



INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS ON DOING DVD COMMENTARIES

BY PAM, KIM, MICHELLE, JOY, CHRISTIE & DIANA

PAM'S STORY

When Diana first called to tell me that Lions Gate wanted to interview our group in Los Angeles for a "featurette" as part of the *Moonlighting* DVD Extras, I was torn with mixed emotions. On the one hand, what an amazing opportunity! That is, for anyone willing to go to LA! But there was no way that would be me, so I was kind of down. I don't travel much and the very thought was overwhelming. A few minutes later, Joy called and told me exactly what I needed to hear. This would be an experience of a lifetime and I'd be kicking myself if I missed it. She was right!

Details started coming in that made the whole thing too tempting to resist. David Naylor, who is producing the "Extras" for the DVDs would be interviewing us. We tried to find out exactly what we would be asked, but walked in with only a vague idea. We were told that they would do our hair and makeup before filming us, so this was starting to sound pretty cool!

The six of us – Diana, Joy, Christie, Kim, Mickey and I – went to David Naylor's office in Hollywood on Friday, February 11, 2005. Unfortunately, it was raining that day, as LA has been experiencing a ridiculous amount of rain lately. But it didn't dampen our spirits a bit. We were all excited, but also more than a little nervous. In fact, I could hardly eat breakfast that morning, and by the time we met writers Jeff Reno and Ron Osborn at a Starbucks in Santa Monica before going to the interview, my stomach was already in a knot! But visiting with Jeff and Ron was

just what we needed to loosen us all up a bit. What a great time we had with them!

When we got to Mr. Naylor's office, we were told that we would be called in one by one to be interviewed. Some of us (like me) had hoped to be interviewed as a group so we wouldn't necessarily have to say much. No such luck! We were told that we would probably be asked what was going on in the world in the 1980s when *Moonlighting* was on TV. Panic! The table in the reception area had "cheat sheets" with current events of the time, so we started cramming like we were going to take an exam! One by one we were called to the "make up chair"! The make up artist did our hair and make up and then we each went before the camera! I didn't even get to look in a mirror before I was called for my interview, so I had no idea what I looked like until after it was over. Mr. Naylor had each of us sit up in a high director's chair. The first thing I asked him was where to look, at him or at the camera. Look at him, he said, and I never took my eyes off his.

One by one we went in and came out, relieved it was over, with most of us thinking we weren't sure how we did. While waiting for everyone to finish, we made small talk with Mr. Naylor's staff, who shared some great tidbits about other *Moonlighting* commentary sessions! Besides current events of the 80's, most of us were asked about favorite first and second season episodes – I said *The Dream Sequence Always Rings Twice* – and about the "phenomenon" that *Moonlighting*

was. I may have rambled a bit, searching for words. It was over almost too fast so it's kind of a blur now. The others seemed to be in there forever! But good or bad, there wasn't time to worry. We were off to dinner with Allyce Beasley and her husband, which for me, was the highlight of the trip. Joy was right. This was an experience of a lifetime and I was thrilled to have the opportunity!

KIM'S STORY

I sit here and I wonder how will I ever be able to put pen to paper and describe an experience that was amazing?? For three years now I have had the privilege of working with six incredibly dedicated, caring, and talented group of ladies. They lovingly call me the cheerleader of the team because through all the difficult times, I have always said that "something will come of all the dedication and hard work, if we continue to sow good, and trust God to take care of us" and that time has come and passed!

We were contacted out of the blue and asked to come to Los Angeles and be on the *Moonlighting* DVD's commentaries! And then the *USA Today* article! What an incredible, life changing opportunity for all of us!! What is so amazing about this is we had never met in person (with the exception of three of us) and here we all are, from all walks of life, hoping and praying for "something" new and exciting to happen in our lives...and BAM! Our mugs and interviews will be on the DVD bonus material! Meeting (and/or doing lunch :)) with incredibly talented, and wonderful people such as Jeff Reno and Ron Osborn,



Allyce Beasley and her husband Jim, David Naylor and his wonderful staff!

