

FANS SPEAK TO . . . ALLAN ARKUSH

It's time again for us to show our appreciation to a director who captured the most memorable love scenes shown on network television.

Dear Allan,

You directed some of the most emotionally charged and dramatic episodes of the series beginning with *I Am Curious...Maddie* where David and Maddie finally consummated their relationship. After that there was no turning back and we the audience were shown a side to these characters that made them even more human by exposing their flaws. Of course, I loved the passion of *I Am Curious...* but I also loved it when David proclaimed his love for Maddie in front of the employees in *A Trip To The Moon* while Maddie wanted to know "where their relationship is going." When Maddie was in Chicago, you were able to explore her relationship with her parents (the legendary Eva Marie Saint and the wonderful late Robert Webber). It was so ironic that a woman of the world like Maddie ran home to her parents because she was confused about her pregnancy and she needed to feel protected and loved unconditionally. In between the heavy dramatic moments, you orchestrated some lighter ones like the musical chain gang number and ABC's open audition to find a new David Addison since the original one was MIA in *Cool Hand Dave*. But two of my favorite dramatic episodes you directed were *Father Knows Last* and *Fetal Attraction*. I

really feel those two episodes featured electric performances by Bruce. David's speech to Mr. Hayes in the airplane (*Father Knows Last*) and the last scene in *Fetal Attraction* where David confesses to Terry (Brooke Adams) that he may be developing feelings for her too while Maddie was "cooling her jets" in Chicago were so moving.

Thank you, Allan, for all of your contributions and for divulging some surprising information that will have me watching some of these episodes more closely than I ever thought possible.

Diana Maiocco

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Dear Allan,

Thank you so much for doing an interview with for the fanzine. Since I love all the episodes that you directed, it's nearly impossible for me to decide which one is my favorite, so I'll just name a few. The first one you directed, *Funeral For A Doornail* is one of the funniest episodes of the whole show. I especially love the opening scene where Maddie asks David to go to a wedding, then they keep the client waiting while they argue, "Not now, we're fighting." Another great one is *The Son Also Rises*, which I wrote an article about in

this issue. What a great mix of comedy, drama, and romance, especially with the dancing at the end. Of course, two other fan favorites are *Maddie's Turn to Cry* and *I Am Curious... Maddie*. Both of these were so great in bringing Maddie and David's relationship to the boiling point. Two scenes especially stand out for me. From *Maddie's Turn to Cry*, the scene where they sit on the trunk together is one of the sweetest of whole series. And, of course, from *I Am Curious... Maddie*, the "Big Bang" scene ending with *Be My Baby* is one of the most sexiest, most passionate scenes I've ever seen on the screen. Another of my favorite episodes is *A Trip to the Moon* with its dramatic scenes mixed with funny lines (like the Primo Thrashing at Maddie's house) and later in the office with David racing out (YES... I... AM!!) to declare his love for Maddie in front of the whole office. And that Laundromat scene just melts my heart. What I also especially love in so many of these episodes is the body language, expressions, and camera angles that compliment the dialogue so well. Thanks again for the interview, and for so many great episodes.

Pam Hardin

Dear Allan:

As an ML fan back in the day, I awaited anxiously for the BIG moment and when it came in the form of THE BIG BANG / I AM CURIOUS...MADDIE, I was in heaven. What a great episode! It had one of the most passionate love scenes I've ever seen in movies or TV. It's hard for any episode to live up to the hype that one had, but I doubt you'll find any ML fan who will say they didn't love that episode. Thanks for a great episode!

Gena

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I love these two episodes – *Maddie's Turn To Cry* & *Come Back Little Shiksa* – A LOT!!!

The scene I love the best (in *Come Back Little Shiksa*) is when Maddie turns David into a toad. In *Maddie's Turn to Cry*, I love when they both kiss. I hope to see them all back soon. It was a GREAT show!!!!

Myrna

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Dear Allan:

*The Son Also Rises* is one episode that I always hold dear to me. It has just the right amount of drama and comedy that makes it a not-very-stressful ML to watch when I just want a good story. It was a great way to begin the 3rd season. Everyone looked great and it had a little foreshadowing that this would be the best season. The part that sent me over the edge was the end when they are dancing to Anita

Baker's, *Sweet Love*. I love that song and she is one of my favorite singers. Great song selection. You also directed my favorite scene in the whole series – the trunk scene in *Maddie's Turn to Cry*. I can't tell you how much I love that scene. I could go on forever about that scene. You basically condensed their whole relationship into 3 minutes – great job!

