

FANS SPEAK TO . . . ROGER DIRECTOR

It's time for the devoted *Moonlighting* fans to thank the writer/producer who helped bring Maddie and David to life on Tuesday nights.

Roger:

Thank you for your interview with *Moonlighting Strangers*. *Moonlighting* would have been nothing without great writers, and you certainly were one of them. You wrote some of the best early episodes — *The Lady in the Iron Mask* and *Atlas Belched*, two of the great love triangle episodes with Sam and David — *Sam & Dave* and *Maddie's Turn to Cry*, and great episodes towards the end of the series — *Fetal Attraction* and *Maddie Hayes Got Married*. You're a very talented writer and you made *Moonlighting* great-great!

Gena

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Dear Roger,

I want to thank you for the wonderful episodes of *Moonlighting* you were responsible for. One of my favorites is *The Lady in the Iron Mask* because the chase scenes are so funny, and also I like the story a lot. *Atlas Belched* is another great one, love the scene when David talks to Mr. Reagan and gets to hear a joke, hilarious! Thank you so much for doing this interview and being a part of the best series of all times.

Karin (from Germany)

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Hello Mr. Director,

Thank you for the very creative work you contributed to *Moonlighting*. It holds the test of time and many, many repeated viewings on my VCR. The episodes you are credited for seem to share two themes, great music and Maddie and David's often hidden respect for one another. Whether it's the Hitchcock-esque music in *The Lady in the Iron Mask*, *Devil with the Blue Dress On* in *Camille*, or the Pink Panther theme in *Shirts and Skins*, they all contribute to make the show fun and unique. Maddie and David's dialogue, banter, and emotional tirades were all laced with "I love you, please love me back." Now that's good writing!

Regards,

Suzanne Robbert

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Dear Roger,

You wrote (or co-wrote) so many episodes that I love! Of the ones you are credited for by yourself, my favorite has to be *Atlas Belched*. It's one of the earliest ones where you can see that Maddie and David really care about each other more than either of them will admit. Two scenes especially stick out for me. First, I love the scene in David's office when Maddie is considering selling the agency and David says to her, "Is that what the last ten months have been about, just business?" I also

love the scene where they're sitting on the steps at Maddie's house and they both admit that they made a mistake.

Let me also mention a couple of episodes that you co-wrote with Chic Eglee. First, *Fetal Attraction* was a very sweet and funny episode. The scene where David talks Bert into doing Lamaze practice with him is very funny. I also loved how Terri is introduced here as someone who David can talk to, confide in about Maddie, and maybe even become attracted to. I saved one of my very favorite episodes for last. *Maddie Hayes Got Married* is fantastic from beginning to end! The scene where David and Walter meet is priceless! I love it when Walter tells David that he knows that David and Maddie had this "thing." "What thing?" The next scene where Maddie asks David what he thinks of Walter is also great. "Before there was a Walter Bishop to be ashamed of, and I'm embarrassed to say this, there was me!" The bachelor party is hysterical! And I think the ending from the wedding scene right through the hospital scene is the best part of the episode. "For God's sake, will you two kiss already?" This one is absolutely in my top ten *Moonlighting* episodes ever. Thanks so much for these great episodes and for talking with the fanzine about your experiences on the show.

Pam Hardin

Sometimes I think that *Atlas Belched* is one of the most underrated episodes in the series. Roger wrote a great, great story. I think it really shows how Maddie doesn't realize that she has accepted her new life. As much as her brain tells her that this can end, her heart doesn't want it to. The scene on the steps is such a great scene and is very vital to the series as a whole.

They realize they are in a give and take relationship. If one is down, it is the other's duty to help them up. It's one I always like to pop in.

Kelli

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 (On the scene when David is cleaning out his desk in *Atlas Belched*.) I like when David plays with so many toys like a little kid!

Ashley, age 6

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 Dear Roger,

You have written some of my favorite *Moonlighting* episodes, but I want to focus on two very different ones. I look at the first episode, *The Lady in the Iron Mask* with such fondness because it was during my "falling in love with the show" period. I remember taping and watching this episode over and over again because the show was unlike anything else on television at the time. One of my favorite scenes is when David and Maddie are sitting in a hotel, hiding behind reading material while trying to spy on Barbara Wylie (actually her husband dressed to look like her). What's funny about the scene for me

