

MOONLIGHTING DVDS RELEASED...FINALLY

BY DIANA MAIOCCO

Back in January 2000, the pilot episode of *Moonlighting* was released by Anchor Bay with the expectation that more episodes would follow. When *Moonlighting Strangers* interviewed *Moonlighting* creator Glenn Gordon Caron in August 2002, we posed the question to him about the status of it. He replied "They keep lying to me, telling me there are more coming...and every six months they go 'Yeah in six months' and then nothing happens. So I should give them a call and find out."

Shortly after, I contacted Anchor Bay to find out for myself and I was informed that they no longer held the licensing rights but Buena Vista Home Entertainment did. I immediately contacted them and they informed me that yes, they had the rights but there were no plans to release additional episodes at this time. They said that it was due to the expensive music rights and that over a million units would have to be sold for it to be profitable for them. In 2002, TV shows on DVD were not selling anywhere near that number. However in 2003, that category exploded.

In March 2004, while in Los Angeles conducting interviews for *Moonlighting Strangers*, I had a meeting with Buena Vista Home Entertainment as they were exploring the possibility of releasing *Moonlighting* on DVD. They informed me that they surfed the Internet to see what kind of interest there was in the show and they wanted to meet with me because they were really impressed with the fresh and original content on www.moonlighting21.com, especially the articles and interviews in *Moonlighting Strangers*. After our meeting, they asked me to keep what we discussed confidential, which I did. I continued to have confidential conversations with them about the status of the DVD release, including their decision not to release them after all. However, even though they were not going to distribute the

DVDs, they felt we were an important resource and they strongly recommended us to ABC, who in turn referred us to Disney as a way to keep us in the loop. Disney obviously agreed because when Lions Gate bought the rights, we were connected to them.



January 2005 started out with a bang. I was contacted by David Naylor, who is the producer of the *Moonlighting* DVD extras and commentaries. He rang me up and said that Lions Gate suggested that he call me. He said that he looked at the site and thought the fanzines were "just fantastic." I told him that I was planning to travel to Los Angeles in the beginning of February so could we meet. He then said that he would like to interview me as part of the DVD extras! I said, "Of course!" fully aware at how nervous I would be in front of a camera but I knew that I had to quickly get over it and just do it. You don't get an opportunity like this every day! He asked me if I could round up more people to interview and I said that I would bring some of the ladies on our staff.

I excitedly called everyone with the news and they just couldn't believe it. We immediately made travel plans and we all met up for the first time in Los Angeles (of course Christie, Joy and I know each other pretty well as we all live in NY). But once we came down to earth, we talked about what a fantastic journey we have been on since January 2002, coming together for our love for *Moonlighting* and what we were able to accomplish with 10 issues of *Moonlighting Strangers* promoting the reunion campaign and the release of *Moonlighting* episodes on DVD.

Right before I left for Los Angeles, Lions Gate contacted me because they wanted me to be interviewed by *USA Today* in support of the DVD release. They set it up and they were on the line with me as reporter Mike Snider conducted the interview. I was in Los Angeles when the article came out and I got a 5:30 am phone call from Pam telling me to run out and get the paper! She also excitedly told me that www.moonlighting21.com was profiled on the local morning news, WUSA, Channel 9 in Washington DC in connection with the *USA Today* article. More press followed in April as I was interviewed by reporter Elaine Dutka from the *LA Times* for her story on fans influence on getting DVDs released.

In our interviews, we consistently asked everyone the question that if additional DVDs were released, would they consider providing commentary and they all replied positively. As you will see on the DVD extras, practically everyone we have interviewed participated. We made a lot of new friends along the way and we feel privileged to be featured with them on the DVDs. We also want to take this opportunity to say thank you for all the support we received from the cast and crew of *Moonlighting*, as well as from *Moonlighting* fans around the world.