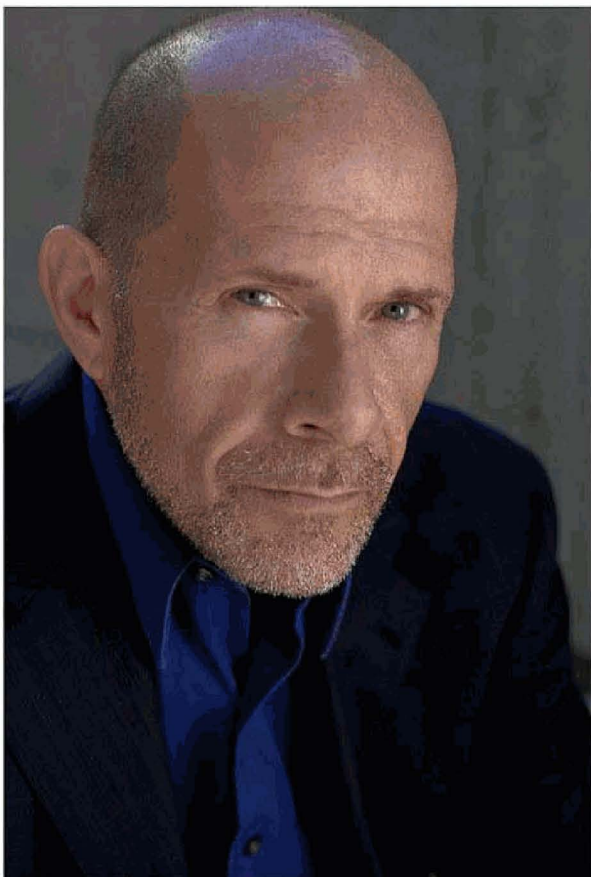




# “Is This The Workingest Actor in LA That Nobody’s Ever Heard Of?”



For years, Robert never said a word about his interest in acting to anyone. Several moves and years later, watching a Steven Seagal movie one night, *OUT FOR JUSTICE* Robert saw a name he recognized on a front card: that of a stand-up comic from upstate NY and thought ‘if HE can do it, so can I.’

“When Peg and I left the movie I asked her point-blank ‘What would you say if I wanted to be an actor?’ She didn’t hesitate...I think you’d be great! And that... pretty much set the course for my life. We owned a delicatessen and were doing GREAT! Gorgeous condo overlooking beautiful

sunsets across a lake. We sold the deli so I could concentrate on acting.” Seeking a coach, classes, training (all incredible stories in themselves), Robert began studying Eric Morris’s *Technique*, and heavy integration of *Strasberg’s Method* with Gilda Pianelli.

“...She put me up on a dark stage under a spotlight and pushed all the right buttons; I was an emotional mess. When the class ended she came to me, looked me SQUARE in the face and said, ‘If you give this up, you’re a fool.’”

“I don’t know anyone in my life who would have said, ‘Go. Establish the career and I will follow.’ THAT’S how much she believed in me. I owe her everything. This December marks 32 years we’ve been together.” He arrived in LA alone, rented a room in North Hollywood and began networking... his way. He and Peg saw each other once a year for seven years until she moved to LA in ‘03. Robert credits her and the women in his life—his mom, Aunt Eileen, Aunt Margaret and Grandmother—for his support, inspiration and success.

In Los Angeles, steady work followed in TV and film as well as a rock-solid reputation among casting directors, producers and directors. He racked up 45 guest star roles including three each for David E. Kelley and Steven Bochco, and in the last 12 months alone...seven films. He’s known for being off-book, completely in the ‘zone’ and committed to giving a performance at the audition.

“Of course I want the job... that’s why we read! But, more important—I’m there to book the room! One of two things happen; I’ll book the role or I won’t. But, that casting director, director or the producers will have multiple projects as the years go on, and I want them to remember what I did in that room on that day.” When asked what he does for a living, he often answers, “I make casting directors look good to their bosses.”

An almost-turned-pro-photographer, Robert’s been shooting Nikon’s since he was 16-years-old. He still has every Nikon he’s ever owned. His love of landscapes and shooting food brought him to the attention of the Public Relations department at the SLS Hotel, in Beverly Hills. It’s his photos they use in their ads and promo material. “Until that series regular role comes along, I’ll keep my Nikons handy and ready to go,” he says.”

Robert lives in the burbs north of LA and is repped by James J. Jones at Premier Talent Group.  
[www.imdb.com/name/nm0146304](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0146304)  
 Robert’s email: [sagactor1@aol.com](mailto:sagactor1@aol.com)

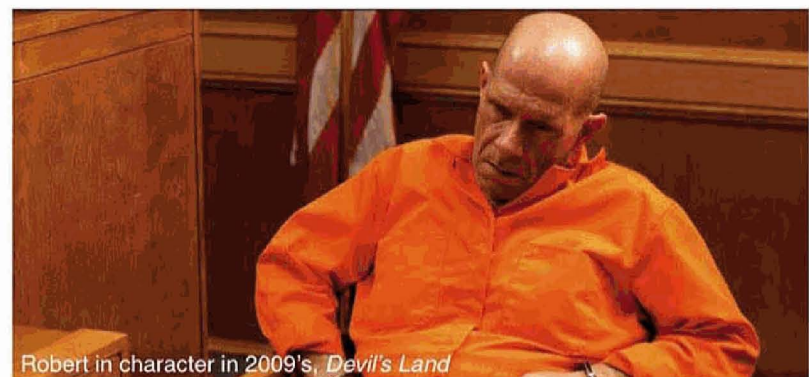
In Barry Stein’s “Rebuilding Bedford-Stuyvesant, Community Economic Development in the Ghetto” he states “The largest ghetto in the country is the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn in New York City”.

Born and raised in Ward 7, all Bobby Catrini wanted to do was get out. “I wasn’t interested in ‘saving’ the neighborhood. I just wanted out.” Oldest of four boys, Robert’s dad died when he was 10 and his mother, Mary, raised her kids mostly by herself and with the ever-watchful help of her mother and two sisters, who lived next door. By his own admission, Rob was definitely no day at the beach for his Mom. After the bell rang at St. Patrick’s Academy, the Catholic Elementary School across the street, the 400-or-so feet to their front stoop was often a long road home.

“I was an Irish-Sicilian street kid in the roughest slum in the country. We did what we had to do. I read a lot; still do. Interested in acting, when I was 16, I read a book about *Stanislavski’s Method* which turned me on to Lee Strasberg.”

“Gilda (Gigi) was and is my mentor. Whatever I had inside, she got out. My first exposure to acting was auditing her class, and I didn’t know what to expect. I figured I’d just sit and watch! She put me up on a dark stage under a spotlight and pushed all the right buttons; I was an emotional mess. When the class ended she came to me, looked me SQUARE in the face and said, ‘If you give this up, you’re a fool.’ That was August, ‘93. In retrospect, I know God was with me from the start. Everything that’s happened since that first class has been incredible!”

Robert’s first audition ever landed him the lead as Petruchio in *TAMING OF THE SHREW*. A dozen leads on stage



Robert in character in 2009’s, *Devil’s Land*

