

Soup for you with 'Soup Nazi' in town

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Actor Larry Thomas may be most famous for his role as the hostile “Soup Nazi” on the TV sitcom Seinfeld, but with his new venture, he is more than happy to serve ‘soup for you.’

On Wednesday Thomas was in Beloit at IPM Foods to shoot footage for The Original Soupman. The clip will air on the television show “Food Factory” later this summer.

“I remember the first time I tasted the soup and it really does make your knees buckle it is so good,” said Thomas. “It’s a natural fit for me to work with the company.”

A camera crew visited the Beloit facility because it packages The Original Soupman soups — heat and serve versions of recipes made famous by Al Yeganeh’s store in New York City — by using Tetra Pak products.

“We really wanted to shoot the episode in Beloit because it is an active location,” said Stacey Bender, public relations coordinator for The Original Soupman Company.

The Original Soupman dates back to 1984 when Yeganeh’s New York City soup kitchen began to draw large crowds. Its soup was so loved that Jerry Seinfeld wrote about it.

Thomas first played the role of a very serious soup slinger on Seinfeld in November 1995. He coined the phrase “No soup for you” and the character became a classic.

“Al’s is a total original with soup, and my portrayal was (original) too,” Thomas said. “Sometimes people think I am Al, and people think Al is really me.”

The Original Soupman soups come in six varieties, including the popular lobster bisque, which is referenced on Seinfeld.



'Soup for you'

Actor Larry Thomas, known for his role as "The Soup Nazi" on Seinfeld, stopped by IPM Foods, a food manufacturer and co-packer in Beloit, to shoot video about The Original Soupman soups on Wednesday. The clip on the soups and factory will air on USA Network's show "Food Factory" this summer.

People also still visit Al's NYC cafe, franchise locations and food trucks to buy the soup.

Making the jump to offering Al's soup in grocery stores across the United States is a natural progression for the company, said Sebby Rametta, founder of the Original Soupman company.

“Without the Tetra Pak packaging technology we wouldn't be able to develop this product for distribution,” Rametta said. “It's all about Al's secret recipes and spice blends, and canning wouldn't work for the product.”

For more information on The Original Soupman, visit www.originalsoupman.com or 'Like' their page on Facebook.