



■ **Ice Age** melts competition / B3

■ **Rascal Flatts** redefines country / B3

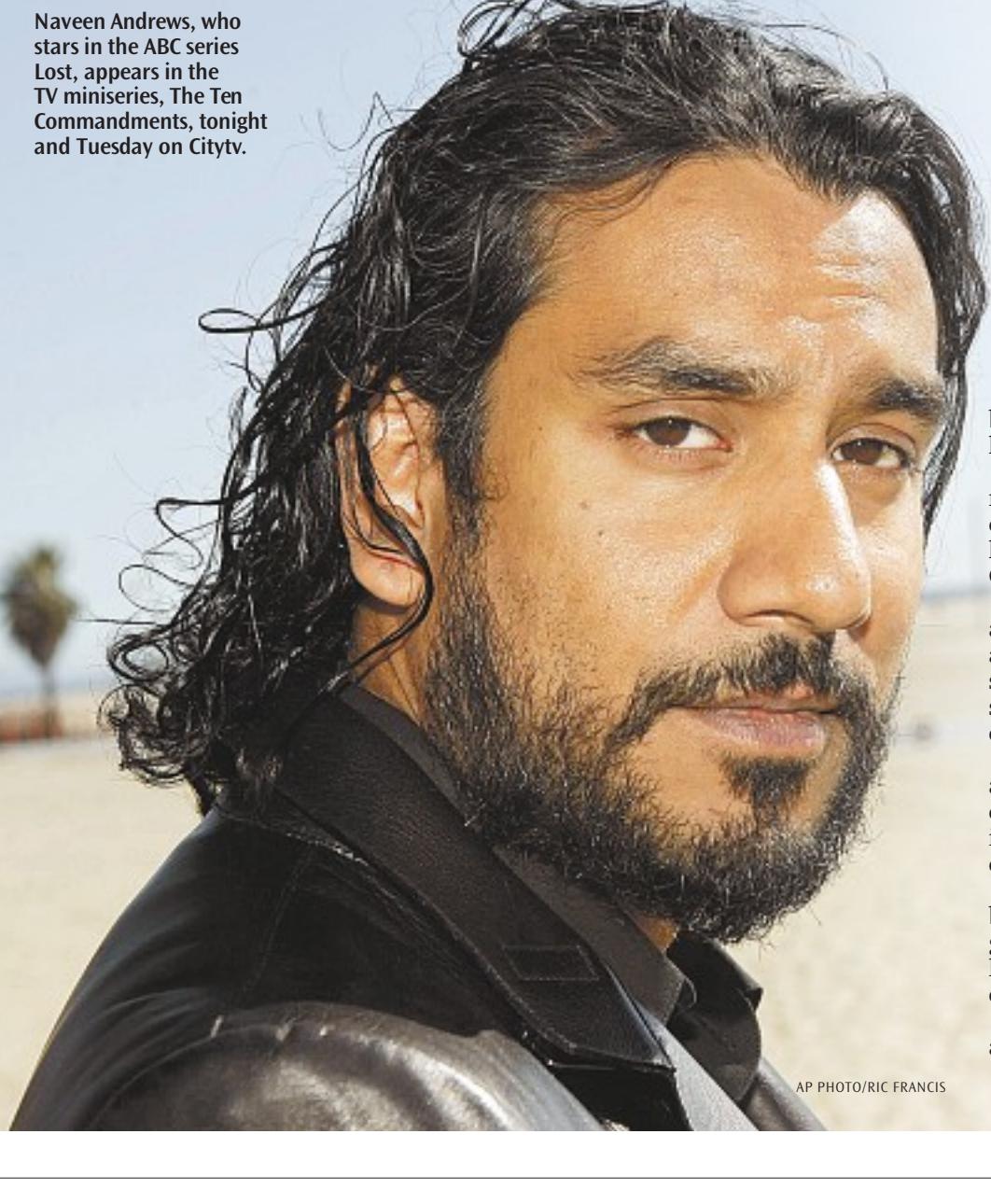


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EDMONTON JOURNAL

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2006

Naveen Andrews, who stars in the ABC series *Lost*, appears in the TV miniseries, *The Ten Commandments*, tonight and Tuesday on Citytv.



AP PHOTO/RIC FRANCIS

Lost and found

Naveen Andrews of *Lost*, *Ten Commandments* finds himself in L.A.

LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press
SANTA MONICA, CALIF.

Naveen Andrews is a few paces from a wind-swept beach, with nothing but a glass of water to sustain him.

But that water is sparkling and imported from Europe, Andrews is wearing a snappy black leather jacket and the coastline outside the restaurant in which he sits is part of a well-located stretch of Southern California.

Andrews, it turns out, isn't *Lost* at all. The star of ABC's hit drama about plane-crash survivors stranded on a mysterious island said he found himself when he came to Los Angeles.

"I never really felt like I had anywhere to call home because I didn't feel, even though I was born in England, I didn't think of London as home," Andrews said.

Los Angeles is routinely bashed by outsiders, and some insiders, as freakishly overgrown urban sprawl with too many freeways and too little of a great city's heart. Andrews sees it differently.

"It kind of has an element of rootlessness, and it attracts rootless people," he said.

On this recent visit home from *Lost*, which films in

Hawaii, Andrews took time to promote the ABC miniseries *The Ten Commandments*, in which he stars with Dougray Scott and Omar Sharif.

