

EXTRATERRESTRIAL TIMES

SPECIAL 25th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



22nd September 2011

"All the News that's Fit to Print"

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ALIEN LIFE FORM IN BIRTHDAY SHOCKER!

EXCLUSIVE!

It was on this very day in 1986 that our favorite alien crash landed into the Tanner family garage. From this point forward, none of our lives would ever be the same. We all remember watching the show on Monday nights, and often could not bear the weeklong wait for the next new episode; so much anticipation for a thirty-minute program.

If that was not bad enough, the summer hiatus was even more excruciating. Many of us also watched the sitcom for its complete run on NBC, and were crushed when it was cancelled after only four seasons; another prime example of a television show that ended before its time. We had all but given up hope on there ever being a continuation to the last episode of the ALF sitcom, "Consider Me Gone," but in 1996 our hopes and dreams finally came true when the movie *Project: ALF* was released as ABC's Movie of the Week.



Regardless of it all, we have all been loyal and dedicated fans for 25 years. In more recent years, we waited patiently for the DVD sets to be released, and had gotten our "ALF fix" by watching old and deteriorating VHS tapes; though the true mark of an "ALFaholic" is searching the new eBay auctions in the wee hours of the morning for rare collectibles!

This newsletter was created for all of the ALF fans of the past, present, and future. This is an exciting time to be a fan, and projects such as these will surely inspire a whole new generation of ALF admirers...as well as bring back fond memories! Included in the following pages: the toughest ALF quiz you'll ever take, a look back on episode #1, information on an all-new ALF website, an exclusive interview with Paul Fusco (creator and voice of ALF), and more! We hope you enjoy this special 25th anniversary newsletter.

The Most Ridiculously Difficult ALF Quiz . . . EVER!

WARNING – FOR EXTREME ALF FANS ONLY!

Yo! My name is Sam Stokes, administrator of the ALF Wiki (<http://alf.wikia.com>), where we archive all kinds of information about every possible aspect of ALF from the TV shows, movie, comics, video games, merchandising - anything you can think of about ALF is there. And if it's not, you can add it!

Now on to the quiz! This quiz is designed to see whether you are a certifiable ALF maniac, or simply an ALF fan (which is okay, too). If you are a certifiable ALF maniac, then this quiz will be a piece of cat . . . I mean cake! If you need a little extra help, just surf on over to the ALF Wiki to figure out the answers!

1. On the episode "Night Train," Willie and ALF run into a hobo in a train car named Gravel Gus. Gravel Gus mentions two friends of his that have no teeth. What are their names?

2. On "ALF's Special Christmas," Tiffany shows ALF a picture that she drew of herself as an angel. When ALF sees this, he asks Tiffany if she is from what planet?

3. After the destruction of Melmac, what became of ALF's friends Rick and Stella?

4. On the episode "It Isn't Easy Bein' Green," Willie refers to the instrumental bridge of the Asparagus song using a term referring to what musical composer?

5. When ALF realizes that he was born in wedlock (a disgrace to Melmacians) he joins a silent monastic order where "peace and tranquility allow for the contemplation of life's vicissitudes." What was the name of the monastic order?

6. When Immigration visits the Tanner residence in search of an illegal alien, Trevor Ochmonek stops by and gives Willie a business card for his cousin who is a lawyer. What is his cousin's inmate number?

7. Before ALF met Rhonda, he was engaged to another woman for 58 years before breaking it off. What was the name of ALF's fiancée?

8. Racky was the name of a raccoon that became a Melmacian hero. What did Racky do to become a hero?



9. ALF's grandfather is known for saying, "Don't look back. Something might be broken." What was his name?

10. According to the Melmacian deity Barry, who can party with him anytime?

Check your answers below to find out how you measure up . . .

0-Yo! You have actually seen the show, right?

1-3 - You could be a Junior Orbit Guard on Melmac! (Of course, there is no Melmac anymore, so take that as you will).

4-6 - Not bad for someone without fur . . .

7-9 - You know about as much as the head librarian of the Melmacian National Library – and she's read both books!

10 - Are you sure you're not from Melmac? (Count your stomachs, if you're not sure)

Answers
1. Litchfield and Flatcar
2. Bungarea
3. They got married and opened a tanning parlor on Mercury
4. Giuseppe Verdi (Willie says, "Now for my dramatic Verdian bridge.")
5. Brothers of the Peaceful Dominion
6. 24601 (The same inmate number as Jean Valjean in Les Misérables)
7. Ruby (she took her love to town, even though ALF said "don't")
8. He taught Melmacians to wash their food before they ate it
9. Grandpa Satchel
10. "He who burps downwind"

EXCLUSIVE! PAUL FUSCO Q&A

Hi Guys

First of all I want to give you my sincere thanks for keeping ALF alive out there and for the wonderful way you are keeping the fan base informed and in contact. I really appreciate the efforts you are making. It has helped to keep us in the public eye and generate new interest so we can hopefully introduce the "ol' Alfer" to a new generation of fans...

now to your questions...

