

Daniel Dae Kim takes control in 'Hawaii Five-O' and beyond

By Lynn Elber
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — Daniel Dae Kim made an impressively smooth transition from a stalwart husband on "Lost" to dashing crime fighter on "Hawaii Five-O."

The actor is not done with transformations. Kim has a big-screen role in *Insurgent*, the sequel to sci-fi drama *Divergent*, which opens this month, and took his first stab at television directing with an episode of the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) police series.

Even more ambitious: He founded a year-old production company to put his stamp on film and television projects, with two pilots under network consideration for the 2015-2016 season.

Acting hasn't lost its allure, said the handsome Kim, who's made the cut on *People* magazine's "Sexiest Men" list. But expanding his role in the industry brings new opportunities that extend beyond deal-making.

Directing, for instance, is "not a means to an end. ... I actually believe it informed my work as an actor a great deal. It's also being part of a creative process from every angle."

He used his time on "Lost," the groundbreaking 2004-2010 American Broadcasting Company (ABC) drama, as a tutorial on the directing craft.



"I shadowed directors on 'Lost,' but it was not the right show for a new director to cut their teeth on, because it was so elaborate and very secretive in a lot of ways. So I just wanted to watch and learn," Kim said.

With the "Hawaii Five-O" series well on its feet in season five, he asked for and was given the chance to get behind the camera. It was a satisfying experience, he said, and one in which he enjoyed the support of his castmates and the crew — aside from a bit of ribbing.

"I fully expected more hazing than I got.

There were a couple of jabs here and there. But none of the, 'I refuse to come out of my trailer,'" he recalled.

Donning a producer's hat has the potential to be even more rewarding. As one of the rare Asian-American actors to play lead roles, Kim said, he is intent on helping other minorities get their own shot.

In Los Angeles to work on postproduction for his "Hawaii Five-O" episode and tend to other projects, Kim was relaxed and thoughtful as he put his success — and his take on the industry — in perspective.

"The fact that I've been able to do two

CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES. Daniel Dae Kim made an impressively smooth transition from a stalwart husband on "Lost" to dashing crime fighter on "Hawaii Five-O." The actor is not done with transformations. Kim has a big-screen role in *Insurgent*, the sequel to sci-fi drama *Divergent*, and took his first stab at television directing with an episode of "Hawaii Five-O." Pictured is Kim as "Jack Kang" in the film *The Divergent Series: Insurgent*, which opens this month. (Photo/Andrew Cooper, courtesy of Lionsgate) shows, back-to-back, is not something every actor gets to say," said Kim, who has lived in Hawaii with his wife, Mia, and their two children since "Lost" filmed there.

But his role in *Insurgent* is because a "young, gifted author (Veronica Roth) had the foresight to write an Asian-American male character in her book. I emphasize that because it doesn't always happen. If it's not part of (the original work), very rarely does it happen" during casting, Kim said.

"These are not complaints; they're more state-of-the-nation comments," he said.

The projects being developed by his company, 3AD, all "feature minority participants at the most fundamental levels, whether as writers or lead actors or creators," Kim said. "I'm not doing this for charity: Everyone is extremely talented, and they're stories that deserve to be told by these people."

Kim, 46, was a year old when his

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