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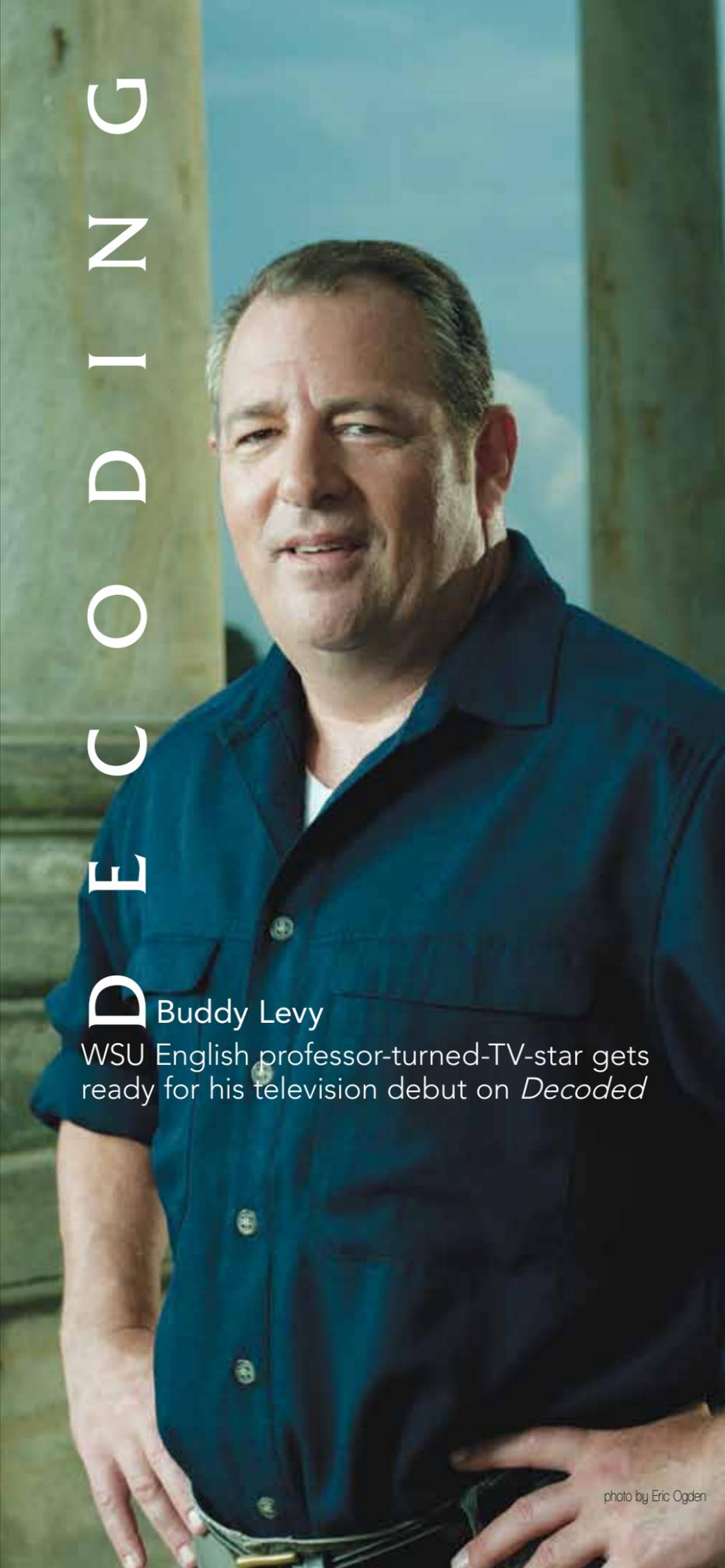
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DECLODING

Buddy Levy

WSU English professor-turned-TV-star gets ready for his television debut on Decoded



First Look

I'VE LIVED IN NORTHERN IDAHO SINCE 1978, and I don't see myself ever leaving for good," says Buddy Levy. "The Inland Northwest has it all as far as I'm concerned—gorgeous lakes and mountains and trout streams and endless cedar forests and cycling that is world class. I like the pace up here, too; you're given the time to stop and smell the cedars."

Levy hasn't had much time to stop and smell the cedars, lately. A North Idaho resident and a professor of English at Washington State University, Levy has a new title to add to his resume: TV star. Beginning Thursday, December 2nd at 10 p.m., television viewers all across America will come to know Levy on Decoded, airing on the HISTORY™ channel. Levy, along with a team of two others, will assist #1 New York Times bestselling author Brad Meltzer in investigating hidden clues, codes and symbols that surround us. "They found me because of the historical books I had written and also because of my background in adventure-based journalism," says Levy of his invitation to be a part of the program. "The blend seemed a good combination for the show, and I hope it turns out that it has been."

Some of the mysteries they will decode include the real story behind the White House cornerstone, one of the first pieces of our democracy, which has been missing for two centuries; and the hidden messages of the Statue of Liberty. As far as Levy's favorite mysteries researched in the 10-part series, "I suppose the two most compelling to me were Meriwether Lewis and what really happened to him during his final days — watch the show to find out!—and the fate of DB Cooper, America's most notorious skyjacker," he says.

Levy was on the road almost non-stop from July 5 to October 31, traveling the country for research and filming of the show. No matter where he went though, his heart was always back home, and now that the filming is complete, he can relax and enjoy some of his favorite local offerings. "In Spokane, I love the events and the traditions like Bloomsday, Get Lit!, the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, Hoopfest and the NCAA tourney. I love Hotel Lusso, the Spokane Club, Luna, the Knitting Factory and Chicken-N-More!"

As he gets back to enjoying all that Spokane has to offer, viewers can settle in to watch our neighbor light up the small screen. "What I'm most excited about with Decoded is seeing the final product and knowing how hard we worked," he says. "And I'm excited for audiences to get to experience first hand, and for the first time, the mysteries we just recently tried to solve, that we just recently lived. What a treat, what an amazing adventure—bringing history to life. I'm really humbled by having been a part of it!"

— Blythe Thimsen

photo by Eric Ogden