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Peter Arnold makes noise about 'Timber Kings'



By Bill Harris, QMI Agency

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Peter Arnold of 'Timber Kings.'



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Kids with chainsaws. I couldn't believe my eyes and ears.

Those can't be real. The chainsaws, I mean.

"Oh no, those were actual chainsaws," said Peter Arnold of Timber Kings.

"There were a few safety precautions, though. We took the chains off, for one.

"A lot of times it's the noise that matters, right?"

Fair enough, and Timber Kings is continuing to make noise with its second season, debuting Jan. 4 on HGTV.

The series follows the master craftsmen of Pioneer Log Homes in Williams Lake, B.C. – Arnold, Andre Chevigny, Bryan Reid Sr., Bryan Reid Jr., Beat Schwaller and Joel Roorda – as they construct elaborate buildings that are in demand all around the globe.

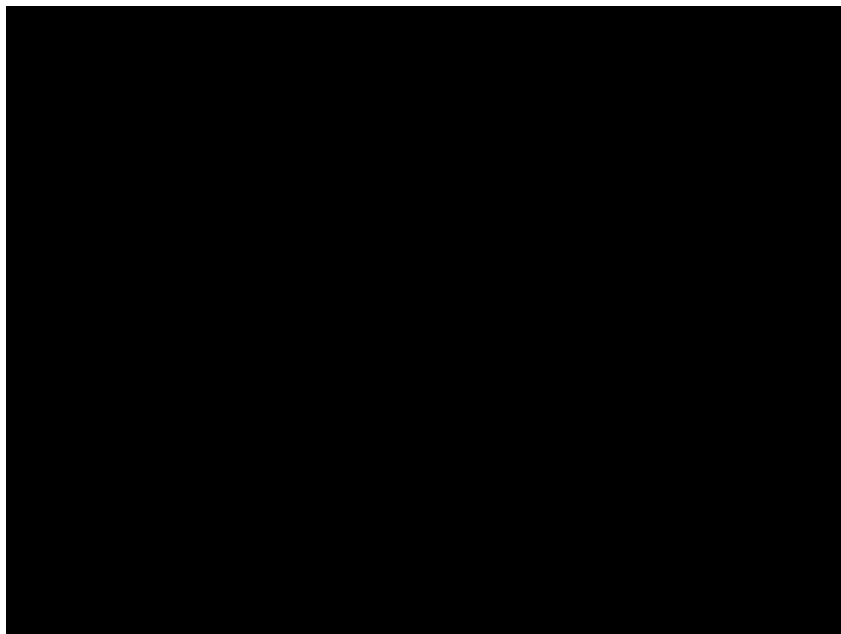
"I have the best job in the world, I get to travel, I get to meet people, I get to work, all at the same time," Arnold said. "And better yet, I get paid for it.

"You know, everyone says they have a dream job, but the only one who really has a dream job is me."

Speaking of dream jobs, it was in the first episode of the second season that the kids with chainsaws appeared. They're some of the children of the workers at Pioneer Log Homes, and they were part of the company's entry in the Williams Lake Stampede parade.

"We fired the chainsaws up for the kids, but the next thing we knew, they shut them off and fired them up again themselves, with smiles on their faces, it was unbelievable," Arnold recalled. "They just loved it.

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"They were really sore afterwards. They were bringing the chainsaws over and saying, 'Peter, I can't carry it any more.' But then it would take about two minutes, and they'd come and get the chainsaws back, because they had seen the reaction of the people."

It was at Arnold's urging that the company entered the parade. He said he always had wanted to do it, long before the cameras arrived and Timber Kings became a TV show.

"The problem always was, in order to be in a parade, you have to be in town,"

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Arnold said. "That weekend is all about Williams Lake and you try to be home, but it doesn't always happen. Sometimes with our schedule it's pretty tough to commit to stuff.

"So we were in the parade, I went home, packed my suitcase, and the next day I was on my way to Newfoundland. But I got one day of Stampede in."

It's evident that Arnold has bonded with Williams Lake, and not just on parade day.

"I grew up in Switzerland and did my apprenticeship there as a carpenter and timber framer," Arnold said. "Then I got the travel bug. One day I came to Williams Lake, I saw the log homes and I said, 'Wow.' So I did everything I could to get a student visa so I could come and work with those guys, and the rest is history.

"I didn't go on television to become a superstar, that's the last thing that was on my mind. I did it for Williams Lake, because I thought, Williams Lake has no idea what those bunch of 'cone-heads' do out beside the highway. They have no idea that we've been around the world, you know?

"So I thought, that's a pretty good gig, to show Williams Lake what Pioneer does. We tried with newspaper articles and stuff, and interviews, or whenever we get an award we try to get out there with what we do, but I still don't think Williams Lake had a good idea. So I thought, 'This is a great opportunity.' I had no clue that the rest of the world would like it, too."

But why wouldn't the rest of the world like Timber Kings? After all, as Peter Arnold said, a lot of times it's the noise that matters.

Heck, the more I think about it, I'd say that's true almost all the time.

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