Meeting with Jeff and Ron was such a joy. Talk about funny guys! They were so welcoming to us, and genuinely asked questions to get to know who we were. I remember sitting there and just for a brief moment going deep in thought and thinking, here are two guys that are so incredibly talented. To hear them tell us about storylines and their ideas of who Maddie and David are and were, and how it all is from their imaginations, while at the same time working on many other projects, I could only sit there in awe of such raw talent! That was also the first time I heard with my own ears how they supported our years of efforts and our Fanzine and how they complimented us on what we had accomplished, "getting ML on DVD!" What a compliment!! Oh! Did I say FUNNY guys?? They really are!! Thanks, guys. You're so great!! And thanks for all the off the record stuff! :)

The commentary was frightening and exhilarating all at the same time. How much fun to have our hair and makeup done professionally, and watch each other come out one by one and anxiously be brought into the filming room! You sit there as you're being asked the questions with the bright light on you, and a camera in your face, and you think ARGH!! I have gone blank! Am I rambling on? Are my lips quivering? Am I giving enough "energy" as requested? Oh, now I am not repeating the question back to them, (thanks James and Troy for the tips), and so on, until before you know it, it's over. Boy, do I ever have the utmost respect and appreciation for all the actors who do that on a regular basis! But it was fun!! David even asked me, "You've done this before?" Yeah, right!! Not me!

MICHELLE'S STORY

For more than three years, I've been fortunate enough to be a part of *Moonlighting Strangers* and one in a group of incredible people who I am proud to call my friends. But never in my mind, since the beginning of my *Moonlighting* obsession at age 15, did I ever once dare to imagine it would be possible for me to experience what I did in February 2005.

One day, quite unexpectedly, Joy, Diana and Christie called me in a very excited state to give me some overwhelming news. However, my initial reaction was not one that would be expected. They told me we had been invited by Lions Gate Entertainment to participate in the creation of the *Moonlighting* DVDs by doing on-camera interviews in Los Angeles. The filmed interviews would then be part of the DVD extras. My instincts screamed to me immediately, "No, no, no! No way, absolutely not, never gonna happen. Nice chatting with you - bye, now." I explained to them that I have not now nor ever had the desire to be filmed for the whole world to see, and that included being part of any DVD extras. It's just not me. But they persistently explained to me that this was an incredible opportunity, and it wasn't offered to just anyone. They wanted us, *Moonlighting Strangers*, and if I didn't do it I would regret it for the rest of my life. After a while, I knew they were right. I had to do my best to push my anxieties aside and just jump right into the pool without thinking too much about it. Besides, this was also my opportunity to finally meet my fabulous friends and collaborators after all this time. So, off I went, never fully realizing when I started out just how extraordinary the trip would be.

Meeting Joy, Diana, Christie, Pam and Kim for the first time was like being at a reunion for your sorority sisters. Right from the start we were all laughing and talking so much and so loudly, we were sure a visit from hotel security would be inevitable. After all the com-

munication we had over the years it certainly didn't feel like our first meeting. The "Moonlighting Strangers" were officially strangers no more. We had an immediate bond and we had such an incredible time together doing the Hollywood-tourist thing for our first day there. But the next day was when the real adventure would begin.

Our big day started by meeting the insane but talented Jeff Reno and Ron Osborn, two of *Moonlighting's* exceptionally clever writers. They were both incredibly interesting to listen to and, I might add, quite charming. They had many stories to tell and, honestly, I would have loved to have stayed and talked with them all day. But we did have somewhere else to go.

Okay, I'm going to be completely truthful here. I was really dreading the idea of participating in our on-camera interviews for the DVD extras and, when my trip to L.A. was over and I was able to think about it, it was my least favorite part of the whole experience. It actually started out really well when we were each treated to a professional make-up and hair styling session. Our stylist was a complete doll and not only made us all look absolutely perfect, but her kind words put us at ease. Well, at least for the moment, anyway. When it was my turn to be interviewed I felt so sick and I just prayed that I wouldn't make a complete fool of myself. I was so incredibly nervous that once my interview was over, I could not remember a single question that was asked of me. I really was quite relieved when it was over. Then relief quickly turned to exhilaration when I began to think about what was going to happen next.

JOY'S STORY

It's frightening and exciting at the same time to know that you could be seen by millions of strangers. I had no idea



what to expect when I was the first person to go into make-up and to do the DVD commentary. The lady who did my make-up was very nice and helped to take my mind off the upcoming task. I brought in my water bottle and kept on drinking. I was so nervous but kept on trying to pull myself together and relax. Once I sat down, I was glued to the chair. I couldn't really move. The DVD people talked to me and asked some questions about where I came from and how I wound up here. I told them that I couldn't believe I was there. We were all having a great time in LA, that I started the campaign over three years ago, that it was amazing the way things have turned out.