is Maddie is using an oversized "upscale" newspaper to cover her face while David chooses a gossip rag. Maddie then chastises him for his choice of reading material, and David replies that she can barely see over hers and proclaims, "I love the scandal sheets!" Then he goes into this monologue that includes "...are extra-terrestrials hiding under Sylvester Stallone's left pectoral? I wanna know!" The other memorable scene for me is when David has the idea to dress up like Barbara Wylie and coincidentally, so does Maddie and they find themselves hiding in Barbara's closet. He says to Maddie, "I guess there is no such thing as an original idea!" On top of that, David just can't understand why Maddie looks better than he does in a dress! But the best has to be the chase scene at the end where there are four Barbara Wylies running through the hotel to the tune of the William Tell Overture, and one by one they slip and slide on a suds-filled floor and collide into each other. With four pairs of hands and legs entangled, David, who is always up for fun, yells out "Anyone wanna play Twister?" Then Maddie whacks him on the head with her purse. You said in your interview that you had a knack for writing "bent" episodes and this was certainly one of them. The case was a bit dark but the craziness that ensued was unforgettable, and I remember thinking how outrageous and fun it all was.

One of your more serious episodes that I really enjoyed was *Fetal Attraction*, but that, too, had some funny moments, like when Bert "volunteered" to act as David's Lamaze partner and to get into the

part, used a pillow to simulate pregnancy. But I was really touched by David's evolution from happy bachelor to a mature expectant father, even though he wasn't sure the baby Maddie was carrying was his. I also liked his interactions with Terry, the single mother-to-be who became his Lamaze partner. It was interesting to see him interact with another woman other than Maddie. The viewers got to see a different side of David and as an actor Bruce was able to act his heart out in some emotionally demanding scenes.

So thank you for accommodating Debra and me in Malibu. I still can't over the fact that I had lunch with Roger Director and Debra Frank!

Diana Maiocco

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 My name is Terry, and I'm an Italian fan. I started watching *Moonlighting* doing my art homework, as I like listening to something while drawing. At first, Maddie seemed to me a bit too much of an "ice woman," but the dialogue soon caught my attention, and I became a big fan. Now, when I watch current TV shows, I think of *Moonlighting* and the tension between David and Maddie. I cannot find another show with this tension, the fast-talking, and the silly arguments. I wonder how hard it must have been for the actors and the writers. Although there are more serious moments in the last two seasons, the silly pursuits at the end of the episodes are always funny to watch! And I also noticed that Cybill Shepherd wears tennis shoes at times. Was that part of the script? I noticed something different in the 4th and 5th

seasons, and I was really curious to know how you were going to end the last season. I think *Lunar Eclipse* is one of the most intriguing episodes. I always wondered if you already knew it was going to end this way, even before filming the 5th season. It seems you didn't want it to look like a final episode. However, that's the impression I had when I first saw *Lunar Eclipse*.

Thank you so much for the time you'll take to read messages from the fans!

Terry (from Italy)

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Dear Roger,

First, I want to thank you for spending some time to recall your positive memories. You did a pretty good job in holding down the fort while Mr. Glenn Caron was away in Season 4.

Among the best chase scenes in the entire series occur in these two episodes: *The Lady In The Iron Mask*, and *Yours, Very Deadly*. In *Yours, Very Deadly*, mixing *Please, Mr. Postman* and having Maddie and David chase Mr. Woodley all over the post office was so funny. Especially, when the music stops and David says his one liners. It was awesome. In *The Lady In The Iron Mask* seeing four people (two men and two women) running, falling over themselves and slipping and sliding around was so funny.

*Atlas Belched* is another episode I enjoy watching. This was Maddie's second attempt to get back the life she had before Sawyer stole her money. What she found, once again, was she can't live without Blue Moon and, more importantly, she wouldn't live without David. One of the "I can't

believe they got away with that line" moments were when Maddie called David into her office early and David says: "You should try my sausage and eggs sometime. Serve it right there on the mattress." When I heard that line as a teenager, it flew over my head. But now... how did you get away with it? I also loved the scene when David and Phil come back to David's office after digging up the rolodex in the landfill, they sing "Hi ho, hi ho" from *Snow White*. The country was also introduced to David's second favorite drink, Chocolate milk. Also, Mark Linn Baker's performance was great.

*Maddie Hayes Got Married* is an episode I thought recaptured the magic *Moonlighting* had in the first three seasons. When David met Walter for the first time, it was so good. You can see how much David was playing with Walter. I loved the Bachelor party scene when Bert was forced to "pinch hit" as the stripper. The wedding and hospital scenes were magnificent. The physical comedy in those scenes was equally impressive. Thank you again for creating positive memories for me and millions of *Moonlighting* fans.

