

tall, the way I was dressed and being behind the desk. At least in an episode like that, I got to wear clothes that fit.

DM: Oh, I'll tell you, I noticed in *The Dream Sequence Always Rings Twice*, you've got a nice set of gams!

JC: Yeah, you looked so pretty!

DM: Nice legs, nice figure.

AB: Well, thank you. The original concept that the costume designer sort of interpreted it in that way. I had dressed in my way for the audition for Glenn. I put on a little tiny, sexy T-shirt dress, but I got scared before I went out of the house as myself, you know, as Allyce not as Miss Dipesto. I got scared. I put on a big jacket over it and a bunch of jewelry and that's how I went to the audition, so when the costume designer kept bringing in clothes for me, Glenn kept saying, "Nope, that's not it. That's not it." And Glenn finally said, "Well, Miss Dipesto is somebody who always gets dressed at least twice! She's never somebody that just puts something on. She has to get dressed at least twice every day. (Everyone laughs) And so that's kind of how we wound up with that concept with everything drapey and layered, and you know shmatas, the whole thing. I haven't worn a pair of earrings since the show. (Everyone laughs) Really, really! So that's how that all came about, but it was great fun to wear the costumes and

stuff in *Here's Living with You, Kid*. I can almost hear Curtis saying it in my mind when you guys said it. He said it so funny.

DM: Another signature of Miss Dipesto was her rhymes. Did the rhyming monologues ever intimidate you when you saw them in the script and did you give any input on some of them?

AB: In the pilot, when I was going to audition for the pilot, it did. Like I said when I was talking about it earlier, I thought, "Who is this person and why are they doing that? What kind of person makes up rhymes?" I don't know if there's anything that I can actually consciously tell you about, but that's what I thought about and tried to let just sink in. Well, that made her... You could have done it so many ways, but to me, it was Miss Dipesto's whimsical side, the whimsical side of her that you could just not keep down. I mean, even if she got a really good job that she deserved, and she was very good at her job and she was very talented, she had a whimsical side that just could not be kept contained and people who

appreciate her let it come out. I guess that's the best way I've ever articulated it. That's how she got to do the rhymes. First of all, David was ok with it because, you know, Blue Moon was Blue Moon. But people were ok with it and appreciated it because it was such a strong, fun part of her that they just said "Ok. All right. Now let me figure out what she just said." (Everyone laughs) Did I ever have any input in it? Not really. Again, you see, my experience with the show was that it was not improvisational really at all. And I think Curtis felt same way, and Glenn was very strong about that. I mean, his writing is very specific and nobody was encouraged to improvise. If something goes wrong accidentally when you're shooting and it turns out to be great and everybody approves of it, that's one thing. But it's not that it was ever an improvisational show. Once in awhile, I had some input in it just because we got the scripts so late, as you guys know, right before, and I would have to memorize the rhyme, and then we would have to just go shoot it, and sometimes things would come out a little different than what was written, by accident, and I think

those probably wound up in there, if I remember. But it was never anything that I consciously changed or put in there. I pretty much had free rein in how I did them, how I wanted to do them, how ever I wanted them to come out, they pretty much let me do whatever I wanted. But I was limited by being behind the desk. That's the only input I had was being able to act it.

CT: What was your



Blue Moon's Extreme Makeover. Agnes let Maddie play dress-up for Agnes' night at the Detective's Banquet and Ball in *North by North Dipesto*.

reaction when you were nominated for an Emmy® for best Supporting Actress?

AB: Well, you know, I just found it because my Dad was giving me a bunch of stuff. He saved the message that I left him when I called him to tell him that I had been nominated for the Emmy®. I never knew in my wildest dreams that anything like that would ever happen. I think I left my Dad a ten minute message going on and on and on! I was just thrilled out of my mind! It was just such a dream come true to be considered that way and for the show to be honored that way and to be included in it. Also again, if ABC saw it in their corporate way as a two-person show, well, obviously it wasn't, and that was very, very gratifying. It was just thrilling. Then I really got to wear a fancy dress!

(Everyone laughs)

DM: Actually, I attended the ceremony back then and I remember seeing you!

AB: You're kidding! I wish I knew you! That's so cool!

DM: I think it's funny how fate kind of turns. Yeah, because I was a huge fan and I was a television advertiser so I was able to get tickets. I flew out from New York to LA and I went with a friend. I remember seeing you and Cybill and Bruce walking down the red carpet. It was so cool.

