When Syfy’s hit makeup-competition series FACE OFF returns this week, the judges won’t be the only veteran artists taking part. World-renowned prosthetic illusionist Michael Westmore, whose daughter McKenzie hosts the series, has become a regular mentor to the contestants, and Fango spoke exclusively to the two Westmores about what to expect in FACE OFF’s fourth season.

Having guest-judged in FACE OFF’s first two installments and guest-mentored last season, the elder Westmore—part of a makeup dynasty dating back to Hollywood’s golden age, a four-time Oscar nominee and a winner for MASK and supervisor of 18 years’ worth of STAR TREK aliens—now mentors the contestants each week as they’re whittled down from the starting 14 to the final winner. (For more info on the show and contestants, see the series’ official website. http://www.syfy.com/faceoff) FACE OFF, on which THE HUNGER GAMES’ Ve Neill, CSI: NEW YORK’s Glenn Hetrick and CLOVERFIELD’s Neville Page serve as judges, premieres tonight at 9/8 Central.

FANGORIA: How does Michael’s regular presence make this season of FACE OFF different from previous seasons?

McKENZIE WESTMORE: Well, as opposed to the judges doing walk-throughs of the lab, and perhaps not being able to say so much, my dad is really able to step in and give them advice. It’s almost like a master class in special effects makeup.

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