



Audio suds

By Patience Wieland

...During the 1970s and 80s, soap opera was not only at the height of its popularity, but also a quiet innovator for social issues and troubles of the day...The question is, are the scripts, and storylines as fresh and as solid as they could be? If you really love soaps, today, the hottest place to find and enjoy them is online - through podcasts and internet radio... and soon, through indie film and perhaps web "TV"...

American Audio Soaps

...What's an fan of American soaps to do, then, when things look unsteady for continuing favorites, and many of the innovative, well-written soaps are long off the air...? Start supporting independent soaps that bring back the classic style.

...Amazing casting certainly plays a part in **Rockland County**, a continuing soap project created by Roger Newcomb of Loger, Inc. Each episode is recorded via telephone voice mail by the performers, a seeming limitation which actually enables many well-connected actors, as well as up-and-comers, to participate. Since Newcomb's long-time favorite soap is the aforementioned **Another World**, it is a happy surprise to hear the solid soaper Kale Browne (ex-"Michael Hudson", **AW**, and currently starring on **Days of Our Lives**) on several episodes of **Rockland County**.

Newcomb's other project is **Scripts and Scruples**, which has continued for several years, most recently culminating in the connected indie film **Manhattanites**, a film which ended primary photography this past December. Judging by the trailer, it looks like a lot of fun for fans of soaps both past and present. I'd mention that the actors here have great chops, only it looks like someone *will* get chopped during the run-time of the film. Forbes March and David Fumero of **One Life to Live**, and Aiden Turner of **All My Children** are just some of the familiar faces here. Darnell Williams, ex-**AMC**, co-directs with Newcomb's long-time collaborator Gregori J. Martin.

Frankly... The thrill here for me is spotting March's castmate Ilene Kristen, who older viewers remember as the instigator of much devilry on **Ryan's Hope**. You just know Kristen's going to be fun to watch...

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