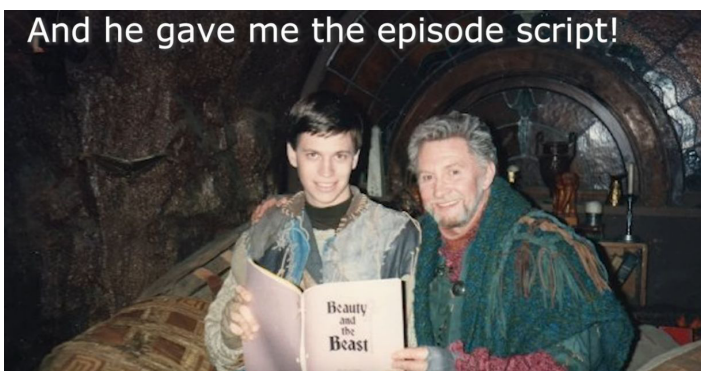
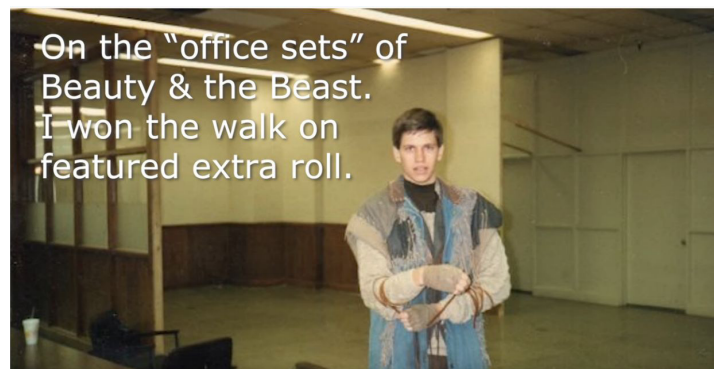
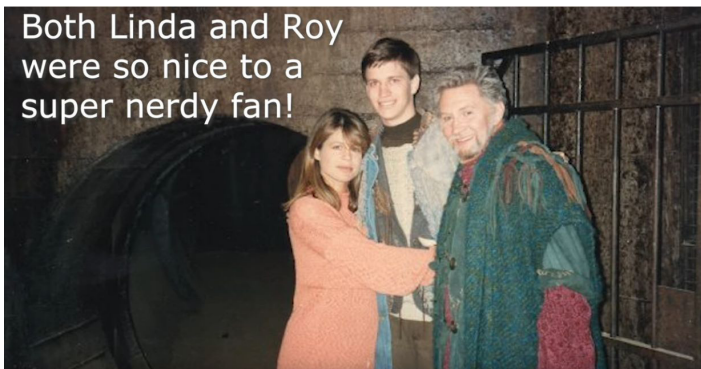


Photo Page and Interview

James A Ward

*Beauty and the Beast, guest actor
(tunnel person, Seasons 2 and 3)*





Met Armin Shimerman, Quark from DS9



This was the set where our scene was filmed.



Waiting for our scene to be filmed.



Again...they were SUPER nice!!! A day I'll never forget!



Last picture with Linda Hamilton.



Just kidding, this was the last one! Such an amazing day!

Many thanks to James for allowing us to reproduce these wonderful photos of himself, other actors and the sets of Beauty and the Beast, from his video.

He shares his experiences and observations in the following interview ...

Interview with James A Ward

Featured guest actor extra, tunnel person
Beauty and the Beast
Seasons 2 and 3
(1989-1990 - *The Rest is Silence, Invictus*)

I did get to have a unique experience with the show, being a guest-featured extra (contest winner) in season 2 and just a normal extra in season 3 (I signed up with a company and was lucky to return).

1) What was your first impression of the series production?

I was a fan from the moment I saw the show, long before I was on it, starting with the second episode of season 1. I missed the pilot but saw it shortly after that. I felt like the show was something unique, and I still do. Others have tried to copy it in one way or another, but I don't think anyone has done a better job. The show had heart and action, and the character of Catherine was very progressive for the time.

2) Was there anything you wished you had known before you walked on the set?

Yes! I was a prize winner who won (in a boy scout auction fundraiser, believe it or not) a 'featured extra role' on an episode. I had ZERO experience being on a set. Everything was new for me when I walked into the studio. Getting costumed, makeup, meeting Linda and Roy, it was all like a dream. It was amazing to get introduced to the television industry that way, but knowing what I know now, I would've paid more attention to different things, but instead, I was just overwhelmed by everything.

3) What surprised you most about your role in the production?

The costumes were amazing, which right off the bat surprised me. But I think the thing that really stuck with me was in my scene, I'm waiting at the tunnel entrance, and Linda comes up to me and gives me a look of "concern, fear, trepidation," wondering what's going on with Vincent. The thing I didn't realize until the episode aired was that no one other than me, and perhaps Roy, could see that expression. She was in character, and it was amazing and it didn't matter if she was seen by the camera or not, she was giving 100 percent, because she's a great actor! But what was amazing for me as a fan of the show was that it became a moment that was just mine. No one else got to see that moment, in that context, at that time, and so I'm grateful that I was there for it.

4) After 30 years, what is your fondest memory of the production?

Beside the previously mentioned one was the fact that I got to spend the day with Roy Dotrice showing me around the studio. Again this was all new to me, and I didn't even realize how fortunate I was to be getting a private tour of the set by such an amazing man. He just took me under his wing, and we ditched the production assistant who'd been assigned to show me around. We walked around all the sets (Vincent's room, Catherine's apartment, Pascal's pipe area, the tunnels), and he'd explained different things to me as we went. For instance, Catherine's apartment was a 'hot set' at the time, meaning they might return for reshoots, and nothing could be moved, and it was taped off, so we couldn't enter it. The whole day was an amazing learning experience.

5) Which episode did you personally find the most challenging? Why?

I was in 2 episodes, one as a 'prize winner' (*The Rest is Silence*) and the other as an extra (*Invictus*). So for me, it was more challenging going from being a guest of the show given special treatment to being an extra, which meant I had to stand off to the side and wait with the other extras. Overall it was still a good day, I just didn't get to interact with the cast and just hung out with the extras, who were all really nice. It was an outside shoot and a bit of a long day with a lot of walking around, but still a lot of fun for a fan of the show.

6) Which episode do you think was the best? Why?

The Rest is Silence will always have a place in my heart and was such a great episode, and I was fortunate to be a part of it. Vincent losing himself and having to leave the community for their own protection was compelling, but the ending with Catherine walking into the dark, with the music building and then her screaming 'Vincent,' then it going dark, was just chilling.

7) From your perspective, what has changed on sets since 1987?

There's so much they can do with productions that just wasn't possible in 1987. Lighter and higher quality cameras, drones, and advanced green screening. For good and bad, those things all come into play in current-day productions.

8) What experience did you find most rewarding?

I'm going to sound like a broken record with this one, but spending the day with Roy and Linda is something I'll carry with me my entire life. Even though it was a very minor role, I got to share the screen with both of them, just the three of us, and it was an amazing time that changed my life. And they did try to get me a line, but it wasn't possible at the last minute. They were both so kind!

9) Looking back, what do you wish had happened differently?

Getting a line would have been amazing, but I wouldn't really change a thing. Maybe bring more film and take a ton more behind-the-scenes pictures.

10) If a sequel were possible, what would be most important?

The casting and the writing. You'd need a fantastic cast, especially the leads who have to have great chemistry, but you'd also need compelling writing that, like the original series, explored their relationship and the feelings they share.