

ANDY: How did you learn about The Big O?

SARGENT: It was offered to me by Kevin Seymour.

What drew you to The Big O and made you want to be a part of it?

The style. The writing. The humour. The drama. Like spicing up a perfect meal.

Did you enjoy your time working on Big O?

Very much!! Great actors to work with. Great character in Dorothy for me to play. One liners are my favorite. And on the flip side of that, characters with expansive dialogue diving into deeper issues. Colorful and captivating.

What came first: being cast as R. Dorothy Wayneright or being hired for ADR script writing?

Dorothy came first, Kevin started directing and then asked me. Basically he knew I could direct, especially myself as Dorothy and I helped cast a lot of the roles. Plus he had too many other projects he needed to oversee and direct. I got lucky. ;)

It seems like Akiko Yajime's characterization of R. Dorothy was very well developed already for the Japanese audio, but were there any inspirations you drew on for voicing her? Any movies, animes, etc?

All of them, I draw from the original Japanese. I always listen to the Original first and do my best to stay true to it.

Were you exposed to Japanese Big O before working on US Big O?

Not before I was cast and asked to direct. No, but ALWAYS view Japanese first.

Have you met or spoken with Akiko Yajime?

No, I have never had the opportunity to meet any of my twin Japanese Voice actors. I think that would be a blast, always wondered what they thought. Do you ever get to interview them?

Series creator Keiichi Sato remarks that The Big O was made to be as American as possible. Did that make ADR easier? Were there any specific intricacies about Big O's script that stand out or were memorable to you?

Well, yes it definitely had a more American flair - easier? maybe - never thought of it that way. Oh, many intricacies... where to begin? I really liked the subtle scenes, maybe even those without dialogue, like Dorothy on the roof top. Like silent poetry.

Kevin Seymour was ADR director on S1; how/when did you take over his role on S2?

Immediately the following week.

How was it being a main character and ADR director/writer on the same show?

LOVED IT!! Love the technical aspect and the side by side working with a fabulous engineer, working with actors who are super skilled, and usually have a great sense of humour. So there's hard work, joy and creativity in one. Can't beat it. And knowing the actor who will be playing the role while writing it for them made it easier. How much to explain or not on the page. How they would pick it right up away, on cue. Like a family with perfect harmonies. Cohesive.

Big O's dub is widely regarded as one of the best anime dubs; why do you think that's true?

The actors, my skillset as an actor/director, years of directing actors before Anime came into my life, and working with one of my favorite engineers, Phil Brewster. Mag 8 production values. We were all a great team and good teams produce good product. Not to mention, the collaboration on the writing, it takes a village and it just melded together nicely.

Did you watch Big O when it aired on Toonami?

No. Not much for watching any of my work after it's completed, even on-camera work.

What is your favorite aspect of The Big O (the show)? Of R. Dorothy Wayneright?

The wide range of writing drama and humour. The slick style of animation. Well I can't say it enough, the one liners; Love Dorothy's one-liners!

Do you feel that Big O is underappreciated?

YES!!! And I think it's the title. Not a good one. ;0) and if the music was on a better level like Cowboy Bebop then I believe it would have really taken off.

Were you surprised when Big O got a second season produced by CN? Did you jump to reprise your role(s)?

Ok, wow... I have little recollection of the 2nd season differing from the 1st season producers. My bad. It must be my tunnel vision work ethic, I just get the job done with the creative/artistry in the forefront, so the likes of CN was not my concern. I think that's

the reason. Or it simply escapes my memory now. Yikes. So sorry. Time causes all kinds of blank thoughts. ;0)

How has working on Big O impacted you?

Simply put, handling all three aspects of English Dub for an anime production always gave me a sense of accomplishment and ability, and realizing I found my niche.

What are your best memories about recording, writing, and working on Big O?

All of the above answers. Sorry, but it's true. It's a culmination of sorts. Certain actors are highly memorable, certain roles stand out more than others. But it was always a wonderful experience for me.

Why do you think Big O has the staying power that it does, even 25 years later?

I didn't know it did until recently. I truly feel honored and proud.

What do you want to say to fans, new and old, 25 years later?

I admire you. Applaud you. Commend you on your commitment to the genre. With all the products and merchandising, one would think the new and different shows would be more of an appeal. And the antiquity of something like BIG O would be considered passé. But I guess it's a testament of something truly entertaining and well produced, because the care and time we took during the process to create a better product speaks volumes. So thank you. Not in a million years back then would I think it would reach so many people. And let's face it, FANS are the best people of all. My appreciation is boundless. Cheers!!