

FANS SPEAK TO . . . JEFF RENO & RON OSBORN

It's time for us fans to show our appreciation to the writing team who exposed Shakespeare and made it accessible to the masses.

Dear Jeff and Ron:

First, thank you for your interview with the fanzine. It was great hearing about your experiences working on *Moonlighting*. I believe what made the show so great was the vision of Glenn Caron, along with the chemistry between Bruce and Cybill and the fantastic writing. You two wrote many wonderful episodes that shaped these characters and gave the show much of its distinctive style. I loved them all, but I'll just mention a few.

Knowing Her was wonderful because it showed a jealous side of Maddie that she would never admit. It also showed a more vulnerable side of David, and how he'd been hurt by women in his past. I also loved the great banter as in the exchange ending with "A gnat with a lobotomy could fool you!" And the chase scene in the hearse was wonderful!

Witness for the Execution illustrated exactly what I loved about *Moonlighting*. It started with some great comedy in the office, with David typically hung over, but moves to a serious story that showed off both Bruce and Cybill's dramatic abilities really

well. And, of course, I loved their first kiss in the parking garage, especially because it was so unexpected. It was also typical that afterwards they both denied that it had ever happened.

Funeral for a Doornail has one of my favorite opening scenes in the office with Maddie asking David to take her to a wedding. I love how David suggests that they consider it a business arrangement, and then wants to charge her what she considers to be an outrageous amount. I also love the trip to the porno store where Maddie asks, "What usually goes on in here?" To which David responds, "What, pray tell, makes you think I would know?" After a look from Maddie, he continues, "Okay. What, pray tell, makes you think I would tell you?"

Maddie's Turn to Cry was a very sweet episode where we got to see through Maddie's normal cool personality. It showed the conflict she was feeling brilliantly through both the dialogue and body language between the characters. Again, it had a delicate balance between a dramatic story mixed with great comedy as with the *Dating Game* scene in the van,

and the hysterical "McClafferty pictures." The trunk scene where Maddie and David kiss is one of my favorites of the whole series.

And, of course, *Atomic Shakespeare*. Absolutely brilliant! Enough said. (Actually, I have a lot more to say in my article in this issue!)

As I say, I love them all. Thanks again for you sharing your memories of the show with us.

Pam Hardin

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*Witness for the Execution* is one of the best episodes of *Moonlighting*. The story is brilliant and Maddie and David's first kiss couldn't have been done better! Your immense writing talent is one of the main reasons why *Moonlighting* is the best television series ever. Thank you for sharing your gifts.

Michelle Krueger

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My favorite was when Sam came to visit and Maddie and David made love (*I am Curious... Maddie*). I also loved *Blonde on Blonde*, *Maddie's Turn to Cry*, and *Sam & Dave*. I hope that it comes back

on for real. I truly loved that show. I also loved *Big Man on Mulberry Street*. Hope to see it soon.

Thanks,

Myrna Tinoco

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*Atomic Shakespeare* was brilliant. It really helped me understand and appreciate Shakespeare – better than any teacher could have. And the tension between Maddie and David in that episode was priceless!

Gena

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Looks like they like each other again! I think they love each other. (on the 'Big Bang' scene from *I am Curious... Maddie*)

Ashley, age 6

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This fanzine is a wonderful opportunity to write about how *Moonlighting* is simply the best. Will Mackenzie, Jeff Reno, and Ron Osborn helped to create some of my favorite episodes.

In *My Fair David* (when Maddie bets David he can't act mature), the action in David's office is like a dance. In this one scene their moods are up and down, so they move all about. They are at the door, sitting on the couch, jumping up from a chair, crossing back and forth... I love the choreography.

In *Knowing Her*, Maddie and David's scene when they are talking at the same time is great. If the two people talking to each other are having their own little conversations, is that still a dialogue? This is why I love this scene. They are having two completely different conversations, not hearing a word the other is saying. It's like they are thinking out loud, speaking so that the audience knows their feelings. It was very creative and wonderfully written.

The direction and scripts for these two episodes are just two small examples of how great I think Mackenzie's, Reno's, and Osborn's work really plays. Thank you, for all your hard work!

