

August 1988

# Pipeline

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## Production still halted on Beauty and the Beast

No news, unfortunately, is not good news when it comes to the Writers' Strike. Since it began March 7th, the Strike has slowly but surely shut-down Hollywood, "Beauty and the Beast" being no exception.

As of July 15th, CBS seems to be conserving its resources. What this means to "B&B" in August is that only one episode is tentatively on the schedule, "Everything is Everything" (about the Gypsy boy) on August 5th and a pre-emption on the 12th. To put this in perspective remember that there are only 22 episodes to last for an indefinite period. All three networks are gearing up in various ways to fill widen-

ing gaps with alternative programming. The most bizarre strategy so far is NBC's reputed intention to re-shoot old episodes (of shows like "Mission: Impossible") with new actors, etc. Meanwhile, CBS is planning to stick to its own forte: news and special interest programming.

Among readers, sympathies seem generally with the producers, especially those who also write, as they are literally on strike against themselves and their own interests. Their concerns are most like our own: When can production resume? How late will the new season begin, if at all? Will the network's audience share be diminished? Will advertising revenue then be

able to cover the minimum fee-per-episode required for the series' survival? Some of "Pipeline's" readers also worry that desperation measures might be taken to resume production at any cost, even if it adversely affected Beauty and the Beast's quality writing and production.

Viewers have little recourse in all of this. There is no arbiter or lobby to protect our interests. We can only make as much of a show of our support for B&B as we can muster. And as the characters and environs of Beauty and the Beast now inhabit our imaginations, they must certainly live on in the minds of the series' writers, if not for the moment at the tip of their pens. The hope is that all those creative back-burners on the picket line will stay alight ...perhaps in some small way our appreciation can help fuel the flame.

We should not let them forget that we are their fans too.

## MediaWatch — Hour Magazine Interview

*Transcript by C. A. MacMasters*

Early in 1988, Gary Collins conducted an interview with Ron Perlman. Bette Davis was co-hosting and had teasingly said earlier in the week, "What a dump!"

**Gary:** Our first guest, who appears on one of television's most talked about and unique series, may just be one of the most unrecognizable faces in the business. Why? Because he stars as Vincent, the heroic, intelligent yet sometimes grotesque figure who lives beneath New York City in the series Beauty and the Beast. Watch: (shows clip). Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Ron Perlman! (They shake hands and sit down.) Of course your co-star there, is an awfully attractive young lady; that's Linda Hamilton, isn't it?

**Ron:** Yes, it sure is.

**Gary:** Who wrote that scene?

**Ron:** Actually, that scene was in an episode that I wrote, or co-wrote, with a couple of our staff writers, called "No Iron Bars a Cage," my first foray into the writing world.

**Gary:** My gosh, it's interesting; the things (for which) you've been most talked about have been things that we would not recognize you in. Quest for Fire, which has got to be one of my all-time favorite movies; The Name of the Rose was the other one. You played a facially-deformed and hunch-backed monk (scene from Quest for Fire).

**Ron:** Right. I'll go to absolutely no ends to be able to go shopping in this town.

**Gary:** (Laughs) Now when this role came up, had you not made up your mind that that was it for the heavy make-up and the parts that really bear no resemblance to you?

**Ron:** I had handed down an edict to my management people, that I was going to have to try to make it like this (points to his face) or not at all, I was going to hang up the heavy make-up roles. Three days later my manager called with the news that there was this script on his desk called Beauty and the Beast. I said, "How long is the make-up job?" and he told me.

**Gary:** How long is it?

**Ron:** It's four hours.

**Gary:** Oh my gosh!

**Ron:** And he said, "I'd like for you to take a look at this script," and I said, "Absolutely not!" At which point he brought it to my house. And I just looked at it.

**Gary:** And that was it.

**Ron:** There was no choice.

**Gary:** I mean, he's such a romantic character; tragic, but so romantic.

**Ron:** An incredible character. I don't think I ever would have had an opportunity to play a character with that much depth and sensitivity, unless I was unrecognizable (laughs); so there was no choice for me (laughs again).

