

# FANS SPEAK TO . . . ARTIE MANDELBERG

It's time for us to thank the producer/director who brought *Moonlighting* into our homes for five seasons.

My name is Terry, and I'm an Italian fan. I started watching *Moonlighting* doing my art homework, as I like listening to something while drawing. At first, Maddie seemed to me a bit too much of an "ice woman," but the dialogue soon caught my attention, and I became a big fan. Now, when I watch current TV shows, I think of *Moonlighting* and the tension between David and Maddie. I cannot find another show with this tension, the fast-talking, and the silly arguments. I wonder how hard it must have been for the actors and the writers. Although there are more serious moments in the last two seasons, the silly pursuits at the end of the episodes are always funny to watch! And I also noticed that Cybill Shepherd wears tennis shoes at times. Was that part of the script? I noticed something different in the 4th and 5th seasons, and I was really curious to know how you were going to end the last season. I think *Lunar Eclipse* is one of the most intriguing episodes. I always wondered if you already knew it was going to end this way, even before filming the 5th season. It seems you didn't want it to look like a final episode. However, that's the impression I had when I first saw *Lunar Eclipse*.

Thank you so much for the time you'll take to read messages from the fans!

Terry (from Italy)

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Dear Artie,

Thanks so much for directing such episodes as *Eek! A Spouse*, *The Color of Maddie*, *Here's Living with You*, *Kid* and *Shirts and Skins*! Especially *Shirts and Skins* is great and fun to watch. I love the scene when David and Bert were incognito in the hospital stealing some files and Bert fights with this guy. Also, when Maddie creeps over the loft to David's office and he finds her sitting in his chair. Great story! It means a lot to us fans that you granted this interview and being a part of the show.

Regards,

Karin (from Germany)

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I was just watching *Eek! A Spouse* the other day. I know the situation is criminal, but the plot is not bad at all. Artie did a great job directing. I really think that there is an underlying theme of soul mates in this episode. I really do believe in soul mates, and I think that is what Maddie was trying to insinuate in the car. I also love her "Being David is like a first kiss" scene. Agnes said everything the audience thought. I thought that was a great way to show how Maddie felt without coming out and saying "Yes, I'll always love David more than anything, but he'd be a lousy husband

and I don't want to change him." I finally felt sorry for Maddie again.

Kelli

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Dear Artie,

I really enjoyed hearing about your experiences working on *Moonlighting*. I'm amazed by all the people who worked on the show "behind the scenes" that made the show so good. I'm sure the job of editing and producing was made even tougher on *Moonlighting* because of the fast pace and tight deadlines. You guys did a great job of making those overlapping conversations between Maddie and David look seamless! I also loved the episodes you directed. Two of my favorites are *Eek! A Spouse* and *The Color of Maddie*.

After the shock of Maddie's impromptu marriage wore off, I loved seeing Maddie and David return to the old banter that I loved so much in *Eek! A Spouse*. It had just the right touch of comedy (standing outside the office door "trading barbs, quips..."), romance, and a couple of great driving scenes, too. I especially love Maddie's speech about "licenses and vows." All of this was made even better by the body language and expressions in each scene.

*The Color of Maddie* is my favorite episode of the 5th season. It was reminiscent of the earlier seasons with Maddie and David trying to

figure out their relationship. There another funny driving scene with David guessing the number of Maddie's past lovers including "a fling with a pal," the conversation where Maddie says that David is "just as confused about us as I am," and that great flirting at the end while they played pool together. These were great episodes!

Thanks again for sharing your memories in your interview with the fanzine!

Pam Hardin

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(On the Moonlighting pilot) I like it when Maddie and David meet, and the trash can falls on Miss Dipesto's head!

Ashley, age 6

Hello Mr. Mandelberg,

Thank you for all the great work you did from start to finish on *Moonlighting*. When a television show continues to entertain many years after its final episode, it definitely earns its rank as a classic. Classic describes *Moonlighting* perfectly. The music, the overlapping dialogue, the comedy, the characters, the movie-like quality are some of the reasons why I'm still an avid (videotape) watcher. *The Color of Maddie* certainly has these qualities with the Rolling Stones and Tchaikovsky, the innuendoes and dialogue in the pool hall, and, of course, the chase scene. Love that *Moonlighting*!

Regards,

Suzanne Robbert

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Dear Artie Mandelberg,

*Moonlighting* is still my favorite television show and the episodes you worked on are among the best. People like you who stayed on the show from the beginning till the end made *Moonlighting* what it is today: highly entertaining, sometimes hilariously funny, sometimes dramatic or romantic, and always very enjoyable. By doing things differently - like having Maddie punch David in the Pilot, having a black and white episode, a Shakespearean parody, dream sequences and the mock looks behind the scenes - *Moonlighting* places itself above any show till today, when I am looking forward to watch the weekly reruns. Thank you very much for your input in the show and sharing your memories.