Suzanne Robbert

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Dear Jeff and Ron,

Both of you wrote some of my favorite episodes of *Moonlighting* and I want to let you know why they were:

Knowing Her: I loved this episode because it showed a vulnerable side to David as well as the jealous side to Maddie when Gillian, David's ex-girlfriend comes into the picture. I loved the scene where David rendezvous with Gillian in the park in the middle of the night and you get a glimpse of his romantic side. I loved the stand off between David and Maddie outside the church where Maddie tells David that

Harlan, Gillian's estranged hubby, was already dead when Gillian shot him again. But the scene I really loved was at the end of the episode where David wrote a note to Maddie, accompanied by a red rose, saying that sometimes he is an "idiot." That scene was memorable for me because I was able to compare Bruce's handwriting to a black and white head shot he mailed to me and I was able to confirm that the handwriting was authentic!

The Bride of Tupperman: Probably the funniest *Moonlighting* episode. This episode magnifies Maddie's and David's views on that four letter word L-O-V-E. Of course they differ on what the necessary ingredients are but that is why this episode is so much fun! It was also the first time David broke the fourth wall by looking into the camera and saying to the audience that Alan Tupperman was "The biggest bigamist in bigamy history. Try saying that fast three times." I also loved the line where David says to Maddie "Miss made-a-million-bucks-off-my-physical-beauty-but-not-a-dime-off-my-emotional-substance Hayes."

Witness for the Execution: A milestone episode where David and Maddie passionately kiss and it was not a dream sequence! This episode was also more serious because it examined euthanasia and how David and Maddie viewed it. Loved David coming to Maddie's room in the middle

of the night when he thought he actually killed Mr. Everett. It was a great dramatic scene for both Bruce and Cybill. But I really enjoyed the end when David is shaving in his office bathroom and Maddie comes in to talk about the "kiss in the garage." They were feeling each other out but neither one would admit what the kiss really meant. Great scene and great chemistry between the two actors and one I'm sure that fans play over and over again on the VCR.

Atomic Shakespeare: A masterpiece and one of the top three fan favorites (along with *The Dream Sequence Always Rings Twice* and *Big Man on Mulberry Street*). To tell you the truth, I'm not big on Shakespeare but I really enjoyed this and I can only imagine how this version opened up a lot of people to the Bard's work. From beginning to end it was a blast. From the opening with Petruchio coming to Padua on his white horse wearing Ray-ban sunglasses and BMW logo on the saddle to the reading of the "syndication rights" (oops, wrong scroll) to Petruchio trying to woo the fair Kate with kindness to their marriage with Petruchio singing *Good Lovin.* Loved the Looney Toons and Honeymooner references and Sterling Holloway's narration. What an innovative and gutsy episode by writing it completely in iambic pentameter!

Thank you so much for granting *Moonlighting Strangers* an inter-

view. It was so great for me to meet and talk with both of you!!!

Diana

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Dear Mr. Osborn and Mr. Reno,

I think *Atomic Shakespeare* is one of the most hilarious episodes of the show. There is so much sexual innuendo and sight gags such as the BMW emblem and sun glasses on Petruchio's horse and the signs throughout the episode such as "No suitors allowed" and "In Case of Shrew, Break Glass." Some of my favorite lines are "But tryest to plow this acre and thy blade may get broken," "Such a man come only once in a blue moon," "You're the only man I know who suffers from pianist envy," and "Yay, we are married merrily. At first warily and unfortunately quite sterily." I also think another great factor about this episode is the fact that Kate and Petruchio get married. We get some idea of what it may have been like to see Maddie and David married as newlyweds. I think it was very clever that Kate and Petruchio's house is Maddie and David's office. David's office is the master bedroom. The ending is very sweet and adds a twist to a classic Shakespeare play.

