

Born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Rob has had a rich career transforming into a varied assortment of dynamic and sometimes off beat characters. Though Rob works primarily as an actor, he is also a director of television (**First Wave**) and theatre (Genet's **The Maids**, Fugard's **Statement After An Arrest Under The Immorality Act**, among others).

While attending Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, Rob's studies focused on non-western theatre, cultural anthropology and development studies. He also acted in over 40 plays. While at Brown, he took off for a year to research theatre and dance performance in India, where he assisted Professor John Emigh with field research of various forms of masked performance. Upon graduation, he went on to earn a Masters Degree at New York University's Graduate Program in Acting.

Fresh out of graduate school, Rob had the pleasure of performing Shakespeare at the Public Theatre in NYC alongside Christopher Walken and Keith David (**Coriolanus**) and Raul Julia (**MacBeth**). While still in NYC, Rob also played Teddy in **When You Coming Back Red Ryder?** (West Beth Theatre) and starred in and co-edited and directed **Henry & Anais** (from the writings of Henry Miller and Anais Nin).

In 1990 Rob moved from NYC to Los Angeles where he primarily worked in film and television. Some film highlights include: Todd Haynes' now banned **Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story**; **What's Love Got To Do With It?** (as record producer Phil Spector); **City Hall** (dir. by Harold Becker); **Goodbye Lover** (dir. by Roland Joffe); **Wes Craven's New Nightmare**; **And The Band Played On** (with Laura Innes) and the TNT movie **Broken Trust** (co-starring w/Tom Selleck & Elizabeth McGovern).

Rob co-starred as 'Crazy Eddie' for three seasons in Francis Ford Coppola's television show **First Wave** (created by college friend Chris Brancato). **First Wave** continues to air in Canada and the US as well as in many other countries around the world. Rob also directed a couple of the episodes of **First Wave**.

In 2002, Rob starred in Nicholas Racz's feature film **The Burial Society**, which has played in over 50 festivals and won numerous awards. **The Burial Society** will be distributed in the US (spring '04) and internationally by Regent Entertainment. He also completed work on **Journey Into Fear** and **Suspiria**, two film installation projects directed by renowned film and video artist Stan Douglas. The pieces have exhibited in museums and galleries in London, Hamburg, Istanbul, Sao Paolo and New York (at the Guggenheim).

LaBelle was nominated for a Genie Award for best performance by an actor in a featured supporting role for **First Wave** and a Leo Award for best actor in **The Burial Society**.

Rob's television work this past year has included guest starring in Steven Spielberg's mini-series **Taken** directed by Tobe Hooper; USA's **Monk** and **Deadzone**; and recurring roles on **DaVinci's Inquest** and **Smallville**.

Besides doing private acting coaching, LaBelle has taught courses at Colorado College on Chekhov and Dadaism and at the UCLA overseas program in Florence, Italy.

