



CELEBRITY TRAVEL

Lee finds filming on location immersive

By Jae-Ha Kim
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Tinpo Lee's acting career has ranged from "General Hospital" to the Denzel Washington film "Roman J. Israel, Esq." But ask him which role was his favorite, and he will almost always include the ones with his daughter Peyton Elizabeth Lee. He has fond memories of guest starring on her series "Doogie Kameāloha, M.D."

The duo worked together on the upcoming film "Fu," which Lee describes as a "darkly comic short film I co-wrote, produced and starred in. It was directed by Peyton ... and is a story about identity, legacy and midlife reinvention. It's the most personal project I've ever dared to share. Creating it together as father and daughter was one of the highlights of my life."

This interview with Lee has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: You're in "Final Destination: Bloodlines," which was a huge hit. How has that experience been?

A: I played Marty Reyes in "Final Destination: Bloodlines," the newest chapter in the 25-year-old franchise. It was an incredible chance to bring grounded humanity to a genre role, and to be part of a story that's become a cultural touchstone. I'll be honest, I never thought I'd be able to say I was in the No. 1 movie in the world on opening weekend. That was surreal.

Q: Where are some locations that you've filmed your projects?

A: "Final Destination:



"Final Destination: Bloodlines" actor Tinpo Lee is looking forward to his surfing trip in Indonesia. DAVID ZAUGH

"Bloodlines" was shot between February and April in Vancouver. When we arrived, it was gray and wet, but by the time I wrapped, spring had taken hold. The trees, flowers and people were coming back to life. Vancouver is a truly beautiful place to visit. It has all the conveniences and culture of a big city with tons of outdoor adventure and recreation nearby. We shot "Fu" in Salt Lake City. We spent three summers there when Peyton was filming her first show, "Andi Mack," and it felt poetic to return. We hired some of our old crew and realized we'd come full circle, right back to where her creative journey began. In the past, I've also shot in Hawaii, Chicago, New York, Austin, Beijing and Shanghai.

Q: Do you have any upcoming trips planned for the rest of this year?

A: This October, I'm going on a surf trip to the Mentawai Islands in Indonesia. There will be eight of us, all good friends and all over 50, living on a chartered catamaran for 12 nights. We'll be going island to island in search of perfect, empty waves. Boys only, so the routine will be surf, sleep, eat, repeat, with a smattering of fishing, snorkeling and dumb dad jokes.

Q: What's a trip you took as a child that stands out?

A: We took a day trip to Catalina Island when I was 4 or 5. I remember snor-

keling in water so cold I was shivering uncontrollably, but I wouldn't get out. I was mesmerized by the fish. I felt like I was one of them. I think it may have been the start of my recurring dream that I can breathe underwater.

Q: Do you have a preference working on location versus on a set?

A: Working on set in Los Angeles close to home allows me to go home every night, sleep in my own bed and eat home-cooked meals, plus (spend) weekends with my family. But I really enjoy being on location. There's something immersive about it. When I'm away, I don't have the distractions of everyday life, so I can fully focus on the work I love. It gives me the time and mental space to sink into a completely new perspective.

Q: If you could pick a location to film a project, where would it be?

A: I'd love to work somewhere obscure, remote or extreme — Nepal, Antarctica, Africa. A place so far from my daily life that it would shift the way I think and feel in a profound way. Somewhere transformative. I know that sounds ambitious, but I think some places change you on a cellular level. On a simpler note, I'd love to work in Italy, just for the pasta.

For more from the reporter, visit www.jaehakim.com.