

# Local ‘Leftovers’

**LIFESTYLES** By Dale Roe - American-Statesman Staff

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**Austin actors Katherine Willis and Turk Pipkin appear in HBO’s “The Leftovers.”**

You know what’s bigger in Texas? The universe of HBO’s acclaimed series, “The Leftovers.”



Miracle, Texas — Population: 9,261; Departures: Zero — is the home of a greatly expanded cast, sunny new vistas, and — dare we hope? — glimmers of hope. As a locale where nobody has vanished, Miracle becomes an expensive and difficult-to-penetrate mecca for those who remain.

## Local Talent

It didn’t hurt that Austin has established crew talent and a plethora of actors led by local casting director Beth Sepko.

For her part, Sepko was responsible for casting local actors including Turk Pipkin (“The Sopranos”) and Katherine Willis (“Friday Night Lights,” “The Returned”).

Willis’ character, Loretta Carter, debuted last Sunday. Carter is the mother of one of three local teenage girls who went missing in a previous episode. The role gave Willis the opportunity to act with Regina King and Kevin Carroll, who portray the Murphys.

Her first scenes were shot in June at McKinney Falls, out in the heat with 100 extras. Later scenes were filmed on the square in Lockhart.



“The majority of the crew were Austin crew members, who are basically like family at this point,” she says. “Some of the days were very difficult and there was never any complaining about it.”

Both actors were fans of the series in Season 1, before production moved here. Willis, of course, knows executive producer Peter Berg, with whom she worked on both the “Friday Night Lights” movie and series.

“I always want to follow and support anything that any of that group is doing,” she says. “And the fingerprint of this particular series is so unique.”