



NIAMH BYRNE talks to David Duchovny about sex, Californication and moving on from Mulder

**G**ROWING up in the '90s, girl's bedrooms across Ireland were plastered with posters of the hottest man in television, the incredibly sexy star of the X-Files, David Duchovny.

His co-star Gillian Anderson was envied by millions as the sexual tension between the two heightened in each episode while they chased aliens together.

However, after wrapping up the sci-fi series in 2002, dreamboat Duchovny disappeared from our screens.

I had a serious teenage crush on the U.F.O hunter, so I was delighted to see his triumphant return in TV3's Californication and even more delighted to get a chance to chat to him about the raunchy new show.

But, as they always say 'you should never meet your idols', while the 47-year-old star was happy to talk about what an amazing "artist" he is, he was not interested in reminiscing about when he was the sexiest FBI agent on TV, totally ignoring how he won his millions of fans in the first place.

In his new series, Duchovny plays Hank Moody - a disillusioned writer who is separated from his long-term love Karen and his daughter Becca, and spends his time drinking, taking drugs and having sex with a procession of different women.

It seems that Duchovny has opted for this character to completely break away from the X-Files.

"Mulder is a character I played once upon a time on television," he snipes, "I've played lots of different characters."

The ageing star may want to be seen in a new light these days, but he isn't too proud to sign up for the multi-million dollar The X-Files 2 movie, due for release next summer.

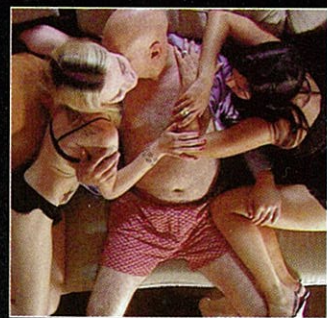
Californication - the first television drama David Duchovny has starred in since The X Files - is so sexy it has already been dubbed The XXX-Files.

The first episode alone features five naked bodies - including Duchovny's - teenage drug use and plenty of bad language.

The actor says he is tired of all the sex hype surrounding the new show, claiming that it was just an early selling point by advertisers.

"In this world of trying to get a foothold with the audience in 10

# I ALWAYS ASK MY WIFE'S OPINION, I NEVER LISTEN TO HER BUT I ALWAYS ASK



SHOW: Despite the sex scenes, Duchovny claims Californication is a family show and (top right) with real wife Tea Leone

FAME: David hit the big time as Agent Mulder in The X-Files

you need to have a bit of a laugh to break the ice if you are getting naked in front of a crew of people.

His character Hank may be in the middle of a life crisis, but Duchovny's family life is surprisingly stable for a Hollywood star.

He and wife, actress Tea Leoni, have two children, Madeline, 8, and Kyd Miller, 5.

"You exist for these kids," he says. "They're more important than you and that's a good thing. It's humbling and wonderful."

Having an actress wife is handy for discussing work.

Duchovny claims Leone almost talked him out of playing Moody as she thought he was unlikable.

"It's comforting actually to check in with her, and I think she would say the same.

"I ask her opinion. I don't listen to her, but I ask her," he says

For now it seems that dishy David Duchovny will again be a fixture on our screens for years to come as Californication has just been signed for a second series.

*Californication is now showing*

seconds I think it's a way to establish how this show is different," he drawls.

"It's not really about a guy who indiscriminately gets into fights, boozes and who has sex with multiple women.

"It's actually about a guy who's doing that because he really wants to be with his family."

It seems David is even too cool for the rock band The Red Hot Chili Peppers, claiming not to know their hit song Californication which shares its name with his show.

"I don't really know the song," he says before going off into a boring tangent about how Californication is actually a term

used to describe the hordes of Californians moving into Oregon...fascinating.

Duchovny believes that the smart writing and the comedic attitude to sex will make Californication a hit.

"People love the smart writing, adults in adult situations, it's not squeamish and not condescending," he says.

"People appreciate comedy and sex that's why Sex And the City was so popular.

"Sex is funny, when you start taking it seriously it's dreadfully boring."

Seeing this as a green light to ask him questions about amusing incidents that may have happened

**'People appreciate the comedy in sex (in film). Sex is funny, when you start taking it seriously it's dreadfully boring'**

during the filming of the sex scenes, Duchovny goes into serious 'artist' mode again.

"As the executive producer, I'm trying to keep funny things from happening and whoever is taking off their clothes won't hear any laughter in the background," he says - very considerate but surely