

# REMEMBERING THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST TV SERIES

Ryan Rhino Michaels

*Stunt Double and Stand-in for Ron Perlman as "Vincent"*

*(Many thanks to Ryan for sharing his memories. We who love the series have always realized that it was a very high quality production – the costumes, sets, music, actors, writing – but it's fascinating to realize that other aspects, such as lighting, cameras and stunts were top notch. And that there were fun times too.)*

## **How it started (in his own words – emphasis his) ....**

I had just got to Hollywood and was cast as a underground cave dweller halfway through the first season of this great TV show.

My first day on set, standing dressed in my wardrobe, I have a cup of coffee in one hand, a bagel in the other and the 1st Assistant Director, standing in front of me, is screaming and firing Ron's stand in... He turns around abruptly and steps right into me. I had the presence of mind and reaction speed to spread my arms wide, to avoid getting the food and coffee all over my wardrobe.

He said '*quick reactions kid*' and paused and asked me my height and did I ever do stand in work before? I lied and said I was 6 '4 " (which he is) - and YES I'd done lots of stand in before. He said '*good you're VINCENT'S STAND IN now*' - and I got a pay raise.

Ron's stunt double left to do a film, and I was given the chance to stunt double Vincent, which I did for a season and a half. After Season Two I left to pursue my acting career.

WHAT a blessing it was for a young actor to be in the inner circle of that show. Surrounded by Roy Dotrice & Tony Jay (RADA actors) (ed note: *Royal Academy of Dramatic Art*), Linda Hamilton and Ron. I learned everything acting school does not teach you: How to work a scene with other actors, props, blocking, lighting. Letting a scene breathe. And I met Stunt Coordinator FRED LERNER ... who after Ron's Double moved on to a film gig, offered me the stunt double job and took me under his wing for a season and a half. Ron had 3 + hours of SFX MAKEUP every day, but they made this pull-on SFX mask for me to wear as VINCENT .

Thank you, FRED - and that stand-in who messed up ...

## **More ...**

I came in a few episodes into season one. Ron had a back pain issue, so if you saw him climbing anything, or jumping down on anyone, or carrying Linda, that was me.

One of my favorite, most memorable episodes was when Vincent went deep into the earth for he Catherine's First Anniversary gift – the crystal (Temptation).

**And more ...**

The episode with Paracelsus and BIG JOHN STUD as his minion (To Reign in Hell).. that was my best fight scene, and my first fight scene as Vincent. Big John Stud was a WWF WRESTLING CHAMPION and was HUGE , A MOUNTAIN OF A MAN but a great guy.



Then using the gondola boat...



*(other stunt scenes from 'To Reign in Hell')*

The first time I fought someone as Vincent, I had to jump down 10 feet off a cliff ledge in front of a bad guy and I asked Ron 'what are you doing with your hands to these bad guys' ?

Ron said 'I AM DISEMBOWLING THEM WITH MY CLAWS', but that's too violent to show a TV audience. But watch Vincent now with that in mind.

It also simplified Vincent's fight scenes as the SFX MAKEUP was fragile and too much movement could dislodge it - and then back to 3/4 hours in the SFX MAKEUP CHAIR.

AND I AM almost 6'4", taller than Ron, but I did not need lifts in my boots, as he did for his character's stature on film.

**Yet more ...**

*Someone commented they loved that TV series, to which he responded:*

It was required viewing for USC & UCLA FILM SCHOOL students. The lighting was sublime and the talent was amazing - listening to Dotrice ( FATHER ) & Tony Jay ( PARACELSUS ) RUN dialogue as Royal Shakesperian actors was amazing. Great education for sure ...

## Great memories ...

One day the PROPS DEPARTMENT made a big CAT SCRATCH POLE ... VINCENT SIZED ... and during our lunch break put it on the Linda Hamilton character's (Catherine) balcony - where Vincent came and went from, so he would see it - wrapped it with a nice big red bow and and put a NOTE on it... *HAPPY ANNIVERSARY VINCENT love, Catherine*. The crew all thought it was hysterical and Ron would get a good laugh out of it.

NO HE DID NOT !!!



## BIO (from Facebook page)

Guest Star Actor/Stunt Double – Steven Seagal, UNDER SIEGE 2

Ron Perlman BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Jen Derwingsen directed " BLESSED" starring DELANNA STUDI a cop and myself as a Russian hit man

Stunt Double – Alfred Molina, SC Peewee Piemote, MATADOR at El Rey Network

WD-40 Pro Advertising Campaign - Tim Tadder Photography

Game of Thrones - "HODAROUND"

Guest Star at The Wil Wheaton Project

2014 – Present --Hollywood By The Sea, California