AB: Yeah. That was so amazing! Just an amazing experience.

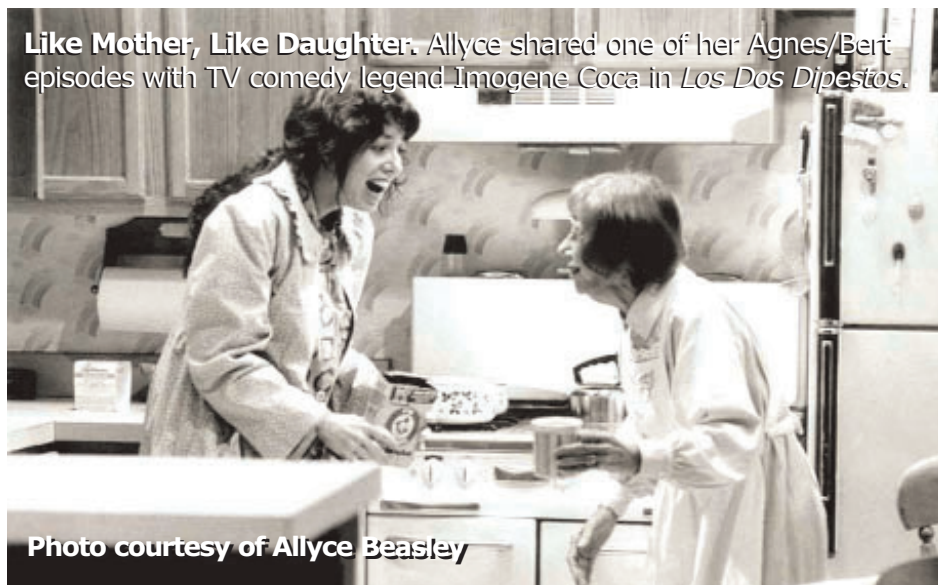
I had brought my Dad to that, too. I mean, it's just like you imagine it, walking on the red carpet. All the light bulbs going off... "Look over here! Look over here!" And my Dad's jaw just dropped, although he's a very sophisticated New Yorker, but his jaw just dropped open the whole time! Then he got to meet Sid Caesar and somebody else in the men's room and that made his century so it was just a thrill. I was so, so proud of us. I was really, really proud! I really was, so it was a lot of fun. What could be bad? I remember

Curtis was kind of doing his Bogie, right? And I said to Glenn and, of course, I thought of the movie, that I was going to do Ingrid Bergman. He said, "No, you can't do that." I said, "What?" He said, "You just have to be Miss Dipesto!"

when we kind of stopped being nominated because we had gotten nominated for all (the seasons)... but by the 3rd or 4th year and I wasn't nominated... Cybill wasn't either, I don't think. I don't remember, but I definitely wasn't. I remember feeling so sad about it, because I felt I had never expected it, but I was still doing the same kind of work, same kind of commitment to the show, and I felt like the politics against the show for being in so much trouble all time, and being late, and being problematic had really worked against some of us on the show and I felt sad about that. But so it goes. But anyway, it was just really a great thrill.

CT: What was it like working with Imogene Coca who played your mother in *Los Dos Dipestos*?

AB: It was a dream come true and Imogene was pretty elderly then. And when we saw her come in for the first rehearsal, she was a tiny, little lady, very petite, and kind of quiet and frail looking. And we're all going, "Oh! We're so thrilled, but uh-oh!" (Everyone laughs) She didn't



Like Mother, Like Daughter. Allyce shared one of her Agnes/Bert episodes with TV comedy legend Imogene Coca in *Los Dos Dipestos*.

Photo courtesy of Allyce Beasley

look that strong. The minute they turned the cameras on, she would be... You know the scene with her running down the hall or something? She was off like a bullet. She was just so happy. As soon as the cameras were running, she was like right there. Again, my son was really, really small then. It was 1988, so you know, I had him on the set with me the first year or so. I'm trying to remember that time... But she was adorable. She was sweet. Some of these things were so thrilling, but in the way that TV goes so fast, you don't even really have time to realize what's going on and then it's over. It just goes by so fast. I mean, life goes by fast anyway, but an episode goes by really fast. But she was adorable! I was just in this touring company. I was telling Diana about it, but we were in Santa Fe, New Mexico and we walked into this painter guy's studio, and we're talking to him for a minute and he just looked at me and he goes, "So you're Imogene Coca, right?" I mean, he had never seen *Moonlighting* or anything, but he just kind of said, "Oh! You're Imogene Coca, right? Isn't that who you are?" And he knew I wasn't, but I felt that was so sweet that he said that and I just really loved the chance to work with her.

