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WAITING FOR GODIVA'S

Savour a second course of the delicious home-grown show *By Sheri Radford*

(ABOVE) THE LAST SUPPER? FAR FROM IT, AS THE SHOW ENTERS SEASON TWO, WITH JUAN RIEDINGER (R)

Godiva's. The word itself sounds tantalizing, suggesting chocolate and nudity. But executive producer Julia Keatley and head writer Michael MacLennan insist they also had a literary connotation in mind. They liked the name's similarity to Godot, Samuel Beckett's character who never arrives. In the first season of *Godiva's*, the eponymous owner of a Yaletown restaurant doesn't appear as more than a voice over the telephone.

For once, Vancouver portrays itself, instead of donning the shabby wardrobe of a generic American city. References to local sites, restaurants and chefs pepper the dialogue. Exterior shots show Yaletown's bustling streets and loading-dock patios that, according to

MacLennan, "offer us a look we don't see anywhere else in the world." Says Keatley, "The best drama is rooted in a specific place."



The best drama also springs from finding the right actors. With this in mind, the producers dreamed up *Cheque Please*, a competition open only to wait staff—no acting experience necessary. The prize? A two-episode guest role. Vancouver winner Juan Riedinger works at Takis Taverna and until recently attended the University of British Columbia. How does he feel about the scrumptious possibility of returning in season three? "It's just baby steps right now," he says with a laugh, "but that would be fantastic."

With luck, the fans will agree.

Season two of Godiva's airs weekly on CityTV and Bravo, starting mid-month.