



Allyce & Christie

been through to get to where we were. Starting the campaign against all odds, the fanzine, the LA trip, our working with Lions Gate, our DVD commentary, and now meeting Miss Dipesto. It would put permanent smiles on our faces and create pleasant dreams for the rest of the night. What a fitting way to end our trip together.

~~ Joy ~~



People talk about having Hollywood dreams. Most of the week I spent in LA indeed felt like a dream. Perfect weather, perfect scenery, the perfect way to spend time with a special group of people bonded together because of one 80's prime time show. The only day of the week that didn't feel like a dream was the day we did our DVD commentaries. It rained all day and, on the surface, it was inconvenient and drabby. Yet on a deeper level, the rain made the experience real. The raindrops were as important as the workers who sat behind their desks in the Blue Moon Detective Agency. In other words, the wet ambiance turned out to be an extra in an unforgettable production.

The moment Diana told David Naylor's staff that we were meeting Allyce Beasley for dinner, it moved the idea from abstract to reality. It also legitimized our presence. It made me feel as if we actually belonged. We left the production office and drove to the famed Mexican restaurant, El Coyote. The six of us entered the cozy establishment and sat in

a booth on the left side in the back. We waited for about fifteen minutes when one of us announced Allyce's arrival. We all turned and she looked exactly the same as she did during *Moonlighting*. We greeted her and her husband Jim as they took their seats. Allyce sat across the table from me as Jim sat at my right.

Soon after they settled in, the conversation began. We all took turns talking with Allyce and I also enjoyed talking to Jim. I told him about my idea for the fanzine and other topics. He was easy to talk to and funny.

The highlight of the evening was Allyce wanting to know our story. We told her the good, the bad and the ugly. Joy spearheaded the discussion. Diana and I sprinkled in our perspectives. The more the story was revealed, the more Allyce wanted to hear it. Our account of our journey was as interesting to her as the behind the scenes stories she told us. Some were amazing. Others were shocking. But none of them will be repeated. To alter the now overused phrase of the year, "What happens in El Coyote, stays in El Coyote." What surprised me the most was Jim offering us dessert and then paying for the dinner. We never expected it and were truly grateful for his and Allyce's generosity.

Soon after we unloaded our story, it was time to leave. However, we had to take a few pictures before we left. This was extremely generous of Allyce and Jim. We've already spent hours talking, laughing and eating and now they were taking more time out, what I knew was a demanding schedule, to take pictures. It must have been at least twenty minutes of

picture taking. Many of us had cameras. Not only did Allyce take several group shots, she also took photos with us individually. Jim helped shoot some pictures and took some as well.

Once we began to leave the restaurant, we were shocked to see wall-to-wall people waiting to be seated. We squeezed through the crowd towards the exit, but our night didn't end there. Even though we finished our dinner, the conversation continued. We stood around Allyce underneath the canopy and proceeded to talk until our minivan was retrieved from valet parking. During the conversation, I couldn't help but mentally survey my surroundings. While the restaurant's PA system screamed the next party of four in my ear and the rain kept falling with a hint of chill in the evening air, I thought to myself, "I'm actually outside, in the rain, talking to Allyce. The same woman I watched on TV as a teenager." The night finally ended once we stepped inside the minivan, but not until Allyce hugged and kissed each one of us on the cheek. She and Jim waved to us and we waved back as we started on our way back to the hotel. The six of us sat in our seats in awe. It was the perfect ending to a not-so-perfect day. Yet to me, the rain just made a memorable dream into an unforgettable reality.

~~ Christie ~~



After our DVD on-camera interview, we were all looking forward to relax and unwind, especially as we made



Allyce & Diana



plans to have dinner with Miss Dipesto herself, Allyce Beasley and her husband Jim. I called Allyce when we were done filming and told her where we were. She suggested that we meet at the famed El Coyote restaurant, which was nearby. I told her I always wanted to check it out and we would indeed meet her and Jim there.

We arrived about a half hour before them, perfect for us to order margaritas, unwind and decompress. We toasted and talked non-stop about how unbelievable the last few days have been, as well as celebrated the fact that we survived being filmed. It was also the staff's last night in LA, although I was staying behind for another week (you can read what that was like on page 37). Joy was filming each and every one of us on Michelle's video camera for posterity, asking us questions about what we were feeling and our thoughts about what the last few days have been like.

Then I spotted Allyce enter the restaurant, with her husband Jim right behind

her. She had on the cutest little knitted cap and the biggest smile, waving to us just like Miss Dipesto. I have had the opportunity to speak to Allyce numerous times before we met at the restaurant so it was a kick for me to see the ladies react to her and she to them. It felt like a family reunion of sorts.

After we all settled in and ordered, Allyce shared some behind-the-scenes *Moonlighting* stories with us and we recounted how we all came together to work on the fanzine and why it was started in the first place. She told us that she was very impressed with what we have accomplished and very moved by our efforts to keep the show alive. We told her it was hard work but a labor of love and we never would have dreamed that it would ultimately lead

us to being featured on the bonus extras of Seasons 1 and 2 of *Moonlighting*. But then, when I think about all the hours, energy, and money we put into producing each and every issue of *Moonlighting Strangers*, being featured on the DVD is a way of us being acknowledged and appreciated for it.

~~ Diana ~~



Allyce & her husband Jim