**Gary:** I guess it was doing like radio in the '40's and '30's. You do this great job, you walk out the door, and nobody knows who you are; it used to drive the radio people crazy! Except when they'd call up for dinner reservations. I guess that was the only nice thing about it.

**Ron:** Well, when I call up for dinner reservations, everyone thinks I'm the guy who owns Revlon, so I always get a very good table because his name is also Ron.

**Gary:** The grand thing about Vincent is he can spout poetry, he can do anything, you accept it, which is a real compliment.

**Ron:** We don't know if he can bake a cherry pie yet.

**Gary:** Who cares! What do you do for four hours in a make-up chair?

**Ron:** I collect my thoughts; I collect other peoples' thoughts (Gary laughs). I gossip; I talk about you a lot!

**Gary:** Yeah? (Gary continues laughing.)

**Ron:** It actually has become invaluable for me, because it gives me a chance to prepare for the day's work, which is formidable. And I'm not real good at doing

### The Official Beauty and the Beast Fan Club —

This international group offers for a \$10.00 annual membership fee an 8x10 of Vincent & Catherine, a certificate of membership, and a button with the legend: "Romantic of the Leonine Persuasion." The club began publishing its own quarterly newsletter in March with an issue that contained an interview with George R.R. Martin. Future issues will have interviews with Jay Acovone, Roy Dotrice, Judy Evans, and Ron Perlman. Direct all membership dues (or inquiries w/SASE) to:

Beauty and the Beast Fanclub  
P.O. Box 2185  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406-2185

that at home, so I'm now a captive audience for four hours, which means I'm very well-prepared when I walk on the set.

**Gary:** I bet you are. I'm sure you must take a break in the four hours. They've got to give you a few minutes, to go potty or something!

**Ron:** Well, there's an hour for fighting with producers, and then another hour for asking for rewrites; no, I'm just kidding. It's nose to the grindstone.

**Gary:** Yeah. What was it like for you growing up? I've read a couple of interviews you've given, and it wasn't particularly attractive, growing up, for you.

**Ron:** Well, you know.

**Gary:** This must be some kind of a wonderful revenge on everyone.

**Ron:** It was not a bad childhood, but I had a perception of myself, I was terribly overweight as a young kid, and it was sort of a low self-image, which put me in touch with the insecurity that comes with not being accepted during that very important part of life when physicality becomes all-important. I think that I've always been attracted to roles where one is able to transcend those limitations, and you know, take a special place in the universe, which is why I seem to be attracted to playing these parts of deformed people who are very endearing. Vincent is the most incredible statement or distillation of that particular point of view, that I had ever seen. I just responded to it in an incredible way, to play it.

**Gary:** They're lucky.

**Ron:** I'm lucky, too.

**Gary:** Well, you're awfully lucky that you have (played it). Our guest, Ron Perlman, the show, of course, *Beauty and the Beast*; may it continue and have many more seasons to come.

**Ron:** This place is not such a dump!

**Gary:** (laughing) No, it's not! Ω

## ...-...-...- Tappings -...-...-...

**Bruce Abbott** (Devon Wells, and Linda Hamilton's spouse) had a starring role in the made-for-television movie (pilot) of "Out of Time." A funny and suspenseful SF thriller that aired on NBC, July 17th.

**Roy Dotrice** (Father) has guest-starred in a number of television series now in local and/or cable syndication. Watch for him in episodes of "Hart to Hart," "The A-Team," "Remington Steele" which was quite dastardly, "Space: 1999," "Tales from the Darkside" as a vampire, and "Tales of the Gold Monkey" where his character tries to blow up a royal ocean-liner. "Young Harry Houdini," which cast Roy as author and mystic Conan Doyle, was repeated on ABC's 'Disney' anthology July 17th and 24th.

**Lee Holdridge** (Composer of many of B&B's themes) is also credited with the music for the hit film "Big Business."

**George R.R. Martin** (Writer/Producer) confirmed at a recent convention in Georgia that he made a cameo appearance in the "Greed" episode. Look for him in the restaurant scene, reading one of his own novels, "Sandking."