PH: I was about to say, it was such perfect casting! You two seemed like mother and daughter.

CT: Yes, yes exactly.

AB: It was just such a thrill. Jerry Finnerman directed that episode so, you know, he had a lot of other stuff going on, too. That was a little distracting. But yeah, Jerry was incredi-

ble. He's an incredible cinematographer, but then we were not used to him as a director. But he got to direct us because he had a guarantee to direct at least one show a year or something so he got to direct the Dipesto-Viola episode. And we were kind of trying to figure out how to do things with him because that really wasn't his main thing.

DM: Yes, we asked him in his interview, "How did you manage to be the cinematographer and direct the same episode?" He said that he would never do that again.

AB: Yeah. It was not very easy for anybody. I think very few people can do that successfully, and sometimes they wonder even if they're successful why they would do that to themselves. But, you know, it's a very hard thing to do. It's kind of schizophrenic. Even to act and direct... Well, that's different, but all these distracting things were always going on, in terms of politically and whatever, that it kind of clouds my memories on some things. We were just struggling to get everything done rather than really being able to abandon yourself to the joyful experience of it. So there was a lot going on there.

JC: What are your favorite



Photo courtesy of Allyce Beasley

episodes of *Moonlighting*?

AB: Trying to think... We touched on a bunch of things. I mean, I loved the Christmas episode, I loved *Here's Living with You, Kid*. You know what, too? I mean, even though it was so bittersweet, I really loved *Lunar Eclipse* a lot. I mean, both the writing and it was a gas in so many ways. That's where Bert and I were going to get married, right? The whole thing with Curtis getting beaten up by that guy and Timothy Leary being the guy that married us, wasn't it?

Everyone: Yes, yes!

AB: Wasn't that great? So I just thought that it was an incredibly well written episode and it was very bittersweet to do. But I really, really enjoyed a lot of it and I thought that was a good episode. But I don't know if I really had a favorite. Obviously, I loved all of them. I loved the pilot. I just loved

what was so special about the show before it kind of self-destructed, or people destructed it. I just loved the particular air and aura that was *Moonlighting* and I loved being in it! I loved breathing it. I loved being a part of it. I loved contributing to it. So I don't know if I had a favorite episode.

DM: There's one thing I have to say. I really loved Agnes' reaction in a scene in *Big Man on Mulberry Street* when Maddie tells Agnes that there is something you don't know about Mr. Addison. Agnes thought that she meant that he was gay but when Maddie tells her that he was once married, Agnes says, "Wow, that's better than gay!" (Everyone laughs) I just loved your reaction and delivery in that scene. Do you remember it?

AB: I do, I do, because, you know, I was watching that because I've been watching the dance scene with Sandahl Bergman.

Everyone: Yes, yes!

AB: Oh man, was that hot! Wasn't that? I hadn't seen that in so many years! That was so way ahead of its time. I mean, that was practically HBO, don't you think?

Everyone: Yeah!

AB: It was so sexy! It was so hot! I got to know Sandahl years later and I just loved it. It was just very, very exciting. I just couldn't believe it when I looked back over it. Yeah. I loved that episode. I mean, again, I loved whenever Miss Dipesto got to say a really great, "out there" truth.

You know what I mean?

PH: Another great scene that I liked and you might remember is in *I Am Curious...Maddie* when you're with Maddie at the bar and you're downing the kamikazes.

AB: Yep!

PH: That was a funny scene, too. She said she didn't drink wine but she had double kamikazes!

AB: Yep! I kind of remember, because we did that scene several times. It was cut out of one episode (*Knowing Her*) that we did and then they wrote it back into another episode (*I am Curious...Maddie*). Do you remember who the director was on that? Was it Allan?

PH: Yes. Allan Arkush.

AB: We did it for a different (episode). It's so funny how things go. We did that scene for something else and I think it got cut. Plus, we had a joke in it that Maddie and I did, kind of like an off color joke. I forgot who said it, because I was recently looking through things and I saw that actually David or somebody got that joke later. It was kind of like a sexual innuendo joke. But anyway, Maddie and I had it in the original attempt. We did it and I only sort of remember it. I also kind of remember that scene, but I don't really remember it well.