It was work that first brought Andrews to Los Angeles and love that kept him here. He and actress Barbara Hershey played opposite each other in the 1999 film *Drowning on Dry Land*, a road picture about a cab driver and the woman who takes him for a ride.

"We met, we ended up having a relationship and that's why I stayed," he said.

They're still a couple, and he's never had second thoughts about leaving his native England behind, Andrews said.

"It was bloody awful, to be honest," he said. His Indian ancestry, he said, left him largely disenfranchised in a country that remains dominated by "small-minded" attitudes toward race and social class.

America "has its problems. But there's a sense of possibility here. ... In England, the class system is about a thousand years old and it's not going to change any time soon.

You don't feel that here.

"Here, it's an economic class system But it doesn't feel that you're going to be trapped in it forever, like you do in England. You feel like you can break out of it," said Andrews, who trades his English accent for a Middle Eastern one in *Lost*.

See *COMMANDMENTS* / B2

Room for transition

U of A building to be gutted after students' installation art show

PREVIEW

Crash! The Lab

Where: South Lab, UofA campus between the Powerplant and Cameron Library
When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday

GRAHAM ANDREWS
Journal Culture Writer
EDMONTON

The University of Alberta's soon-to-be gutted South Lab has been many things to many people.

Built in 1919, it housed an engineering lab, the electrical and computer engineering program, the faculty of earth and atmospheric sciences and the students' union, before Fine Arts inherited it in 2004 for its installation art classes.

The building shows its age.

Its inner brick walls have been white-washed one too many times, the floors betray its considerable age and the ancient heating system makes the structure one of campus's hotspots — but not in a popular way.

Since cosmetic improvements have proved unsuccessful, the building's interior will be completely renovated following a farewell art show by the students who currently call it home.

Installations student Emma McLay — one of 13 students in the show — said she'll miss the space.

"I personally love this building. I don't want them to tear it apart."

For her installation, *Self-Portrait in Solitary Confinement*, McLay found inspiration in the condemned room where she works. She dipped fabric in plaster and shaped it into utilitarian objects such as furniture, lampshades and a dress.

Being tucked into a corner of the South Lab basement is an experience many artists can identify with, she said.

"We always end up in garages and run-down buildings. ... We tend to be pushed to the side."

Where McLay sees confinement and doom, classmate Erin Hooper sees freedom. The only restriction on the students' projects was based on safety concerns, she said.

"We've had a lot of liberty. We're not allowed to drill, that's about it. But we don't have to clean up."

See *CRASH* / B2



PHOTOS BY JOHN LUCAS, THE JOURNAL

Above: Erin Hooper in her installation, *Hands*, in the soon-to-be-gutted South Lab building on the U of A campus. Below: Josee Ouellette, right, and Erinne Fenwick work on their installation, *Red Curtains*.



TED RHODES/CALGARY HERALD
Nikki Mah shows off her *Me For VJ* shirt during a promotional appearance for the *Much Music VJ Search* in Calgary this week.

Much ado

Albertan flirts with *MuchMusic* stardom

NICK LEWIS
Calgary Herald
CALGARY

Even at home in Calgary, thousands of kilometres away from the corner of Queen and John streets, Nikki Mah is flanked by *MuchMusic* cameramen.

As she walks through the cramped aisles of stacked CDs at Recordland, they tape her every move, gesture and conversation, to be chopped, spliced and edited together for the *MuchMusic VJ Search*. The series finale airs tonight on *Much* and *Citytv*, at which point the 22-year-old will know if she wins her dream job in Toronto.

"I've always wanted to be a VJ," the raven-haired sprite says. "I watch *MuchMusic* all the time — *Going Coastal*, *The New Music*, *The Wedge* — those are all my favourite shows. I've closely watched Chris Nelson and Hannah Sung and thought, that's what I want to do. I wanna be talking about music trends, what I see happening in entertainment that I'm excited about."

The Mount Royal College student started off the national contest shy and under-the-radar until pushed by rocker judge Robin Black to be less "bland." She's been more aggressive and confident since, and is the lone female of the four remaining contestants.

"There have been definite trying times, but this whole experience has been the best thing that's ever happened to me," Mah says.

"It's pushed me out of my comfort zone, it's made me more confident. And what I've learned about myself is — I can do this."

She says that confidence grew from the simple act of not over-thinking her every step.

TV PREVIEW

MuchMusic VJ Search

Time and channel: Live at 5 to 7 p.m. on *MuchMusic*. Repeats 7 to 9 p.m. on *Citytv*.

"When I first got into the competition, I was pretty overwhelmed," she says. "My analogy is this — there's the life of the party in every group of friends. And when you take that person and throw them in a room with 20 other like-minded people with a prize in the middle, what do you think is going to happen?"

"And yeah, I'm totally the life of the party with my friends, but at the same time I'm pretty chill and relaxed. And because I wasn't jumping around to try and get camera time, I was called 'bland.' I would think about these things so deeply. 'What do I need to do? What can I change?' And then I just thought, I need to stop. Enough. Be yourself. If they don't want me to be me, then I don't want to be working there."

Mah is an avid indie rock fan, claiming *Death From Above 1979*, *Controller* and *The Swedes* among her favourite acts.

I remind her that this is a stark contrast to *Much*'s homogenous, corporately mandated playlist.

"Yeah, my favourite bands are indie-based," she counters. "But at the same time, I think, if you're a fan of music, you're a fan of all types of music. I'm not going to lie to you and say I haven't downloaded some Britney Spears tracks and Madonna's *Confession on a Dancefloor* and danced around in my room."

See *MAH* / B2