Monika (from Germany)

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Dear Artie,

How wonderful it was for me to meet and interview a real veteran of the show since you were with *Moonlighting* from beginning to end. Your contributions as editor, producer and director were essential in making the show as ground breaking as it was. It must have been so exciting to have been editing the pilot and realizing that you had something really special in your hands. Thank you for shedding some light on what it was like to work on the show from behind-the-scenes. For instance, I never would have guessed that ABC was originally unhappy with *My Fair David*, which had to be re-edited.

Actually, I remember a scene in that episode when Maddie and David are going to Emily Greydon's mansion, and David is telling Maddie that the two employees he was going to fire (because of their bet) were "Daniel and Mandelberg." If one listened closely to some of the episodes, you would hear some "name dropping" of the ML crew.

I also want to comment on the episodes you directed. I really loved *Eek! A Spouse*. There was so much going on in this episode and you directed it beautifully (not bad as your first outing as director). You had David driving Maddie crazy because he refused to show her that her marriage to Walter Bishop was making him suicidal. He was going to make her pay for marrying Walter and lying about whose baby she was really carrying. In *Here's Living With You, Kid*, you got to direct your own version of *Casablanca*. It was a touching Bert and Agnes episode that showed how much they cared for each other by taking the big step to live together. I thought *The Color of Maddie*, a 5th season episode, was very close in style and tone to shows in the 1st season, and it was one of the best from that season.

I especially loved the flirtatious banter at the end where they are dressed in formal wear playing pool. In *Shirts and Skins*, you have David and Maddie work on opposite sides of the same sexual harassment case. Very funny sequences where you have Maddie breaking into David's office via the ceiling, and David doing an impersonation of Jerry Lewis' *The Nutty Professor* when he and Bert go

to a psychiatric facility to obtain some records. You did a great job in directing all these episodes and your career as a director is still going strong! Good luck with the two pilots you sold — *The Interrogator* and *I.C.E.* I am looking forward to seeing them both on the air! Thanks for taking the time to meet with me that day. It was great to meet so many of you when I was out in LA.

Diana Maiocco

Hello Mr. Mandelberg,

I wanted to thank you for contributing your talent through out the series from the pilot to the last season. Between editing, producing, and directing, you brought so much to *Moonlighting*. The episodes you directed, *Eek! A Spouse* and *The Color of Maddie*, both have great endings. In *Eek! A Spouse*, it's when Maddie is sitting on the bed waiting for David, and then he tells her he wants her to put her wedding ring on. He looks through her purse and takes her hand and puts it on her finger.

There's a great close up of their hands. That scene feels right because this is what I think most of the fans wanted to see, Maddie and David getting married, and David putting the ring on Maddie's finger.

The ending of *The Color of Maddie* is great as well, when Maddie and David play pool in some fancy place. There is so much sexual innuendo and double entendre here. It's great. Maddie looks gorgeous in a sexy, strapless dress, and David looks so handsome in a tux. I love when David says, "It's a matter of impact and angles, the right impact at the right angle." The way they are looking at each other so seductively! It's just a great scene and, in my opinion, one of the best scenes in the last season.

Joy Chodan

Thank you for agreeing to share your memories about *Moonlighting* for this fanzine. I was intrigued by the unique perspective you have working with Glenn Caron and Jay Daniel.

I continue to watch the episodes you directed, particularly two episodes during the fifth season. *Shirts and Skins* is the episode I remember the most from season 5. I had a kick out of watching the office have the battle of the sexes, literally. Seeing Maddie crawl up over the ceiling just to break into David's office was hilarious. What was equally as hilarious was the scene when David and Bert go undercover to retrieve Robin Fuller's personal files. David's disguise reminded me of how Jerry Lewis looked in *The Nutty Professor*. *The Color of Maddie* is the other episode I continue watching. I think the last scene, when they are formally dressed and playing pool, captured the spirit of *Moonlighting* more than any other scene in Season 5. The tone of their voices, the way they look at each other, the sexual tension and the innuendo were as good as they were in the first three seasons.

Thank you again for your great contribution to this show.

Christie

Alternate Ending for: *The Color of Maddie* Cont'd from page 13

**Agnes** (excited): The same car?

**David** (smiles): The same car.

**Agnes**: How was the Ball last night?

**David**: Very good.

**Agnes**: Very good?

**David** (smiles and raises his eyebrows): Agnes, we should have been going to this thing for years.

**Agnes** (excited): Did you dance?

**David**: We danced. Played a little pool. Stayed out past midnight, and nobody

turned into a pumpkin.

**Agnes**: Yeah?

**David**: And we came to work in the same car this morning. I'll let you fill in the gaps ...and you can let your imagination run wild.

He winks, takes the newspaper from Agnes' desk, and walks into his office.

Agnes just watches him, smiling.

Bert wanders over to her, watching David close his door.

**Bert**: Good date?

**Agnes** (smiling): Oh, yeah. Better than good. Very good. They danced!

**Bert**: Oh, no. Here we go again...

END OF EPISODE

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