## Readers' Forum

Hail and thanks to all those who have written "Pipeline." May your good wishes be returned many-fold. We're glad to hear from you! Your news, support, and/or opinions are much appreciated.

**U.B. from Medford, Massachusetts** writes: "My favorite character on the show (although I truly love them all) is Catherine. She's single, 30ish, and is trying to "get by" living in NYC (that's me! Except, I live in Boston ...however we do have subways here as well.)"

"What I like best about the series is the acting; if not the best, then some of the best series television has ever seen... To be honest, I think the best written episode so far is "Song of Orpheus" which should win Roy Dotrice an Emmy nomination."

Including her favorite quote (from an interview by film critic Katie Kelley) U.B. added: Is there anything left to say about Vincent and the show that hasn't already been said? Ron Perlman said it best himself (regarding Vincent's relationship with Catherine): "She's probably the very first woman who's ever touched him in his entire life. And so, he opens like a flower before the eyes of America. And gives her, as a gift for her acceptance of him, himself, in his entirety."

**L.T. from Dunedin, Florida** lamented, however, about the "weekly sledgehammer-symbolism" and that there was nothing new under the sun, so to speak, in visual (as opposed to written) Fantasy or Science Fiction — at least not since the film "2001." She writes: "Sorry, but even B&B is not much more than a recycled "Kung Fu:" 1. State philosophy of peace and humanism. 2. Rescue Catherine (or whomever). 3. Refrain from killing outright to underscore compassion. 4. (Re-)Statement of philosophy. 5. Adulate Catherine, but don't touch — at least, not in public." Ω

## Convention News

David Greenlee, who plays the inimitable "Mouse," will be making guest appearances at Creation Conventions in Memphis, Tennessee on July 23rd and 24th. and in Albany, New York August 13th and 14th. Along with being able to meet and greet Mr. Greenlee, convention 'members' will be treated to a slide show about the series, and invited to participate in an amateur B&B theatrical, auctions, trivia contests, and dealers' room.

Memberships are \$10.00 per day in advance, or \$13.00 at the door with events usually running from 11am to 7pm each day. Creation Conventions often arranges special room rates at local hotels for their

events. They also offer a special lower-than-normal airfare on American Airlines for those coming in from out of town. So, if you are planning to attend (or you just want to check out an event), it pays in more ways than one to give them a call at (516) SHOWMAN.

**George R.R. Martin**, Producer/Writer for *Beauty and the Beast*, has been doing the rounds lately. His next science fiction convention will be "MapleCon 10" in Ottawa, Canada July 25th through August

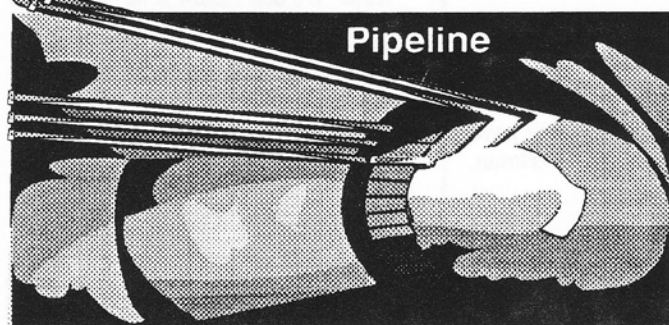
1st. For more info contact: Claudia Crawford at (613) 746-9152. He is also a scheduled guest at "PhilCon," an old and well-established SF event, November 4th through 5th. Send a SASE for more info to P.O.Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101. PhilCon's Chairperson is Joyce Carroll at (215) 790-0470.

**Howard Gordon**, Executive Story Consultant on B&B, is also a scheduled guest at yet another Creation Convention in Oakland, CA. November 5th and 6th.

**Starting next month: First Season Episode Guide.** \* Subscriptions are \$10.00 for six issues, payable to the Starving Artists Workshop. If you do not specify an issue number (Vol. 1, #1, etc.), your subscription will start with the current issue.

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...Celebrating "Beauty and the Beast"