with the role of Dylan Massett.

(He would also consider Rear Window (1954) and The Birds (1963) high on his Hitchcock movie list. The latter filmed around locations where Thieriot grew up.)

"I was sent the script for Bates Motel," said Thieriot. "I just finished this movie where I was kind of Norman Bates-esque. I really wasn't all that excited about it. They were like 'No, we want you to be his brother.' At first I was confused, Norman doesn't even have a brother. Then I was excited because it was freedom to develop this new character. At that time Vera was attached … Freddie was not yet. I was a huge fan of hers. I jumped on it and at the time what I thought was a gamble. The experience was great. I love to play a character from start to finish. But it's different when you have this character and live with him for a long time and watch him evolve and change."

Thieriot directed an episode during the fifth and final season of Bates Motel. He enjoyed it, because he set his sights on directing for SEAL Team.

"Hopefully in the future or next season. I love acting. At the same time after doing Bates, I feel like I was born to direct. So we'll see."

SENSES

Thieriot grew up in California. He finds it to be a diverse – amazing – state. Depending where the traveller goes, there's mountains, redwood trees, desert, beaches, palm trees and heat to discover. The coast offers a cool down.

He may have a full-time job with acting, but he keeps his eyes on Senses Wines. This is an endeavour launched in 2011 with his childhood friends, Chris Strieter and Myles Lawrence-Briggs.

"It's a lot of work," said Thieriot. "There's so many challenges to it. It's time consuming for sure. We started making 100 cases and now we make a few thousand. It's kind of grown exponential and turned into something that we never really envisioned it becoming. It's good, but the demand is now higher on us because of that. Arguably, we have one of the greatest winemakers in the United States … who sort of oversees the operation and head of our winemaking. We focus on the business a lot, focus on the vineyards … this point the expectations have gotten high. So we got to make sure we can constantly deliver."

“I was at dinner with my wife eating at this great restaurant. We were kicking around name ideas and I thought what about senses wine? Drinking wine is such a sensational experience. You taste wine and smell wine … surely, someone must be using this name. Nobody had. So I said let’s take it. We designed everything in house.”

The Senses brand on the bottles has a ‘3’ in the word to represent the three wine senses – see, scent and taste.

SEALS

When Thieriot graduated high school he did consider the idea of joining the military. He had buddies going into the Air Force, Marines and becoming a Navy Seal. After much discussion and already developing a career in acting, he decided to stick with what he was doing.

“The chance came to portray one of these guys who I always admired. It was definitely something I was initially drawn to.”

“This season we are just kind of diving in to a lot of these backstories of these characters. It feels like we are really bringing the show to another level this season. Super excited to be able to continue this journey and continue working with this fantastic crew and awesome team of actors.”

SEAL Team will air Wednesdays on CBS and Fridays at 10 p.m. on Global for the 2019-20 season.