

in the mix



Milena Mooradian

LABORS OF LOVE

global grasp

George Mooradian has traveled the world several times, learning about new cultures, watching light infuse scenes of everyday life and breathing in moments that nourish the soul.

Those experiences have infused his work as director of photography and given him a reputation for bringing film techniques to television, most recently on ABC's *According to Jim*. He was twice nominated for a Primetime Emmy for his work on the series, in 2006 and 2007; this fall, he'll serve as DP on TBS's *The Bill Engvall Show*.

A proud Armenian, Mooradian is a multicultural enthusiast whose Studio City home is filled with mementos of his travels: an ebony sculpture from the Makonde tribe in Tanzania, a shaman's mask in the shape of a bird from Bolivia, a Don Quixote puppet from Prague, Haitian paintings, Indonesian temple bells and more.

"I look for the meaning of life in my travels, and when I come back, I'm a richer filmmaker," Mooradian says. "I was with the Pygmies in western Uganda, and I saw the light going through a hut. Now I think about how I might apply that to the set. I've

slept on a rat-infested bed in Ethiopia, paddled up the Nile and climbed Machu Picchu, which makes you go deeper into the human condition."

The cinematographer is sufficiently versed in fifty-seven languages to break the ice with anyone, a skill he's used on many sets. He began his career in movies when Monroe Askins, ASC, the DP on *Gunsmoke*, hired him as second assistant loader on the film *The House on Skull Mountain*.

Nearly thirty years later, after working on several films with Jim Belushi, Mooradian was recruited by the actor to become the DP on *According to Jim*. Tony Askins, ASC, Monroe Askins's son, was handling cinematography on both *According to Jim* and *Will & Grace* at the time, and was looking for a successor before retiring.

"Tony's dad got me into the camera aspect of the business," Mooradian says, "and Tony took me under his wing like a Zen master, teaching me about sitcoms. So it came full circle. I've traveled around the world two or three times. Now I walk to work and see my family every day. It's a great life." —*Dinah Eng*