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TALK OF OUR TOWN

Miami lawyer takes on 'Cold Case'

Tom Schwartz, former general counsel of the Miami Free Zone, is now an actor in L.A. with the stage name Tom Derek. Catch him on *Cold Case* this Sunday. The episode —



DEREK

— "Triple Threat" — airs at 9 p.m. on CBS. Story is about the 1989 murder of "a young Russian opera singer who defected with her family to the U.S. before the Berlin Wall came down," according to a Warner Bros. Television synopsis. Schwartz plays a cranky cop in a flashback scene.

Schwartz, 60, says he caught the acting bug in '85 when he got a bit part on the TV show *Miami Vice*. The following year, he landed a cameo in *Making Mr. Right*, a comedy starring John Malkovich that was shot in South Florida. Schwartz played a news reporter. "I guess that's when I really fell for acting hard."

He later appeared in *Transporter 2*: "I played a homeless man."

Schwartz, born in Czechoslovakia, emigrated as a baby with his parents in '49. He grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, and Detroit. The family moved to Miami Beach in '61, and Schwartz graduated from Beach High in '66. He attended Florida Atlantic University and University of Miami's law school. Sister Margie Blasberg is manager of Washington Mutual's Aventura branch.

Schwartz no longer practices law but remains a member of The Florida Bar.