

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

One year ago, the *Moonlighting Reunion Campaign* was six months old and I completed the first issue of *Moonlighting Strangers*. This served as an important turning point in the campaign. The fanzine created a vehicle to get the truth and cut through many years of rumors and hearsay that people still believe 14 years later. We (the *Moonlighting* fanzine staff) wanted to establish a place where the cast and crew of this great TV series can speak out in a gossip-free environment. Judging by the many compliments we've received from the people we've interviewed, the fanzine has done a great job. The many perspectives from the writers, directors, actors and the show's creator, have given us invaluable insight into how *Moonlighting* operated when the cameras weren't rolling.

All of the fanzine staff agrees that the *Moonlighting Reunion Campaign* officially kicked off with the first issue (June/July 2002). The first six months of 2002 were merely a warm-up to plan the necessary strategy/direction and recruit the right people to guide a campaign unlike any other. For this, I am grateful to have my partners (Joy, Diana, Pam, Sal, Michelle, Kim and Heather) and our dedicated supporters (Honey Chodan, James Tumminia, Kelli, Myrna and Karin) and to the many *Moonlighting* fans from around the world who continue to hang in with us and hope our efforts will be successful. As of July 1st, 2003, our year's worth of work has paid off. Isabel, a fellow *Moonlighting* fan, reported how Bruce Willis spoke favorably about a *Moonlighting* reunion during his concert at Irving Plaza in New York City. It's the best anniversary present the fanzine could ever have received.

We're celebrating our first birthday by spotlighting arguably the most famous *Moonlighting* episode, *Atomic Shakespeare*. I'm sure most fans remember sitting in front of the TV on Tuesday, November 25, 1986. We anxiously waited to watch Maddie and David fight their temptation, yet again. Instead, we were greeted by a son and his mother as she forced him up to his room to read a Shakespearean play. Before we had the chance to adjust our TV sets, we were treated to the most ambitious television experiment – introducing iambic pentameter to the masses.

In this issue, *Moonlighting Strangers* interviewed the director and the writing team responsible for updating *The Taming of The Shrew* for primetime television. Who knew the actor who played Larry on *The Bob Newhart Show* would later earn a Director's Guild Award for this timeless episode? Will Mackenzie talks about how he was picked to direct *Atomic Shakespeare* and why he considers this the pinnacle of his career. In our conversation with writers/producers Jeff Reno and Ron Osborn, you'll read how *Moonlighting* was similar to a script they wrote before they knew the show existed, why they chose *Moonlighting* over *Cheers*, and why they felt very comfortable in parodying one of Shakespeare's classic plays. Also part of this celebration, we're presenting special *Blue Side of The Moon* and *It's All In The Writing* articles that center on this episode.

While we blow our birthday horns, I'll restate the three main reasons this fanzine was created: our love and respect for the show, our policy for not reporting negative gossip and our relentless pursuit to reunite Maddie and David in a theatre near you. Enjoy our birthday bash! ...but try not to eat all the cake.

Christie Taylor
Co-Publisher of *Moonlighting Strangers* Fanzine
Vice-Chairman of the *Moonlighting Reunion Campaign*

A MESSAGE FROM THE MOONLIGHTING REUNION CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN

Hello everyone!

This is a very special issue of *Moonlighting Strangers*. It is the first one devoted to just one episode, one of the most famous and revered episodes, *Atomic Shakespeare*, inspired by William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. For this issue, we had the challenge of how to best represent this classic episode. From watching the episode, it seemed that there were two visual symbols that were constant throughout, those being the square in Padua and the fact that the entire episode is actually a book that a young boy is reading for his homework. Therefore, the front cover of this issue features the square and the entire issue has the facade of an old book.

What the binding holds is also very special. This issue features, among other things, two exclusive interviews with the marvelous writing team of Jeff Reno and Ron Osborn and the director of *Atomic Shakespeare* Will Mackenzie. We thank you all for graciously sitting down and talking to us. In addition, there are articles analyzing the music in this classic episode and its script.

Last but not least, what storybook would be complete without a happy ending? This issue is certainly not the end, and, in fact, represents *Moonlighting Strangers* one-year anniversary. It's been a great and challenging year working on the fanzine, and we look forward to beginning our second. Hopefully with all our efforts, the ultimate happy ending will be a *Moonlighting* reunion motion picture.

Joy Chodan

Chairman of the *Moonlighting Reunion Campaign*

Co-Publisher of *Moonlighting Strangers* Fanzine

A MESSAGE FROM THE MOONLIGHTING REUNION CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN

DIANA'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

My "excellent adventure" actually refers to a multitude of things. It refers to my adventure in promoting the *Moonlighting Reunion Campaign*, my adventure in writing and creating this publication with our incredibly talented and dedicated staff, and my adventure in conducting exclusive interviews with the *Moonlighting* cast and crew.

It also refers to my recent trip to Los Angeles, where I conducted an in-person interview with the dynamic duo writing/producing team of Jeff Reno and Ron Osborn. "Excellent!" you say? Well, there will be more "In-Person" interviews you will be reading in future issues.

Lastly, my "excellent adventure" also sums up the fact that this is our one year anniversary edition, and it's a special one at that. I was fortunate enough to interview late last year Will Mackenzie, who directed *Atomic Shakespeare*, so it was a no-brainer for us to make this special issue the *Atomic Shakespeare* edition. Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought that I would be interviewing so many of the talented people, who contributed to this beautifully realized television series that still has no equal today, but many try to emulate its intelligence and sexiness in some shape or form.

In closing, I'd like to say that this "adventure" has also allowed me to grow on a personal level and made me realize that nothing is impossible, including a *Moonlighting* reunion movie.

Diana Maiocco
Media Consultant, *Moonlighting Strangers*