

ROGERS  
CABLE EDITION

# TV GUIDE

▶ OCTOBER 16-22



by Elaine Loring

\* WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT \*  
A.J. Lamas makes his first appearance as Rafael Ortega on *ATW*



The multi-ethnic cast is the centrepiece of sexy new soap *Metropia* on OMNI.2

## Canadian lather

Prepare for *Metropia*. There's never been a soap opera quite like it. This all-Canadian production set in Toronto features a multi-ethnic ensemble cast of attractive newcomers. The half-hour show begins airing Monday on OMNI.2 at 10:30 p.m. ET and will be carried on satellite across the country by ExpressVu and Star Choice. The late-night time-slot allows for adult themes and sizzling sex scenes.

Executive producer Steve Levitan of Protocol Entertainment says, "The network wanted it really edgy, and very sexy and controversial. The challenge is to make a soap unique to this country that feels like a homegrown show."

Another executive producer, Stephen Greenberg of JB Media, explains: "This is not your parents' soap. It's designed for young adults and it's designed to be provocative."

Cast members include Wes Williams (better known as Maestro Fresh Wes),

Yasin Sheikh, and Walter Alza as club owner **Andreas**. Originally from Buenos Aires, Alza spoke no English when he moved to Canada 15 years ago. "Now I'm the first Argentinian Latino Canadian to ever have a lead in a TV series here," he quips.

Alza describes his character as, "A very good man who likes to help people. He's a bit of an opportunist and he's a ladies' man. If I were to be born again, I would like to be Andreas," he laughs.

*Metropia* features raw scenes about drugs and sex, including a playful love scene between two men. Asked if he's expecting a big reaction, Levitan says, "I hope fans are absolutely shocked that two South Asian guys would have a gay relationship on the air. That's a really big taboo in that community."

Greenberg says, "*Metropia* has passion and sex, but there's a huge undercurrent of humour. It reflects real life today." ❖

## SOAP DISH

Evans is back  
Mary Beth Evans is finally a contract player on *As the World Turns*. Watch for her character of Sierra to turn up in Oakdale on Nov. 15.

Theatrical Tom  
Heather Tom (Kelly, *One Life to Live*) has a role in a theatrical production of *Hecuba*, the Greek tragedy. It's playing at the Bleeker Theatre in New York City through Oct. 30.

The Killing Club  
Here's a cool soap tie-in. The mystery book *The Killing Club*, being penned by *One Life to Live* character Marcie Walsh, will be published in real life by Hyperion Books. Look for it in February.

Rumour Mill  
An Internet soap site is sending a message to CBS



which says, "Don't Kill Phil", following rumours that Grant Aleksander's character, Phillip Spaulding, would be killed off during November sweeps.