Kelli

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Hello Mr. Arkush!

Moonlighting is my favorite television show and the episodes you directed are some of my favorites. Thank you for your part in creating such wonderful television.

Amber

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Dear Allan Arkush,

Thank you for bringing us some of the most tender and romantic moments of *Moonlighting*! *Maddie's Turn to Cry* shows us a different and more emotional side of Maddie and David. It gives us a hint at the deep and true feelings between them.

The undisputed highlight of the relationship between the two is *I Am Curious... Maddie*. When a lot of love scenes are awkward, your directing has Cybill Shepherd and Bruce Willis act naturally. It is evident how much fun they had filming your scenes.

Keep on entertaining us!

Monika

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The episodes of *Moonlighting* directed by you were really some of the best! *I Am Curious ... Maddie*, well, that goes without saying. And David pouring his heart out to Alexander Hayes in *Father Knows Last* still brings tears to my eyes! Not to mention the very enjoyable Gilbert & Sullivan inspired number in *Cool Hand Dave*. That was just one of many instances where *Moonlighting* placed itself above any show on television by doing things a little differently and doing it well. You should be very proud!

Michelle Krueger

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Dear Mr. Arkush,

First, I want to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to share with us your memories about *Moonlighting*. I love many of the episodes you directed. I'd like to highlight a particular episode some fans overlook, *Maddie's Turn To Cry*. It's easy to understand why this episode is not talked about as much, the next episode featured Maddie and David's much anticipated love scene. However, *Maddie's Turn To Cry* is the most important episode of the Sam arc. It demands the audience to pay close attention, not to the dialogue, but to the body language because of the subtle clues Maddie gives away to show how she really feels about Sam and David.

The best example of subtlety is in the scene where Sam stops by the Blue Moon office, obviously to check up on Maddie. As she comes through the door, she stops short

and looks at Sam as if to say, "What the hell are you doing here?" Moments later, Maddie stands between David and Sam, her reaction to the two men tells the audience who she really wants to be with. When she turns to David she has a big smile, when she turns to Sam, it disappears. The subtlety continues in her office. While Maddie kisses Sam, she doesn't touch him at all. She still holds on to her purse, which is in between them, almost like a wall. She then goes over to her desk, leans backward, not forward to Sam. She also plants her hands firmly to her desk. Compare the way she kisses David. She holds him close to her. Maddie's hands roam all over his face, his neck and his hair. She's very touchy-feely – the exact opposite of the way she interacts with Sam.

This episode is an excellent example of what many television shows can't do or are not able to do. *Maddie's Turn To Cry* really underscores the importance of non-verbal communication.

I have also enjoyed other shows you worked on before and after *Moonlighting*. I loved watching *Fame*, *L.A. Law*, and *Ally McBeal*. The main reason why I loved *Ally McBeal* is because it reminded me

of *Moonlighting*. It was an offbeat, hour-long comedy, which had its own quirky universe and used a lot of music, yet it used these devices in a different way. I also thought the Robert Downey Jr. character and Ally were similar to David and Maddie (but no one has come close to the on-screen chemistry Bruce and Cybill had). I also enjoy the current show you are producing, *Crossing Jordan*. I really like the snappy dialogue and the characters are interesting to watch.

Thank you again for agreeing to do the interview for the fanzine. I wish you much continued success.

Sincerely,

Christie

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Dear Mr. Arkush,

I want to thank you for contributing your talent to *Moonlighting* and for granting the fanzine an interview. You directed my favorite episode, *I Am Curious...Maddie*, among others. A great episode that leads to one of the all time most powerful love scenes ever seen. For three years the fans waited to see Maddie and David get together and it was not disappointing, to say the least. With the Ronettes singing *Be My*

Baby in the background, Maddie and David kiss and embrace each other wildly before dropping down towards the ground. The dramatic scene of David breaking Maddie's coffee table and everything on it symbolizes to me that the walls are coming down between them. The kissing and rolling around on the floor which eventually leads them to the bed is so sexy it is almost too much for television. Thank you for directing one of the most passionate love scenes of all time.

Joy Chodan

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My favorite Arkush episodes are...

*Funeral For A Doornail* – Maddie and David visit a porn shop...that just has to be funny.

*I Am Curious...Maddie* – Why do I, along with most every other fan, like this episode? Well...DUH!

*Plastic Fantastic Lovers* – This has always been one of my favorites because it brought back the silliness and playfulness of Maddie and David like the body part fight. The "almost" kiss at the end always leaves you hanging.

Suzanne Robbert

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