

Tell me you love me

Tell Me You Love Me is an HBO drama series about a marital counselor who tries to help three couples through their problems, which include an inability to get pregnant due to stress and an inability to commit.

Alan Caso, ASC, who has earned four Emmy nominations, says that *Tell Me You Love Me* is shot in the style of a John Cassavetes film, almost entirely with handheld cameras.

"We try to make it look like the show is filmed in available light," he says. "The idea is to make it feel like there is no manipulation from the filmmakers whatsoever. Nobody has marks, and there's minimum instruction. Given that aesthetic, Super 16 made perfect sense. It's a light camera, so we could work handheld quickly without being bogged down with a lot of apparatus."

Caso loads the ARRI SR 3 cameras with KODAK VISION2 500T 7218 and KODAK VISION2 200T 7217 films. The show is shot mostly on sets at CBS Radford in Studio City, California. The images are composed



in the 16:9 aspect ratio and will be seen in both high-definition and TV formats. Each hour-long episode is filmed in seven days.

"What attracted me to the show was the attempt at a vérité, documentary-type feeling," says Caso. "We let things play dark, and keep the colors a little bit desaturated. We sometimes let things play

partly in silhouette, and we let things be bright when they're bright. We try to have minimal impact."

Another key to the look is the handheld camera. "We usually run two cameras, and in some situations three," he says. "The instruction to the operators is to keep it as steady as possible because the human body naturally introduces some movement, which gives the frame a little bounce and life. We're not trying to make it look like a documentary by laying over a visual style. We're just shooting it that way. It's a concept for the performers as much as it is for the crew."

Caso allows the Super 16mm format to help communicate the documentary feeling. "Even though the Super 16 stocks are terrific nowadays, we let it go a little bit more contrasty and grainy than it would be with 35 mm, which just adds to the look."

NOTE: A list of Kodak Imagecare Program member laboratories that process 16mm film can be found at www.kodak.com/go/imagecare. ■