JC: We're promoting a *Moonlighting* reunion motion picture. Cybill and Curtis said they would love to do it. Would you do it?

AB: Oh yeah! Sure! I'd love to do it.

Sure I would! You know, it's been so long now and it would be such a different animal. But sure, I'd love to do it. You know, that all really depends on Bruce, and I don't know what that reality would ever be... Not to discourage it, but I just don't know what would get him to do it. I just don't know.

JC: Well, DVDs for *Moonlighting* are going to be released in May 2005 so if that's a big hit, then maybe they'll consider it.

DM: You know, there's always some story popping up about a *Moonlighting* reunion. I know *Cybill's* been quoted because she was talking about our campaign so you know she wants to do it.

AB: She's always wanted to it. I sincerely believe that she does.

DM: And Glenn's been approached about doing it throughout the years so you just never know. Our take is, you know, the movie *Something's Gotta Give*, which centered on a somewhat middle aged couple, was a big hit with Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson, so you just never know. Look at television now. You've got *Desperate Housewives*. You have forty plus women in a big hit. I think there's a movie-going public who want to see people over forty.

AB: Absolutely! I was discussing that with my agent the other day and we think that the baby boomers are finally going to make themselves heard

and we're going to have a better market that way, especially when their kids grow up a little bit. Once kids get a little bit older, you're back to seeking your own entertainment level. I think you're probably right though on how the DVDs would have something to do with it. I mean, that would be a push.

DM: I'm assuming you would be interested in doing commentary for the DVD release?

AB: Oh sure! Yeah. I mean, I'm still fantasizing because of what you said a few questions ago. I'm still fantasizing about what would ever happen if we were all in the same place at the same time because, do you guys want to know something? I have not seen *Cybill* since the day the show the show wrapped.

PH & JC: Really?

AB: Nope. And I haven't seen Bruce since the day the show wrapped until last Christmas (2003) by accident in a shoe store.

JC: Wow! Can you tell us

how that was?

AB: Next time you come into town I'll show you. It's just this tiny little shoe store that would remind you of New York. I mean, it's not like a landmark, but it's a tiny little shoe store that has floor to wall sneakers, just running shoes and sneakers. It's about the size of somebody's small bedroom and everybody goes there for sneakers and they have some underground tunnel or something where all their sneakers are stored. So if you're in that store, only about, I don't know, eight or ten people, tops, can fit in it with the sales people at once. And I would never go in that store during regular hours. I would go early in the morning and I would never go there right before Christmas. Never, never, because it's insane. It's always busy. It takes the guys hours, and it's really crazy. But my son was going away last Christmas and he needed a pair of sneakers before he went away, so two days before Christmas I went in there and it's just packed. I mean, there's only supposed to be like eight people in there at a time

and there's probably about fifteen, and you're like laying on top of people, like shoulder to shoulder with everybody, and everybody's like yelling for their sneakers and it's closest thing to New York in Los Angeles. But

I'm doing that and I see a guy sitting down with his scull cap on and he has a little girl with him, and I just sort of noticed that because we're on top of each other. And then the guys weren't getting my sneakers and I pushed towards the counter and I was right up against the guy with the scull cap on. My chest was on his back! (Everyone laughs) I swear to God! And you know who it was, right?

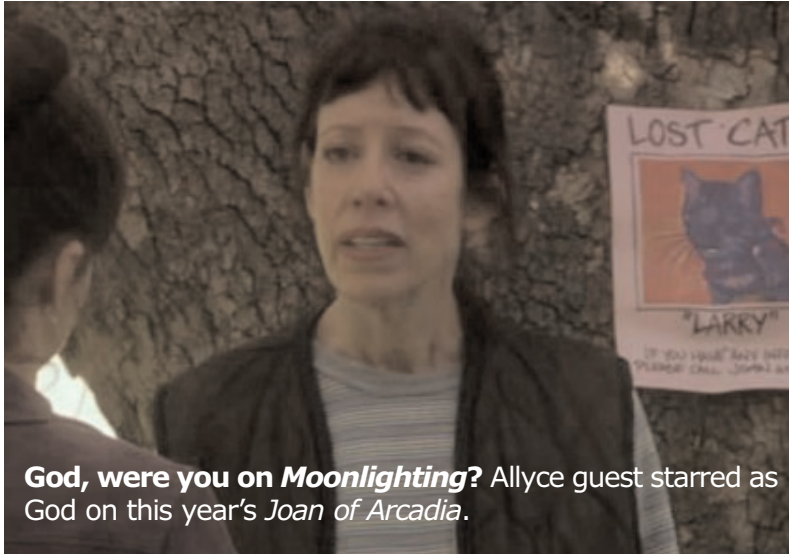
Everyone: Yeah!

