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Pipeline

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Beauty and the Beast Renewed ...as Strike Continues

Informed sources at CBS have confirmed that "Beauty and the Beast" has been officially renewed for the '88-89 season. Though there is no word yet on how many episodes have been 'bought,' an entire 22 to 30 episode season or only a partial order. The show remains in its Friday night at 8 timeslot on the network's current schedule.

But the fate of the '88-89 season itself is still languishing on the bargaining table. This is obviously not "the best of times" for network television. In his "Tube" column in the June 13th "People," Jeff Jarvis quoted some alarming numbers: "Last season, according to the new people-meter ratings system, the nets lost 9 percent of their audience — 6.4 million people. And this year the situation gets downright dire with the writers' strike threatening to delay the debut of most shows until November or even next year."

If this weren't bad enough, there is the possibility of yet another strike from some

25,000 production workers whose contracts will expire July 31st.

According to a May "Combined Wire Services" report in local newspapers the result of all this is universal suffering as:

"Agents are going without commissions, and both big studios and small production companies are laying off hundreds of clerical employees and delaying

plans to call back an estimated 20,000 actors and production crew members who would normally begin reporting to work in early June... The fall television production season usually begins in late June or early July, but approved and edited scripts must be in hand for production to begin. Those scripts usually are being evaluated by this time."

The production office of Beauty and the Beast is also, like so many others, closed down but for the odd ringing phone and forlorn answering machine.

Watch this space for the latest, as audience and television communities alike hope for a speedy resolution...

MediaWatch — — Season End Coverage

The week of Beauty and the Beast's season finale, speculation arose in the media as to whether Vincent and Catherine would exchange more than a parting hug in the episode. On April 5th, 1988, Paramount-TV's "Entertainment Tonight" (ET) aired a segment on the episode that began:

"Last fall there could have been a joke going around that might have gone something like this: 'What do you get when you combine a beautiful socialite with a compassionate man-beast who lives in the sewers of New York City? The answer: CBS's hope for its Friday night primetime schedule.' However as Beauty and the Beast nears completion of a full season on CBS it's anything but a joke."

After a thumbnail synopsis of the series, Ron Perlman observed of his character: "He has total devotion and total exchange on every level except the physical." ET noted that "Vincent" had captured the hearts of women viewers across America. This was due to his, as Linda Hamilton put it, "beautiful blue eyes, to his beautiful voice, (and) to his beautiful heart." According to ET, several endings were shot and not even the actors knew which ending would be used. The decision was up to the producers, whether or not the season would indeed end with a kiss. Two '900' telephone numbers were then opened for ET viewers to call in and vote on their preference. Airing a second segment on April 6th, the poll came in 81% in favour ...of a kiss.

Tony Thomas, one of the executive producers, stated, "Whether or not you want to see them kiss, you as an audience will be very pleased with what you see. It fits what we have been doing to date, which is keeping this couple in an incredible romantic situation."

Also on April 6th, Turner Broadcasting's Cable News Network entertainment news program, "Showbiz Today," aired

an interview with Ron Perlman by Bill Tush. **Bill:** When actor Ron Perlman took on the role of the beast, Vincent, in the hit series Beauty and the Beast, he knew he was in for a lot of work. Not only in front of the camera, but behind it. It takes 4 hours to apply his makeup. What he didn't know was his character would become a sex symbol.

Ron: It was a shock to me to say the least; and it was an incredible shock to see how this beast on the surface was regarded by the women of America as a sort of 'sex symbol.' I mean absurd. I mean the worlds of sex symbolism and Ron Perlman are two that I never thought would ever meet. But I've been wrong before.

Bill: Is it the best of both worlds for you to be able to come out of the makeup and go into the street and be probably virtually unrecognized? Or would you rather have it the other way around?

Ron: I get all the kick from acting that I need to from just doing it. Being reminded that I'm successful by people responding to me is another experience altogether and it's an unnecessary one. It's happening more and more because of interviews like this, with people beginning to see my face. I welcome it..." When asked about the season finale, Ron responded with a grin, "Tune in April 8th, Friday. Coming to a TV near you and find out!"

On another Entertainment Tonight segment which aired May 19th, the "New Romanticism" in films and on television was examined. "Perhaps one show (Beauty and the Beast) captures the spirit of the new romanticism best. This love story is straightforward and pure. In a continuation of the interview first seen April 5th, Linda Hamilton added,

"I think all of us have loved and not been able to do anything with that love. At some point in our lives we've loved someone unrequited. It's something that should appeal to just the soul." Ω

Roy Dotrice Recovered

For those viewers who wondered why "Father" did not use a cane in "Beauty and the Beast's" pilot episode, as he had for the rest of the season: all was answered by Paul Francis in his December 5th, '87 "TV Guide® Insider" column. Mr. Dotrice fell into an empty swimming pool(!), breaking hip and thigh bones before primary filming began on the series: "I was worried at first that they might terminate my contract. But no, they wrote it into the script." The article went on to assure readers that, "Though his leg has healed, Dotrice is keeping the limp and the cane to maintain continuity in his character."

According to sources at CBS, Roy returned to London after shooting on B&B was finished to have hip replacement surgery. Word from Mr. Dotrice's agents, however, is that it was actually fairly minor and only required a two-day stay in hospital — he has already recuperated nicely, thank you, and is now "one hundred per cent."

Watch for the August issue
of "Good Housekeeping"
Linda Hamilton will be
featured in its cover story!