Joy Chodan

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I loved *Atomic Shakespeare* because in a certain way it sums

up the problem with David and Maddie. At the beginning of the show, he's not in love with her (or at least it doesn't seem to be "love"). They work together, he tries to make a good impression and with time, he starts falling in love but decides to "wait and see." Before the end of the 3rd season, he shows her many times that he does care but seems to be a trifle reluctant to "make the big step" (like we say in Italian). Maybe because he sees her like a very proud woman, determined and sure of what she wants and what she doesn't want, or should I say "sure of the man she wants." In *Atomic Shakespeare*, he marries this wonderful woman, but with a horrible personality. And he waits...just like David. He tries to make her understand he does care, but without telling her clearly that he ended by truly loving her. Besides that, the setting is great! And all the clothes. And the scene in the church, well, no comment! That's what I think about the episode.

Baci

Sara (from Italy)

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Dear Mr. Reno and Mr. Osborn,

I am so thrilled you enjoy our fanzine and agreed to talk to us about your experiences on *Moonlighting*. When I first saw *Atomic Shakespeare*, I was blown away with seeing a (then) modern 80's show transform into 16th

century dialogue, clothes and behavior. It also told me, once again, how daring and special *Moonlighting* really is. To risk a ratings share to possibly introduce Shakespeare in primetime is a ballsy thing to do. It also demonstrates how the show respected the intelligence of its viewers. It didn't dumb down to the lowest common denominator; it cleverly made the viewers rise to the show's standards in a fun, non-preachy way – the fun way.

The episode reminds me of the Mel Brooks movie, *History of the World, Part I*. The episode matches the whimsical, parody style the movie introduced six-years earlier. *Atomic Shakespeare* also provided, in one episode, what Maddie and David's relationship was supposed to be. They were supposed to end up together at the end of the series.

I also love *Knowing Her*. It was the first inkling of how Maddie feels about David. We also get a better understanding of why David is afraid of long term relationships. Jillian left him simply because he couldn't provide the finer things in life – how shallow. *Witness for the Execution*, is another favorite. When I first thought the reason why Maddie loved Mondays so much is because she loves to put her nose to the grindstone. After viewing the episode many times, it dawned on me that the real reason is because she sees David again after her lonely weekends. It's apparent after David describes how he "hit it a little hard" in Vegas, he and Maddie didn't spend any time together dur-

ing the weekend. Therefore, Maddie sings, *Monday, Monday*, in anticipation to see David. And who can gloss over mentioning their first kiss – their first **real** kiss. It's such a great scene. It truly satisfied the fans' appetite.

I want to take this chance to tell you how much I enjoyed your work on *Night Court*, and another romantic comedy series, *Cupid*. ABC should have given that show at least another year. I also enjoy watching your most recent work, *She Spies*. It has the same "we don't take ourselves seriously" attitude that *Moonlighting* had.

Thank you again for taking time out of your busy schedules to talk to us.

Christie Taylor

Dear Jeff and Ron,

I love your work you two did for my favorite show of all time. I thought you were robbed when you guys didn't win the Emmy. *Atomic Shakespeare* was, and still is, far above all the other shows, bar none. I will always remember Kate holding Petruchio at the end when she kissed him. I was surprised because it's usually what a man does to a woman. I was an appropriate statement for the 80's. Other episodes I can't get enough of are: *The Son Also Rises*, *The Bride of Tupperman*, and *Witness For The Execution*.

Thank you so much.

Shelley

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Ron and Jeff,

Of course, *Atomic Shakespeare* is my absolute favorite. However, I also love some of the other episodes you guys had written. Clearly, your involvement in the "Sam Arc" was great. *The Bride of Tupperman* was so good because I liked how David and Maddie searched for what they thought were the most important attributes in a woman. I know this isn't a fan favorite but, *Here's Living With You, Kid* was great, too. I loved the *Casablanca* parody the best. Thank you both for making me never miss a *Moonlighting* episode, even the re-runs.

Teresa

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Jeff and Ron created what are my two favorite scenes in the series. They are the final scene in "The Son Also Rises" and the "I hate you" scene in "Maddie's Turn To Cry". I love watching these scenes because it really shows how great these two people act together--how they bring out the best and worst in each other. "Sweet Love" by Anita Baker is one of my all-time favorite songs (next to "Moonlighting" by Al Jarreau) even before I saw this scene for the first time. I don't think you could have picked a better song. The "I hate you" scene just gets to me every time. And the kiss, don't get me started--it is hands down the best kiss in the series!

Kelli