



For the past four seasons audiences have tuned in to the colorful antics of the Reno Sheriff's Department in the hit Comedy Central "reality" series Reno 911. This February the men and women in khaki will step up to the big screen in their first feature length adventure *Reno 911!: Miami*. ION Magazine was there when several of these brave officers passed through Phoenix during their recent publicity tour. On hand was Lt. Jim Dangle (**Thomas Lennon**), Deputy Travis Junior (**Ben Garant**) and Officer Trudy Wiegel (**Kerri Kenny-Silver**). Here's what they had to say about their newfound notoriety, the film that documents it and their roles as gay icons.

ION: So, how does it feel to be American Heroes?

Detective Travis Junior: Who, us?

Officer Trudy Wiegel: Us?

Lt. Jim Dangle: Are you talking to us? No, we're from the Reno Sheriff's Department.

ION: I was referring to the film that will be released soon, documenting your bravery in the line of duty.

LJD: It documents a lot of things. It documents my bravery in a g-string. It documents my lady friend's bravery in a granny bra...

OTW: Scoliosis bra, please.

ION: Well, let's talk about that film. You were invited to a convention in Miami and while you were there, something extraordinary happened.

LJD: Yeah, they had what they called a...

DTJ: Level orange bioterrorist attack.

LJD: Yeah, I guess they could and probably should have called in the National Guard, except they didn't want people to panic, which is why they put us in charge of the streets.

DTJ: They said if the National Guard came, people would think Castro died and everythin' would go to hell.

ION: Hm, I understand that you're not particularly happy with the way the studio edited the footage to make this documentary.

LJD: If you look at what we're calling 'their version' of the film, no. For the record, if you look at the things coming out of our mouths, our states of undressedness, the way that we're interacting and touching each other...

DTJ: And strangers.

LJD: And strangers. It would paint a picture of us that we're not...

DTJ: Competent to wear a badge or be armed.

OTW: Well, you would probably say, these people should not even be in public.

ION: So, are you saying that none of those things happened?

LJD: Obviously some of these things must have transpired. I must have been in a candy g-string trying to make the acquaintance of a large black gentlemen who is my acquaintance. Obviously that must have happened.

OTW: We must have been trying to push a whale off the beach with a topless woman for nine hours.

LJD: We must have been, but it's selective memory.

ION: This film is obviously an offshoot of a very popular reality series that you all take part in. Were you aware that you had a large gay following?

LJD: I'm aware that I have a large gay following. And I'm aware that I feel like I'm a lighthouse to the community. A bright, spinning lighthouse.

ION: So, do you see yourself as a role model?

LJD: I do, as a matter of fact.

DTJ: What do you see yourself as a role model of, exactly?

LJD: I see myself as a role model of... of... just a physical way you can carry yourself, as a gay person. And as a political way you can carry yourself, because I don't thrust my sexuality on anybody.

OTW: That's not true!

DTJ: That's so not true! You do it all day.

LJD: All I do all day? No. Two big black guys, yes. That's different. But certainly I do feel like I'm in the limelight. I do feel like I'm on a pedestal.

ION: How does the rest of the force feel about him being a gay icon?

DTJ: You know, I thought he was just goofin'. I thought it was a big goof.

LJD: Oh, when I was saying that I was out and I'm proud? You honestly thought that was a goof?

DTJ: Yeah. I thought that was a goof.

ION: So, is there a 'don't ask, don't tell' kind of thing happening here, then?

DTJ: Nobody's askin', but he'll tell you.

LJD: I tell all the time. I keep telling and telling and telling and everybody's like, 'we didn't ask, we didn't ask...'

ION: Well, do you think that Lt. Dangle's being who he is, adds to the popularity of the show?



OTW: I don't think it's helping the popularity of the show. I mean, how many gay people can there be? 40 or 50? Let's be honest.

LJD: There's way more than that.

OTW: More than 40 or 50?

LJD: There's 40 or 50 at Tronix just on mustache night.

ION: Okay, well, I think I have time for one final question. Let me ask you, Lt. Dangle, if you could say one thing to your gay audience, what would that be?

LJD: I love my fellow man. Particularly, if he's six one, six two, and black.

OTW: So, you love Jones.

LJD: No, Jones is just a type.

OTW: Your type.

LJD: He's just another certain type of my fellow man, who I love.

DTJ: Dangle is a very good lieutenant, but just watch your back.

LJD: What's that mean?

DTJ: I'm thinkin' more specifically about the court order that Jones has out on you.

LJD: Oh, that. He doesn't always understand my goofs on him. Or that I love him. As I love all of my fellow men. You can print that part. About loving my fellow man, not loving Jones. Because I haven't. Yet.

Reno 911!: Miami opens nationwide on February 23rd.