

D6 THE VANCOUVER SUN, SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1998 ENTERTAINMENT

Monkey business? Not a Chanz!

No sex please, I'm very British

Vancouver's Chanz Perry likes his role of Take-Out, the Delivery Orangutan on Shari Lewis' new show.

JOHN ARMSTRONG
PHOTOGRAPH BY

Not many actors get their big break playing an orangutan. But Vancouver's Chanz Perry is one of the few to do so. Perry, 27, raised in Burnaby and North Vancouver and the 1994 Vancouver Star Readers' Choice award-winner as a member of the cast was noticed in a small part by Malory Tarcher.

"That may not sound like much, but Tarcher is the daughter of Shari Lewis, Lewis and her puppet Lankys are heavyweights in children's entertainment. First at the Shari Lewis Foundation, then certainly up there in Deane and Sunny territory."

Tarcher invited the young actor to Los Angeles to audition for her new PBS show *The Charlie Horse Music Plaza*.

"I think they were expecting me to do the 'Old Man' grunting thing," Perry says, "and I thought, 'I'm going to be in a costume. I'll look like an orangutan. I'll be approached as just another job. So I played away from that, I approached it as just another job. I could give whatever that was they were looking for or not."

"I decided he was naive, sweet, not the brightest guy but really trying to be human."

He arrived at Tarcher's home as well-prepared as any method actor and with his own take on Take-Out.

According to Tarcher, Perry put on a strong, silent and athletic performance that got him hired on the spot, even though his wasn't the characterization they'd expected.

"The show has already filmed 20 episodes, with another 20 to be shot on location at Malibu Beach and in the Vancouver CBC studios. It debuts Monday on PBS."

After several years of dance and movement training, Perry's first local break came in the Arts Club Theatre's production of Dean Rogan's *Black and Gold*

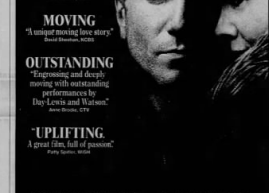


ON THE SET: Shari Lewis with Take-Out (Chance Perry).

and then joined the touring company of *The Gay Menace* in Los Angeles.

Adding to his credits, he was hired for the ABC television remake of *The Day After Tomorrow*. When shooting was done for the day on that set, he taught dance at the Arnie W. Young Dance Studio and Star's Dance Academy, where a career as a choreographer began to take shape. He

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around for a long while. "I grew up watching *Science Street* and *Bumper Room* and *Street and Bumper Room*. I remember, in the ending where Miss Elaine said goodbye to kids who watched the show, like *Goodbye, Bobby and Goodbye*. Karen, she said goodbye to me. It was incredible. She said my name."

"So I'd be happy to do this for five or 10 years. It's an honor."

LOS ANGELES — Ralph Fiennes won when he's called a sexy star.

"The very language that people use about sexy roles and being a star is a language that I distrust. It's never been something that I can buy into or put my money on," the 36-year-old actor of *Schindler's List* and *The English Patient* said in Friday's Daily News.

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11:00 PM	11:00 PM	11:00 PM

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7:00 PM, 9:00 PM, 11:00 PM

PARK & TILPUM
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