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LEGION OF SUPER HEROES' YURI LOWENTHAL

The Continuum continues its series of features on the cast of Kids' WB!'s Legion of Super Heroes today with Yuri Lowenthal, who provides the voice of Clark Kent/Superman.

The Continuum: Judging by the photo on your website of you in a Green Lantern shirt, it's safe to assume you're a comics fan?

Lowenthal: Oh, yes. Very much so, although of late I haven't been able to keep up with it the way I used to. Once upon a time I'd buy at least two copies of everything I collected: one to read and one to save. Now, I miss most of what comes out, and I'm lucky to even pick it up when it's published in trade paperback.



The Continuum: How familiar are you with the Legion?

Lowenthal: Only very recently have I become familiar. Strangely enough, with all the comics I collected, Legion was never one of them. Now, suffice to say, I'm a little more familiar.

The Continuum: What's your take on Superman? How does he fit in with the team, especially being the guy from the past? Is he the leader?

Lowenthal: Here's what I love about this incarnation of Superman: he's not at all the leader. He's not Mr. Confident. He's actually pretty lost on many different

levels. He's at the point in his life where he knows he's got these powers but is still kind of unclear about his role in the world and his mighty destiny.

But I think it's in part his youth and inexperience that make him a little more flexible and understanding and curious about the new world/time. I mean, suddenly it's the 31st Century! And it's a strange place for him to be, a world/time where they have museums dedicated to the man he will

become, celebrating heroic things he has yet to do. It's kind of intimidating. He's existing at once in the past, the present and the future. Okay, so it's actually VERY intimidating for him.

But this is where he'll learn some of the skills, have some of the experiences he'll need to become the Superman that everybody knows and loves. It's kind of interesting to think of Superman as having lived this "bonus life" that helped shape who he is. Of course, if we get into that, we start dealing with alternate universes and timelines, etc.

Let's just get back to your question: He makes a great member of the team, but he's really the beginner here. The rest of the Legionnaires are a crack team. Okay, not always "crack" as you'll see, but they've definitely got seniority in this whole "fighting crime" thing.

The Continuum: Is there a sense of discovery with his powers?



Lowenthal: Absolutely, and that, I think, makes the show extra fun. I mean, that's the inherent



difficulty in writing for Superman, right? He's all-powerful. What do you throw at a guy like that? Where can you go from there?

The Continuum: What's the tone of the series? Is it like Teen Titans or Justice League Unlimited?

Lowenthal: Being a fan of TT as well as JLU I'd like to say it's a mix. But a mix of all the good things from both. Obviously the show's going to air on Kids' WB!, so it has to work for a younger set, but the writing is still as sharp as anything on either of those other shows. And there'll be a lot of references for the hardcore comic book and Legion fans that'll go right over some of the younger viewers' heads. I like to think that the show will leave no one behind. That's the challenge and I think

everyone's risen to it. And by everyone, I mean the whole damn team putting this show together.

The Continuum: Do you record by yourself or with the rest of the cast? Can you talk about your castmates?

Lowenthal: We lay down all the original recordings as a cast, and then return for ADR once the animation has come back, either as a cast, or in pieces. And it's gonna sound mushy, but I love the people I work with. They're top-notch on so many levels. And with each episode, we get a special guest or two who make it even more fun. I'm always excited to go in and record, hang with the Legion, and see who's going to make a surprise visit that day.

The Continuum: Were you influenced by any of the other Supermen/Superboys?

Lowenthal: I must be. It's inevitable. I've been a fan as long as I can remember. I

ran around in a cape and costume when I was 4 or 5. And I still have a cape. And a costume. Not necessarily the same ones, but what does that tell you?

The Continuum: How far along are you on the first season?

Lowenthal: We've recorded the full first season, and are coming back in to record ADR as the animation comes back.



Yuri Lowenthal during a convention appearance earlier this summer.

The Continuum: You also worked on the Teen Titans movie, Trouble in Tokyo?

Lowenthal: I did. It was my first foray into the WB Animation Studios. And I got there because I speak Japanese and that's what they needed right then. Oh, and because I can scream like a girl. See, when people/parents/guidance counselors assault you with questions like, "Why would you spend your time doing that? When will you ever use that skill? How will it make you any money?" just remind them that you just never know. And odds are, your degree will go in the toilet, anyway.

The Continuum: Anything else you'd like to say?

Lowenthal: Yeah. I'm freakin' Superman. Ask me how weird *that* is to say.