



CSI: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION™ DVD GUIDE

DOCUMENTS EXPERT

The CSI lab's Questionable Document Technician, Ronnie Litre, deals with evidence that involves paper, handwriting, ink, and banknotes. We talk to the actor who portrays him on screen, Eric Stonestreet.

Eric Stonestreet is a familiar face on *CSI*. For several seasons now he has become synonymous with the high-tech analysis of document evidence as Ronnie Litre, one of the show's many popular, recurring characters.

Tell us about your acting career to date.

On a dare I auditioned for a play during college and got the smallest part. I did a few more plays and really enjoyed doing the work, so moved to Chicago to study acting and comedy. I stayed there for two years and have been in LA since, working in TV, film and commercials.

How did you get the role of Ronnie Litre?

The casting director for *CSI* had seen me in *Almost Famous* and was kind enough to call me for an audition. I read the scene and proceeded to hit the producers with a stick until they gave me the part. I would not recommend doing that to other actors though – it's a very risky tactic.

What exactly is Ronnie Litre's job at CSI?

Ronnie is one of the QD (Questionable Document) technicians in the lab. His job is to deal with any paper products and maybe handwriting, with respect to the crime being investigated.

Do you get help from real-life CSI's? Yes. The first episode I did, there was a real-life QD guy there who showed me how to use the machine. If you watch that episode (1.18, *\$35K O.B.O.*), the hands you see doing the actual work are his.

Which is your favourite episode and will we be seeing more of Ronnie in the future? I've liked all the episodes I've been a part of. Episode 1.19, *Gentle Gentle*, sticks in my mind because the tone of that show was very serious. Everyone was pretty tense due to the subject matter. With



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In CSI episode 2.10, Ellie, Ronnie Litre helps Sara with her forged bank notes investigation. He points out the virtually invisible security measures and the unique inks used by the mint.

regards to Ronnie coming back, I'm not sure. I keep thinking maybe there will be a 'murder by paper' episode and Ronnie will swoop in and save the day. If I don't make it back, well, I still did 11 episodes of one of the coolest shows ever.

What kind of equipment do you get to use?

I couldn't tell you the names of the equipment, my brain is not that big. But as far as I know, it is all working, real stuff. Using props is definitely one of the coolest things about being an actor.

What's it like working with the stars of CSI? Do you get to hang out with anyone off set?

Everyone is really great and nice. Though I don't hang out with any of the stars of *CSI*, George and I do eat at the same sushi bar.

Can you describe to us what a typical day on set of CSI is like for you? You show up, have breakfast, go to make-up and hair, chill in your trailer, study your lines, wait, have a rehearsal. You shoot the scene in a master shot and then shoot it broken up into medium and close-up shots. But when you work it's very exciting and fun and I always have an 'I can't believe I'm doing this' moment.

And what's next for Eric Stonestreet? I am waiting right now to hear if a pilot I shot will get picked up. Other than that you can just see me here and there in movies, other TV shows and commercials. I have been very blessed and I'm very thankful for the work I have been able to do. What a fun job!