There were two directors chairs facing each other, a professional camera facing me, and behind me a sunset background. I also remember thinking if this was really happening? I mean, it all felt so surreal. I think I remember pinching myself to make sure this wasn't a dream. I mean, I'm just a girl from the Bronx who loved a show enough to start a campaign and was lucky enough to meet some talented, terrific people to work with. Life is just weird and incredible.

The producer, David Naylor, came in after about 5-10 minutes and introduced himself. He told me that I was to look at him and not look at the camera, to just pretend that it's not there. I remember he looked into the camera and said he liked the color I was wearing and that it looked good on camera. I tried to remember the advice that James Tumminia, Diana's friend, had given us the night before, to answer in a complete thought.

First, I was asked what I remember about the 80's. I said I remembered the 80's being a time for Ronald Reagan, yuppies, moneymaking, and pop music. He asked me what was different back when *Moonlighting* was on the air. I said that it was a more innocent time. Technology wasn't advanced like it is

now. Television had only a few channels, hardly any cable TV or satellite, and no Internet or cell phones.

Why do you think *Moonlighting* was so popular then? I just kept on coming back to the same answer, because Bruce Willis and Cybill Shepherd had phenomenal chemistry together. From the very beginning, everyone tuned in to see if those two would get together. That Glenn was brilliant and he knew how to draw the audience in. I also added that the show was unique, broke barriers, had great writing, directing, acting, etc. I think the toughest question that I was asked was "What was your favorite episode from seasons 1 and 2?" Every time I wasn't sure of an answer, I would say, "I have to think for sec, hold on." After a few minutes I decided that it was *Witness for the Execution* because of the moment when Maddie and David kiss for the first time in the garage. I explained that it was ironic because in *Every Daughter's Father Is a Virgin*, the episode right before *Witness...* it's discussed in the beginning. Maddie and David read their so-called fan letters. Every letter asked the same thing, "When are you two going to get together?" "When are you two going to kiss?" Once again, I said that this goes back to great chemistry. Even when Maddie and David consummated their relationship in *I Am Curious... Maddie*, it did not ruin the show and that this is an incorrect and unfair label the show has had for years.

How intense are the *Moonlighting* fans? I said I think the fans for *Moonlighting* are pretty intense because most of us were not happy with the way the show ended. One of the most popular things on the fans' minds are the DVDs. The fans are really excited that the DVDs are coming out and that there are going to be all these extra commentaries and featurettes for them to enjoy. Have you ever met Bruce Willis or Cybill Shepherd? No, I haven't gotten to meet Bruce, but I did

get to be a part of a phone interview with Cybill Shepherd. And what was that like? Cybill was really a lot of fun to talk to, funny, sweet, and witty. She was just a pleasure. I also said I got to meet Glenn Caron after we did an interview with him at his office. I talked with him about *Moonlighting* and the possibility of doing a reunion.

During the interview, I kept thinking, "Oh God, please, please give me a question about the fanzine or campaign." Finally, the last question he asked was, "So tell me about the fanzine?" I said that I started the campaign over three years ago and I started it because I saw in the Daily News that reunions such as *LA Law* and *The Cosby Show* were being made. I started the campaign online to try to get a reunion made by gathering support from the fans. I met Christie Taylor and she came up with the idea of doing the fanzine. The fanzine began as an idea to post fan fiction, puzzles, and stuff like that, but it turned into something much more advanced. We wound up interviewing over 25 people who were involved with the show. We have asked them about a reunion and doing commentaries for the DVDs and that it's a great experience and just a great adventure. Then he said, "Ok, I think we'll stop here. Thanks so much."

I believe there were other questions he asked, too, but I can't remember. It felt like I was there for awhile but it went by quick. It was over and I had lived through it. All I could think of was "Wow! Did I actually manage to get through that? Wow!" I put my hand over my heart and took a deep breath, reality finally set in that this really happened.

CHRISTIE'S STORY

When I first heard I would be part of a featurette for the *Moonlighting* DVDs, I felt nervous. As a shy person, I worried about – 1. Not having anything to say.



