

# Who dunnit?

You won't find the usual suspects in CBC's six-part murder mystery *At the Hotel*. **Jim Bawden** interrogates some of the eclectic cast members



Nigel Bennett



Andrew Pifko

*Every guest is a real character at the Chateau Rousseau. The residential hotel is the location for the new six-part series At The Hotel from producer Ken Finkleman (The Newsroom), debuting tonight at 9 on CBC-TV. There are more than 100 speaking parts for actors so we asked some of them to describe their character and comment on the story, which involves two murders paced 40 years apart.*

school friend who confesses she always liked him. Life in this hotel is full of surprises. Not to mention corpses."

**LINDA KASH (Folly):** "It's a good name for this lost rock star. She was hot but now she's mostly smashed. Was I channelling Judy Garland? A lot of those names came to mind. She has good intentions, but she can't look after herself let alone her precocious daughter who has really become the guardian. I worked for Ken in the finale of *The Newsroom* where Peter Keleghan is running the show."



Benz Antoine



Robin Brulé

**MARTHA HENRY (Lucy Knowlton)** "I play the owner of this beautiful boutique hotel. I'm a resident, too, right on the top floor, so I can know everything that's going on. But you'll almost never see me in the

head chambermaid. You'd better get those corner folds the right way or punishment will be administered. I must keep my girls in line. There's no telling what they're up to. From counting the coins to keeping the



Walter Alza



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Martha Henry



Paulino Nunes

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him. So he tries to get me to sing solo and then with him. And he finally agreed with me: 'You're the worst ever singer I ever heard.' It was all for a single number where I have to sing Cole Porter's "Always True To You In My Fashion." But time was so tight they had it pre-recorded and I did the motions which were quite elaborate. So for Ken I'm now a singer."

## BENZ ANTOINE

**(Michael Quenton):** "I'm the hotel detective. He's married

for another part, it got written out and then Ken asked me to do Marcia Bridge — mostly in Episode 5. I'm a devoted wife, but I'm beginning to see through my husband. He's a famous scientist who 'borrows' the work of others. It all comes out in a hotel suite confrontation. It's all there in the writing. I wanted the part because it was different, not what I'm usually offered. And I got to observe at close range Ken intensely working with actors. I

won't tell what happens to my errant wife, but it's entirely my character."

## DANNY WELLS

**(Marty Kay):** "I left in 1964 for L.A., but I do enjoy coming back. In the U.S., I did *The Jeffersons* for 11 years, not a bad run, eh? And every other sitcom in between from *Punky Brewster* to *Silver Spoons*. But here I'm an over-the-hill comic, very nasty to my long-suffering manager.

And still filled with comic vom. Marty may be in the twilight of a career, but he'll be going with a bang. What a part I created! I met him in L.A. decades ago. Here, I studied to be put a scene together. Wonderful! The lines say it all, and I don't get this very often. I'm anywhere near to Marty, heaven forbid. But I know comics who were exactly like him right back to my day at the Borscht Belt."



Rosemary Dunsmore



Stephanie Morganstern