Christie

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Dear Roger Director,

One of my favorite moments in the early *Moonlighting* episodes is Maddie and David dressing up as a disfigured woman in *The Lady in the Iron Mask*. The chase scene is hilarious! In *Maddie's Turn To Cry*, Cybill and Bruce get the opportunity to show the deep feelings they share. I love watching all the episodes because they really show how great these two

act together and bring out the very best in each other. Thanks for taking the time to remember *Moonlighting*.

Monika (from Germany)

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Hello Mr. Director,

I wanted to start off by saying thank you for granting the fanzine an interview. You have written and co-written some really great episodes. Your talent brought a lot to the show. Some of the major themes in *Moonlighting* keep on repeating themselves. For instance, at the end of *The Lady in the Iron Mask* and *Yours, Very Deadly*, Maddie and David are both writing to each other at the same time, chicken out and change their mind, and crumble up the paper and toss it away. In both instances they want to say more to each other and express their feelings but both times hold back. The glimpse that we get to see is that maybe Maddie and David are not as different as they appeared to be in the beginning. They may argue and disagree a lot, but there are a lot of things about these two people that are the same. In addition, these two episodes have some of the very best chase scenes of the show. The chase scene in *The Lady in the Iron Mask* is my favorite of the entire series. It is absolutely hysterical to see David in a dress with a matching veil. I love when he punches a guy out in the elevator when the guy says, "Hey, nice caboose, Toots!" This eventually leads us to everyone chasing Barbara Wylie's husband down all around the hotel into a restaurant where a very unlucky couple keeps on getting knocked over with the waiter and, last but not least, slipping and sliding into

a pile of soap suds. David then replies to Maddie, "Anyone want to play twister?" I also love the end of the episode when Maddie comes into David's office to apologize and surprises him with a very sweet kiss on the cheek. The look on David's face after she kisses him is priceless. The post office chase scene in *Yours, Very Deadly* is my favorite part of that episode. It is so funny to see Maddie's legs waving around in the air while David checks her out and says, "Personally, I'd like to end the show right here." I don't know how many times I have said out loud, "How did they get away with some of this stuff?" But I'm glad that they did because it's just great comedy.

Another great chase scene is at the end of *Camille* when Maddie and David run out of the set with Whoopi Goldberg and get chased by Judd Nelson. But my very favorite part is at the very end of that scene when Maddie and David are walking out of the lot. If you did not know better you would think they were two kids walking home from school. I love the way you can tell that they both want to say something to each other and at least kiss each other good bye. David stands in front of her shuffling his feet trying to get out the words to tell her, and at the very last minute says, "Nah, it will keep 'til the fall." A great line to keep us all hanging on until the next season dying to find out what will happen next with this incredible couple. Who knows? If it kept 'til the fall, maybe it will keep a little longer, hopefully with a reunion?

Joy Chodan

**WE'RE INTERRUPTING TO BRING YOU THIS SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.**

Happy end of summer, everyone!!! I hope you guys were curious about the next episode of my fan fiction series "**Let Me Be Your Hero**" but you'll have to wait for the next fanzine. Hope you enjoyed my ending to the fifth season. The next fanzine will be the beginning of my sixth season. Until then, here's a little commercial I thought up. — Kelli

**Maddie:** Hi, I'm Maddie Hayes.

David presses play.

**David:** And I'm David Addison.

**Maddie:** Hi, I'm Maddie Hayes, the Blue Moon Shampoo Girl.

**Maddie:** (Looking at David.) Can you believe that we are finally together?

**David:** Yes, reservations for Stallone.

**David:** I know. Sometimes I wondered if the writers were abducted by aliens. I mean c'mon people. Did you really think I could resist this? (Pointing to Maddie.)

**Woman #1:** So you are his newest?

**Maddie:** What a nice way of putting it. Sort of. Anyway, we thought that we would get you ready for the next season by showing you a couple of lines from the next season. Hope you enjoy them. David, would you?

**Maddie:** Ugh, you're such a lowlife.

**David:** I can't do that on TV.

**Maddie:** (Crying even harder.) Three times? Why are you still here?

**Maddie:** Not that!!! Press play on the VCR.

**David:** My statement? I haven't been in court since that night I...

**David:** (Hitting himself playfully on the head.) Oh yeah. Then I will...

**Agnes:** There is a God!!!!

**Ke Ke:** I thought maybe we could spend some time together?

**Maddie:** It is supposed to be the happiest day of my life.

**David:** LET'S PARTY!!!!