2. Babbling on in incoherent phrases no one can use. 3. Being too nervous to remember the things I want to say. However, there was also another emotion swirling around my anxiety: pride. The thought of an idea about a fanzine I rattled in my brain more than three years ago manifesting into a cross-country trip to LA and participate in the process for a major DVD release was beyond anything I ever imagined. Despite all the fears I had, including the fear of flying, I wasn't going to miss a great opportunity. This wasn't merely something I wanted to do, I had to do it. I had to reward myself for all of the years of late nights and early mornings I've spent laying out every page and illustrating every cover. I needed to experience something I never thought would happen in my life. The best part about it, I shared this experience with five other well deserving people.

The fun-filled week we all had turned serious on Friday. During our breakfast we laughed and talked like all of the previous mornings, yet there was a lingering tension on what's to come. Our collective nervousness was suspended as we enjoyed our meeting with writers Jeff Reno and Ron Osborn. The nervousness returned the second we stepped into the minivan to go do our DVD commentaries. While listening to the *Moonlighting* Music Michelle brought, it inspired us as we concentrated and organized our best sound bites, which would hopefully grab the producer's attention and would survive the editing process. Even though the weather was what I'd expect back East, I was still excited. When we arrived at the correct address, I was surprised at how ordinary the facility looked. On the outside, it looked like a normal house. On the inside, I quickly realized it was the right place. I felt the same atmosphere most creative oriented businesses had: laid back, casual and inviting.

We met the producer of the DVD proj-

ect, David Naylor, and he handed us several sheets filled with factoids about 80's news events. As a woman from his staff, Corinna, led us to the second floor lobby, I felt an extra spike of nervousness. "How am I supposed to remember all of this?" I asked myself. My bewildered eyes skimmed through the handouts. The pages listed specific events from different areas of life that I found uninteresting. Moreover, I kept racking my brain to find a way to incorporate at least one event with *Moonlighting*. I only came up with the Chicago Bears winning the Super Bowl in 1985 and discussing the significance of David Addison wearing the McMahan headband during the opening scene of *Every Daughter's Father Is a Virgin*.

It wasn't until my conversation with the make-up/stylist that I was able to ease my apprehension. The woman was engaging and I discovered she grew up in a neighboring community in Long Island (I live near the Queens/Long Island border). After she applied my make-up and smoothed out my hair, I continued waiting in the lobby while everyone else continued to figure out what to do with the 80's information lying on the coffee table.

When Joy finished her session, it was my turn. I cautiously stepped into the dark room. The walls were black and the lighting was staged almost like a classic police interrogation scene. My brain knew the difference even though my heart didn't. The item that most symbolized me entering a real Hollywood production was the empty director's chair that was waiting for me.

After sitting in the chair I kept trying to relax and remember what the make-up/stylist told me. With every breath I attempted to figure out what were my most important thoughts. My preparation went out of my head the second David Naylor asked the question about significant events happening during the

80's. My mind went blank. I frantically tried to string together something, anything, from one of those printed sheets I left in the lobby. I decided to go with my most natural response: the emergence of Hip-Hop. That seemed to be the best comment because it prompted David Naylor to ask follow-up questions on the subject. He talked about the rhythm of dialogue the show had and for an upcoming writer, I felt I hit the jackpot.

When my session ended, he told me it was very good that I mentioned Hip-Hop because I was the first to bring it up. It made me feel as if I truly made a unique contribution. The only thing I wish I could have done was mention the fanzine, how the idea was conceived and how the covers were linked to specific *Moonlighting* themes. Despite this oversight, I wouldn't trade the experience. Being on the *Moonlighting* featurette is a wonderful feeling. It's also wonderful to know that whenever the DVDs are rented or sold, I will always be a part of it.

DIANA'S STORY

When I got the call from David Naylor telling me that he wanted to interview me for the *Moonlighting Phenomenon* featurette, my first reaction was "Oh of course, sure!" but in the back of my mind I was thinking "Oh my God, I don't want to be on camera!" But in the same instant, I knew this was an amazing opportunity and I had to "go for it." What's more, David wanted me to gather some of the staff to participate. I excitedly called the ladies and their reaction ranged from screaming into the phone (and into my ear) to silent disbelief. As nervous as we all were about appearing on the DVD that would be seen by millions of people, we were also gratified to know that our work was being acknowledged.



