

FANS SPEAK TO . . . WILL MACKENZIE

It's time to show our gratitude to the director who gave millions of viewers Shakespeare and a free Limbo lesson.

Dear Will:

Thank you for your interview with the fanzine. You directed some of my favorite episodes of *Moonlighting*. Each of them has some memorable parts for me.

Atomic Shakespeare was just wonderful, not just for the script, but also for the expressions and gestures that added so much to the dialogue. You really have to watch this episode closely to appreciate all the subtleties. I loved so many parts of it that I can't name them all. It was wonderfully done from beginning to end.

My Fair David is one of my all time favorites. Of course, David's limbo scene is classic. But the scene where is Maddie telling a joke after Agnes accused her of "de-Dave-ing" David is also great. One of my favorite scenes in the whole series is in David's office when they raise the stakes on their bet, and David says, "Oh, how childish and immature, Ms. Hayes. Everything to you is just sex, sex, sex." Not only is it a great exchange, but the way David has Maddie pinned up against the wall makes the whole thing even better. This episode is one of the funniest of the whole series.

In *The Bride of Tupperman*, I love when David and Maddie try to go out on a date and, as usual, can't agree on where to go. It had great banter between them about relationships between men and women. The episode has some great *Moonlighting* standards like David getting into a locked door, and also one of their famous car scenes discussing Tupperman's list of requirements in a wife. I also love that the episode has just a touch of romance when David kisses Maddie's hand.

The part of *In God We Strongly Suspect* that I love most is the exchange about the "flying fig" where Maddie and David are nose to nose over her desk and then look directly in the camera and speak to the audience. Again, this episode has some great banter and classic lines. One of my favorites is "Believe me, if and when I ever find myself over you, the last thing I'll be thinking about is sleep."

Thanks for giving us so many great episodes!

Pam Hardin

My Fair David is amazing! There

are so many classic David Addison moments in that episode and Maddie says so much about her feelings for David without actually speaking. And both of them play off of each other perfectly. Mr. Mackenzie, you should be extremely proud of the work you've done on *Moonlighting*. Thank you for sharing it with us and thank you for the wonderful interview.

Michelle Krueger

I loved *My Fair David*. Great show!

Thanks,

Myrna Tinoco

Dear Will,

The four episodes of *Moonlighting* that you directed are among the funniest in the entire series. Your background in theater, acting and directing television sitcoms enabled you to bring a unique perspective in directing some of the most outlandish scenes, which I would like to highlight:

My Fair David: Maddie walking

on David as he is leading the office staff in a Limbo contest. For me, this is a defining moment for David Addison and one of the most memorable. Who can forget David standing on the desk with his Ray-bans on singing Chubby Checker's *Limbo Rock* into a spent roll of toilet paper?

The Bride of Tupperman: The rivalry between Maddie and David as they look for the perfect woman for Alan Tupperman is hilarious. I especially like the scene when they each present their "find" to each other. For David, it's "Stevie" who is so magnificent that one has to view her as though they were looking at a solar eclipse (pinprick through a sheet of paper) and Molly, who Maddie thinks is perfect because of the interesting food items in her basket at the check-out line. The way they react to each other's choice is just too funny.

In God We Strongly Suspect: I really love the opening when David and Maddie tell the viewers that this episode was shot in 3D but unfortunately the US Postal Service did not mail out the 3D glasses out in time. I also liked the scene where David surprises Maddie by singing the Beatles classic "Birthday" to her, but with a "blues" touch.

Atomic Shakespeare: A masterpiece! Loved Petruchio chasing after Kate around the piano, punctuated with some really funny sound effects. You also did a great

job in directing the "music video" where Petruchio sings *Good Lovin'* in the church before he weds his fair Katarina. I especially loved the overlapping dialogue when Petruchio and Kate are arguing over who is really the "king" in their relationship. But the classic line for me is when Katarina yells "Goest thou to Hell!" I've used that line from time to time!

Thank you for sharing your memories with us fans.

Diana Maiocco

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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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Uh-oh! Maddie's going to be mad! David is so silly! I love them. (on the 'limbo' scene from *My Fair David*)

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 Mr. Mackenzie,

This was probably one of the most challenging episodes to direct. Whenever you're updating a classic, it is always a difficult project. There was a lot of physical comedy in this episode such as Petruchio chasing Kate, the both of them falling down the stairs, Kate trying to hit Petruchio by throwing vases and Petruchio carrying in

Kate off to his place over his shoulders. For physical comedy to work, the timing has to be perfect and there was nothing less in this episode. Everyone did such a great and wonderful job with this episode. The costumes and sets were great as well. This episode will be remembered for a long time to come!

Joy Chodan

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Dear Mr. Mackenzie,

Thank you for directing such a great episode. *Atomic Shakespeare* does what many shows try to do when they parody a great film, play or historical event. These same shows haven't attempted to touch Shakespeare because frankly, they wouldn't know how to handle parodying any Shakespearean piece outside of a modernized version of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Another episode I really like is *My Fair David*. Seeing David on top of that desk, singing *Limbo Rock*, was a great demonstration of the essence of his personality. I'm sure a lot of people wished they had the type of boss David was. Being "Blue Moon's Social Director," as Maddie put it, is not a bad idea. Even Maddie couldn't take the new David for an entire episode. She concludes he's much better being his mischievous, fun-loving self and learns to live with his aberrant behavior.

*In God We Strongly Suspect*, is also a very good episode. The best scenes are when Maddie and David babysit the corpse and when they discuss why Maddie doesn't believe in God and the last scene.

I also remember (in re-runs) your work as an actor on *The Bob Newhart Show*. I'm currently enjoying your latest work on the NBC sitcom *Scrubs*. Thank you again for taking the time to share your *Moonlighting* memories with us.

Christie Taylor

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Dear Will,

Atomic Shakespeare and *In God We Strongly Suspect* are my favorite episodes you directed. The best scene in *Atomic* is when Petruchio brings Kate to his home (it looks a lot like the Blue Moon office) and they argue about the sun and the moon. And the best scene in *In God We Strongly Suspect* is the last scene. The looks David and Maddie give each other should have melted my TV screen. Wow! I kept asking myself, "Why didn't Maddie leave with David when she had the chance?" Then I'd say, "Oh, well. I'll have to wait for next episode," when the credits rolled.

Thank you.

Shelley

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Will Mackenzie,

I will never forget the great episodes you've directed for *Moonlighting*. *Atomic Shakespeare*, is my absolute favorite. *The Taming of The Shrew*, is one of my favorite Shakespeare plays. I was afraid *Moonlighting* was going to make it look silly. I was so glad I was wrong. I like *My Fair David*, because it shows David can act serious if he wants to be. Thank you making Tuesday nights a great night for watching TV.

Teresa

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One of my first memories of being totally obsessed with *Moonlighting* was the Friday that *Atomic Shakespeare* first aired on Bravo. It was also my first run on the series so I taped it because I was leaving for a dance at my school about half way through the episode and I didn't want to miss the ending. Well, let's just say that I was late for the dance because I didn't leave my sofa until the show was over and I watched over and over during the weekend (I literally watched, rewind, watched, rewind, and on, and on, and on). It was great that it showed Maddie and David together without being together. Congratulations! You actually made a math/science student love Shakespeare!!!

Kelli