

## **CANUCK CREW MIXES CANCER AND REALITY TV**

In Terminal City, Maria Del Mar is a mom fighting for her life -- and for ratings on a reality show about her illness. The result is a new breed of must-see Canadian TV

By TARA MERRIN -- Calgary Sun  
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When asked why any successful Hollywood actor would return to Canada, Gil Bellows does not hesitate even a second before answering.

First and foremost, Canada is his home, he says.

Secondly, this is where the new provocative drama Terminal City -- a series he desperately wanted to be a part of -- is shot.

"We have an opportunity here to do something that is ground-breaking -- that doesn't come along very often," says Bellows, the former Ally McBeal star.

"I've had a few opportunities in my life to be a part of classic entertainment and anytime you have a chance to be a part of something that can stand the test of time, you relish it."

Terminal City, a dark yet comedic exploration of a family living in the shadow of cancer, premieres tonight on Movie Central.

The series begins as Katie Sampson (Maria Del Mar), a wife and mother of three who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer, is asked to host a hospital-based reality TV series.

Bellows, who plays Sampson's husband Ari, says while the show does touch on the serious issue of breast cancer, there's a lot more to it.

"To say it's a show about cancer is like saying Six Feet Under is just a show about death. I think if people watch it they will be surprised -- they will find parts of it hilarious."

Del Mar couldn't agree more.

In fact, she says there are so many different threads running through the storyline viewers will often forget there is a disease at the heart of it.

"It's not just about the cancer. It's also about a husband and wife relationship, teenagers discovering their own sexuality, drugs, religion and reality TV -- you name it."

So C-word aside, what can people expect from the first season of Terminal City?

An HBO-quality show that is being executed entirely by Canadians, says Bellows proudly.

"There is something wonderful about this country -- we root for each other in a way that's a little different than our neighbours down south," he adds.

"Down there you have to win the gold and be the biggest, but here if you are really good at something, that counts as much as being the biggest. That's how I feel about this project -- it's not the biggest, but it's really good and that counts."