



Rachel Nichols (Kiera) in action on the *Continuum* set

Sets and the City

Vancouver excels at portraying other places: Seattle, New York and more in movies ranging from *Mission Impossible 4* to *Superman: Man of Steel*. But rarely can it throw off its fake American mailboxes and license plates, stop hiding its glorious mountains, and just be itself.

When Simon Barry and Pat Williams started developing their time-travel TV series *Continuum*, they expected someone would make them change the setting to "Unnamed North American City." Barry says, "Pat and I worked as cameramen for years on movies that were trying to hide Vancouver. A lot of effort and energy went into that." He adds, "We live here and we love the city." As time passed and no one raised objections, eventually Barry began to write the city into the series mythology, noting that the plethora of fresh water and hi-tech companies here, coupled with the low population density, make it the ideal city of the future.

The *Continuum* actors also love it here. Rachel Nichols, an American, had never

been here before landing the starring role of Kiera, but she fell in love with both the location and the Vancouverite who is now her fiancé. She praises all the outdoor activities, from biking in Stanley Park to skiing in Whistler. She's even managed to turn her Boston Bruins-loving father into a Canucks fan.

Fellow actor Erik Knudsen, who plays Alec, hails from Toronto but is smitten with his new home: "Eventually I want to move to Vancouver. It's my favourite city now." And Ryan Robbins, who plays the mysterious John Doe, was born in nearby Victoria and has nothing but praise for Vancouver: "We don't have to play the humility card anymore. We're a kick-ass city. Why should we think that no one's going to watch a show because it's set in Vancouver?"

Continuum viewers in 133 countries agree: Vancouver is ready for its time in the spotlight.

Season three of *Continuum* began airing last month. Visit www.showcase.ca/continuum for info.—Sheri Radford