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633-4455 • 1-800-ROC-TIDE • (1-800-762-8433) • rocktideinn.com 35 Atlantic Avenue • Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04538 Perennial Bar Harbor summer resident **David Morse**, 57, with credits in 82 films or TV series, may be the most famous unknown actor in show business.

Oh, It's
That C

#### INTERVIEW BY COLIN W. SARGENT

ou know David Morse. In Proof of Life, he's the guy who isn't Russell Crowe. In The Green Mile, he's the guard who isn't Tom Hanks. In Disturbia, he's isn't Shia Labeouf. In Saint Elsewhere, okay, he wasn't Denzel. Instead the 6'4", blue-eyed actor is at the heart of what makes these dramas tick.

#### We understand your favorite place to vacation is in Maine.

When we come up here, we go to the first places we went to when we were kids. My mother married a man who ran one of the paper mills up in Millinocket.

#### He must have been like an emperor in that town.

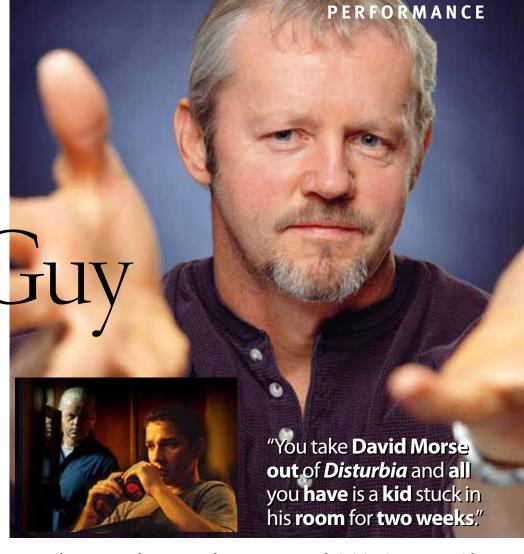
He was. It was still a fairly humble life. He was living pretty much the same as everyone else. He'd take us out in his little aluminum motorboat and past the log booms that would string out from one lake to another. I'll never forget hearing about mythical trout at the bottom of the lake. Trying to catch that lake trout.

#### You've done three Stephen King films. Which is your favorite?

The Green Mile is remarkable. Stephen said at the time it was his favorite adaptation of his work. Everyone who read that script, whether you were a crew member or whatever, wanted to be part of it.

## We Mainers think we know what King is like. But really, what is he like?

The first time I saw him was during *The Langoliers*. There he was, at the end of the runway, playing that bizarre character. My impression was that he was a bizarre man. I got to meet him on *The Green Mile*. It was fun



seeing him come to the set. Everything stopped so we could welcome him. Not knowing him really well, I'd say he has a little fear. He's so totally who he is. Maybe this was the Maine in him.

## Since this is our maritime issue, tell us about your middle name. Bowditch.

We are descended from Nathaniel Bowditch [the world famous Salem ship captain and author of *The American Practical Navigator*]. My son Ben now has the middle name. My uncle Bob had it before me. We're part of the Marine Society in Salem. It was the most vivid part of my childhood in Salem. I'm proud of it. We grew up on the water. My father was a navigator. I was almost named Nathaniel Bowditch, and I've always been disappointed I wasn't. David's worked okay, though.

## Since Beverly and Salem and Gloucester were your stomping grounds, you must have ached to be in *The Perfect Storm*.

I'd have loved to be in *The Perfect Storm*. My sister had a house in Pigeon Cove. The

storm tore the little breakwater out, and the water came right up to the house. I knew people who worked in the boats and knew that world. I have a nephew who owns a lobster boat there. My father had his boat over there in Gloucester. Just watching those boats go in and out and all the Portuguese fishermen there... It's a tough world at the moment.

#### This more recent string of summers you're enjoying in Maine. How did it come about?

My wife and I lost our house in Los Angeles [to an earthquake in 1994]. We were in Philadelphia at the time, and I was shooting *The Langoliers*. Some people we knew were renting a house in Northeast Harbor, and we went to stay with them for one night. We've been going to Northeast Harbor ever since then. We love the parks, the ocean. Now our kids can't imagine anyplace other than Maine. We stay in a different place every summer. We rent some of the old cottages and some of the newer things. That's kind of part of the fun of it.











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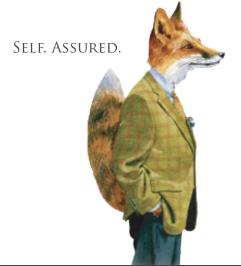
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#### PERFORMANCE

#### How convincing are you playing a Mainer?

I'm kind of limited. I steam lobster. Bring my own salt-free butter. You'll see us at Abel's Lobster Pound. I work out at the gym. Do yoga. Do some stretching and play some golf.

I love Otter Cliffs. I love the Jordan Cliff Trail, which is sometimes closed because of the birds. But I love that hike because it goes above the Jordan Park. We ride our bikes from Jordan Pond House and we have our lobster salad and popovers and do the whole Park Loop Road once. Then there's the ride from Jordan Pond house to the top of Cadillac Mountain. We race down. I used to be able to beat all the kids to Jordan Pond House.

#### You had some barnstorming days here.

When I was doing theater in Boston, there was a company I toured New England with, the Chamber Theatre, and we did a collection of Mark Twain stories. We drove around in a station wagon and had the entire set on the roof of this car. There were four or five of us in the car, and I was making \$300 a week, more money than I'd ever made before. We just kept driving north. I remember the roads piled with snow, and the entire town would come out to a basketball gym to see us and we'd do the production and we'd stay at someone's house. The show would go on, blizzard or not. During a production in Calais, nothing comes to a stop the way it might with one-quarter as much snow in Boston.

#### Right now, what's going on in your life?

We're shooting [the HBO series] Treme in New Orleans [where Morse plays Lt. Terry Colson]. Then I have a movie with Jennifer Garner [The Odd Life of Timothy Green] in Atlanta. There's another movie, Collaborator.

[This year, he's co-starred with Nicholas Cage in Drive Angry 3-D; for 2012 film he's pre-production in Winter in the Blood, postproduction in Yellow, with Sienna Miller and Melanie Griffith.]

#### It kept people up at night, the way you underplayed the creepy neighbor in Disturbia. It just got way scarier when you imperceptibly narrowed your eyes.

When Shia Labeouf was doing all the press for the movie at the time, he liked to talk about the character I played and how spooky I was because I stayed in character when I was off the set.

That was just me.

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