AB: It was Bruce, and he was being very quiet, you know, which that part I always respect. I respect whatever anybody's needs are, because it was different for him, that he would want his privacy. That's why you would never expect to see him in a place like that, but I guess he wanted to go Christmas shopping with his daughter. But he had been very quiet, you know, and everybody was being very cool and he had a white beard and a scull cap. Anyway, I saw him and I was laying up against him and I saw his profile. And I just said, "Hey Bruce. I guess I knew this would happen some day." He said, "Oh Allyce!" Then he leaned down to Tallulah and said, "Tallulah, this is the lady that used to be on *Moonlighting* with me." I shook Tallulah's hand and we talked for just a minute. My husband was standing there, my new husband, and I said, "Bruce, this is my new husband," because I don't know what he knows about my life or what's going on. They shook hands really briefly and he had a big, huge bag of sneakers, and then he left and that was it, and we said good-bye.

JC & PH: Wow!



Hey, Trixie! Where's Bert? Richie substituted as Agnes' significant other in Maddie's *Honeymooners* dream in *A Trip To The Moon*.



God, were you on *Moonlighting*? Allyce guest starred as God on this year's *Joan of Arcadia*.

AB: Then Curtis... You guys know I don't see him for years at a time and then we'll go through a period where we have coffee and catch up and whatever. But he's the only one I've really seen. I haven't seen Jack. I saw Glenn for the first time in like 15 years last year because there was the possibility of working together and so he called me and we spoke for the first time in years. I have no falling out, no nothing, it's just that we kind of all went our own ways and I just wish the best for him, so we had a little chat and you guys know he's out here doing *Medium* now. I think that should be a fabulous show. I read it and it's a fabulous script.

JC: You were on my favorite television show right now. You played God.

AB: On *Joan of Arcadia*!

JC: We interviewed (series creator) Barbara Hall (which can be found on page 89).

AB: Oh yeah! I read it. I clicked into that and I read it. That was fun to read her interview. I didn't see

her when I was there.

JC: How did you get cast for that? Curtis guest-starred a while ago, too.

AB: I know, I know! The normal call goes out. My agent submitted me and I went up and auditioned for it. Just the normal kind of things and then I did it. But I was telling Diana that they have a God chair.

JC: Yeah. I've heard about that.

AB: Yeah. Isn't that funny, because they have this chair that says "God" on it, and someone said to me, "Go ahead and sit down." And I said, "No, no. I can't sit down in that chair." I don't know if you guys know Passover, but at Passover, Elijah has this cup of wine. I thought that the guest chair with God on it was for God in the same way that Elijah has a cup of wine for Passover that people put for him even though you never see or hear from him. But they really do have you sit in the God chair as the guest chair.

JC: That's so cute.

AB: It was very cute, and they're very nice people. I was really very, very thrilled to do the show.

JC: And you got to work with Amber Tamblyn.

AB: Yeah. She was very nice, very cool.

DM: I liked you working with cats. I'm a big cat lover. I have one.

AB: I have two cats and two dogs. My cats are my favorite. I love the dogs but they're just barely tolerable but the cats are the greatest.

JC: It's funny because I'm a huge fan of the show and I don't read the spoiler list so I didn't know you were going to be on it, and when I saw you I was like, "Oh my God! This is so cool!" It was awesome. I thought the casting was perfect. I thought you were just perfect for the role, too.

AB: Didn't I seem like one of those stray cat people?

CT: Yes.

AB: But it was really great. I was really happy to do it. It was really fun.

PH: The funny thing is that when we interviewed Barbara Hall, we asked her whether she planned to have any other *Moonlighting* people in the show. Then shortly after that, we saw you on there and we just thought that was pretty cool.

AB: You know, maybe that's what she had told the casting director. I don't know, but as far as I know, it's kind of kismet or whatever. It