From the Editor...

First, no, you didn't miss an issue. Due to a postal snafu the May issue was delayed till nearly June. Rather than have every issue thereafter seem a month late...well, you get the idea.

Second, I'd like to thank *Pipeline's* charter subscribers for their support, without you there wouldn't have been a second issue. I'd also like to thank all the people who helped me get this show on the road, with encouragement, information, or, gulp, free publicity. Now only a little over a month into this endeavor I'm finding that all three are equally important. Thanks!

There was some question in response to issue #1 as to whether *Pipeline* was the front end of a volunteer group. This newsletter is a bit of an anomaly in that it is not affiliated with any fan organization, with "Beauty and the Beast," or with the CBS Television Network. *Pipeline* is published for profit and distributed nationally by the Starving Artists Workshop, a small 'Desk Top Publishing' firm based in northeastern New York state.

If you would like to join a fan club, stay tuned... There are groups springing up all across the country. One is already 800 members strong! I hope to be able to tell you more about these groups and the special people who run them in upcoming issues. Club Officers: If you haven't already, please get in touch. And if possible, include the name, address, and phone number of a contact person.

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On July 1st: Beauty and the Beast's pilot episode will again be aired!

Delroy Lindo (Isaac Stubbs) is currently playing Herald Loomis in the Broadway play "Joe Turner's Come and Gone." The role garnered him a Tony nomination and Mr. Lindo also participated in a vignette from the play at the awards ceremonies on June 5th. Interviewed by Enid Nemy in her "New York Times" column "On Stage," April 15th, Delroy speaks of his role as being both "emotionally and physically demanding." "It's a matter of perspective. Balance is important — I don't have to get up at 6 a.m. and punch a clock, I'm doing a job I want to do, and even in my one bad year, I've always had someone to help me, to lift me up. I have the same problems as other actors but overall, I'm extremely fortunate... Of course, I could be richer." The last said with a smile.

John McMartin (Charles Chandler) had billing along with John Hurt and Barbara Bosson in the ominously titled film "Poison Candy" which debuted at the Cannes Film Festival in May.

Readers' Forum

J.C. from Cohoes, New York is a comparatively new viewer, a friend having just loaned her videos of the pilot and "An Impossible Silence" episodes for her to try; these are her initial observations: "I enjoyed allowing my brain to wander off into fantasy land for a little while. I had been very busy and needed a brain break. Now I understand what the show is about. I love the Vincent character. No matter how unrealistic some of the other aspects of the show are, Vincent's gentle character saves the day and there's more than a small dose of "wake up world and stop being so stupid in your relationship to each other" that cannot be repeated enough times.

I was disappointed in the show with the deaf girl. It included most of the misconceptions about the deaf that make life so hard for them. If that girl was so profoundly deaf that she could "hold an alarm clock against her ear and try to hear the stolen sounds" then there is no way she could have lip read. It is true that in front of a deaf person you should always face them when you speak. It IS NOT true that they will understand you. The lip reading is just an extra hint added to the signing as to which of the words match a sign you are using. The girl signed about the way a deaf person would. Vincent was very sloppy but I attributed that to the makeup and nails and hair on his hands. He probably couldn't form the letters even if he wanted to.

One point that was carried into the underworld just as it is above is that the guy who plays the "father" of Vincent had to rely on Vincent to communicate even though this girl had lived with them since infancy. In 19 years he had not learned her language. That is common in hearing families who don't want to admit their kid has a problem. The interpreter in the police station really signed like an interpreter would and I think it was right that she went out into the real world at the end. (Unrealistic with no job skills, but morally right). The thing that bothered me though was that you felt sorry for the deaf character throughout the whole thing.

I hope the show doesn't plan to go through all the handicaps each week to give Vincent someone to be nice to even when the rest of the world dumps on them.

I loved the way Catherine gets ticked off after being slashed and goes in for self-defense training. She forgets to use it in the deaf episode but I hope her character gets tougher each week. I don't mind the all-knowing, gentle beast who always comes to the rescue idea but if the show requires her to remain a wimp dependent upon him, that won't make it with today's women. I get the impression that maybe they are trying to slowly pull her away from the spoiled rich brat and turn her into someone with a strong character of her own and she is learning from Vincent's example. Am I close? Ω

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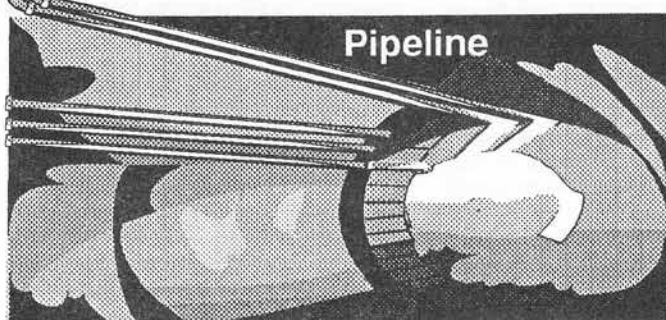
—Sonnet #29—

When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,
I all alone beweep my outcast state
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries
And look upon myself and curse my fate,
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,
Featured like him, like him with friends possessed,
Desiring this man's art and that man's scope,
With what I most enjoy contented least;
Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,
Haply I think on thee and then my state,
Like to the lark at break of day arising
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;
For thy sweet love remembered such wealth brings
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

— William Shakespeare

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...Celebrating "Beauty and the Beast"