Fast forward to Friday, February 11, the day that we were to be filmed. It was raining all day, monsoon-like, definitely a bad hair day, for me anyway. But before that, we met up with Jeff Reno and Ron Osborn at a Starbucks in Santa Monica. I love these guys! They're so friendly, down-to-earth and funny! I have met them a couple of times already but it was really sweet of them to come out in the downpour to meet with the other ladies, who were so thrilled to finally meet them too.

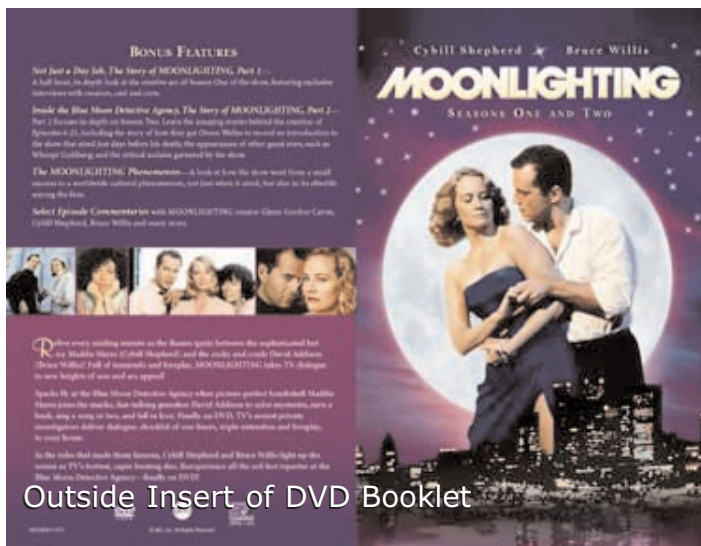
After we said our good-byes, we made our way to David's production studio to be filmed. We were met by his assistant Corinna, who filled us in about some of the *Moonlighting* commentary sessions that were filmed and what was going to be filmed. She also told us that Cybill was very happy to hear that we were going to be featured on the DVD. The surrealness of this experience was beginning to settle in now.

I was the last to go into hair and make-up and I tried to remain calm, making some small talk, however, once I sat in the chair and saw the camera, I began to freeze up a bit. David asked me some questions, and I flubbed a couple of times and at other times, I felt I was rambling thinking "What was the ques-

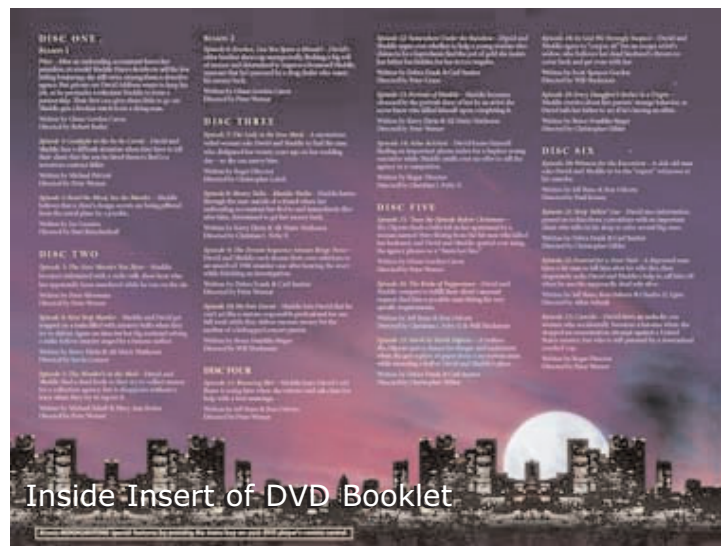
tion?" One memory I do remember telling David was when I first discovered *Moonlighting*. I was a young television time buyer in New York City, and I was reviewing promotional pieces ABC mailed out to advertisers. I remember reading the premise, a romantic comedy, and seeing pictures of Bruce and Cybill. I thought, "This sounds interesting." I also thought Bruce looked interesting, as he didn't look like actors that populated prime time television at the time.

Once I saw the pilot, I was intrigued and

after ABC aired the 5 episodes in the first season, I was a fan. I don't get into the habit of being hooked on television shows, but *Moonlighting* captured my imagination. Everything about the show was and still is fresh today. The writing, the acting and the chemistry between Bruce and Cybill, was electric. You just couldn't take your eyes off them. Now, 20 years later, a new generation will discover the show and understand why *Moonlighting* is one of the best in television history, IMHO.



Outside Insert of DVD Booklet



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