

# Lincoln Heights

**L**incoln Heights is an ABC Family Channel drama that centers on a cop who moves his family to the troubled inner city neighborhood where he grew up. His hope is that he can make a positive difference. The show's cinematographer is Lex Du Pont, who says that the decision to produce the series in Super 16 format was made in conjunction with the producers.

"They care about the imagery," he says. "They want it to look good, and agreed that Super 16 was the right choice given the specifics of how the show is produced. There is an ambitious schedule, and a fair bit of the show is daylight exteriors. I didn't want to hold things up by spending a lot of time trying to balance lighting, which is what you have to do with HD video camera. I'm comfortable with the Kodak stocks, having shot millions of feet on *NYPD Blue*."

Du Pont shot tests using Kodak VISION2 250D 7205 film.

"I was blown away, astonished," he says. "I use the 7205 for all daylight exteriors, and for interiors we use (Kodak VISION2 500T) 7218 film. As long as you expose them correctly, the results are just stunning."

The show is currently seen in the 4:3 aspect ratio on the cable channel, but Du Pont protects for 16:9 anticipating eventual HD distribution.

Du Pont often shoots with handheld ARRI SR 3 cameras and zoom lenses. He enhances action sequences with a "jagged" look by setting the shutter angle to 45 or 90 degrees, and usually overexposes by one stop to get a denser negative.

*"Super 16 was the right choice given the specifics of how the show is produced. I didn't want to hold things up by spending a lot of time trying to balance lighting, which is what you have to do with HD video camera."*

"I've found that when I overexpose the negative, when the blacks are crushed at the lab, it eliminates any grain in the shadows," he says. "The latitude is unbelievable. I have never had the film blow out. Sometimes I'm shooting dark-skinned people wearing black uniforms, coming out of deep blue police cars and going into bright sunlight and shadowy alleys, and I never had to adjust the exposure. They could easily dig it out in the transfer, and it looked great." ■

## TV with Super 16



Above: (L to R) Actors Mishon Ratliff, Nicki Micheaux, Russell Hornsby, Erica Hubbard, Rhyon Nicole Brown and Robert Adamson from *Lincoln Heights*, shot by DP Lex Du Pont.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ABC FAMILY/BOB D'AMICO