1) Out of all the ALF episodes, which one is your favorite and which one are you most proud/fond of?

Mark Witherspoon - UK

That's a hard question because there were a few that I really liked. The one I personally like (not because I wrote it) was the episode entitled "Alone Again Naturally." I felt it had a certain charm and blend of humor and pathos. I used the actual names of my next door neighbors as two characters in the show.

2) Are there any current plans to bring ALF back to television or the big screen

Sam Stokes - USA

YES!! We are currently in talks about doing an ALF theatrical MOVIE...and it seems to be very promising. That could be big.

3) Where is the Tanner house located?

Shumway - USA

The actual house is in a suburb of Los Angeles called Pacific Palisades.

4) Does RALF still exist?

Mark Witherspoon - UK

RALF is still around...hoping to work again.

5) What's your favorite item of ALF merchandise? What's the most unusual item of ALF merchandise you have seen?

Mark Witherspoon - UK

I like the ceramic ALF table lamp that was made. The most unusual item: The ALF wind sock. Was a bad idea from the start... who knew people actually bought wind socks? After seeing the finished product, ALF was heard to remark: "I don't render well in vinyl".

6) Do you still keep in touch with any of the ALF cast/crew members?

Sam Stokes - USA

Yes - I recently caught up with Anne Schedeen and Max Wright who both still live in LA.

7) There are a number of references to crew member names in many ALF episodes. Did all of the crew members take these tongue-in-cheek references in stride, or did any of them come as a surprise to the particular crew member?

Sam Stokes - USA

Sometimes it was a surprise - It was mostly done as an inside joke to these people who all considered it an honor to have their name mentioned.

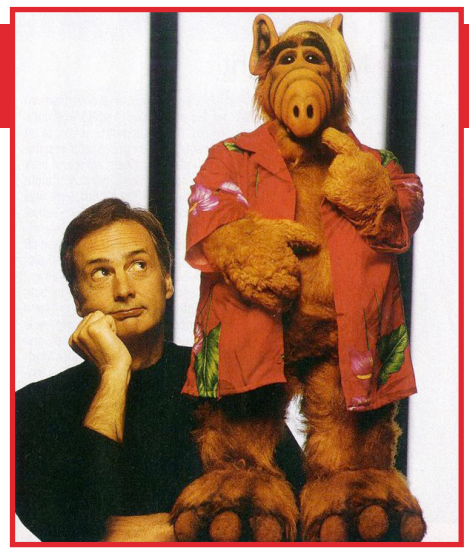
8) Will the unedited versions of the ALF DVDs be released in the USA and will the rest of the ALF cartoon episodes be released to DVD?

Sam Stokes - USA

I am not aware of any plans for that at this time... however if there is an ALF movie and there is a big enough demand for merchandising to be produced again, maybe something can be done about it.

9) During the last Q&A, you mentioned that season five would have had ALF living on a military base. My question is, how big of a part would the main characters, namely the Tanner family, have had in the fifth season, if any? Would they have had guest appearances every now and then or would they have been written off the show for good?

Anders Landby, Sweden,



We would have kept the Tanner family active in the 5th season in some way - It was never our intention to write them out totally of the continuing series. We just needed more characters and a new environment for ALF to play in and by putting him in a new situation it could open his world up more for different situations.

10) When the sitcom was still on the air, did you have an idea of how you wanted the show to end?

Anders Landby, Sweden,

No. When we finished the 4th season we did not know if we would be doing a 5th season. That's why we left the last episode with a "To be continued" feeling. NBC at the time was pretty sure we would come back for another season but said if they didn't do another season, they would let us do a special one hour show or movie so we could tie up all the loose ends we left. The current management at NBC at the time never lived up to that promise and that's why we were left up in the air. Fortunately, ABC picked up on this promise and allowed us to do "Project: ALF" as a two hour made for TV movie. I always felt bad for the fans that we never were able to resolve everything before the series was canceled. By the way, when we went off the air, the show was still doing very well in the ratings. The reason they pulled the plug was that the network needed the time slot to put on one of the shows they were producing called "Fresh Prince of Bel Air".

“We . . . we have a visitor...”

Willie Tanner - September 1986

by Samuel Stokes



It was the 1980s, when we all wore tight rolled jeans and listened to Michael Jackson . . . on 45! (Kids, if you don't know what a 45 is, ask your grandparents). It was a tense time, with the U.S. and Russia on uneasy terms with each other. Was the world ready for a space alien invading our homes?

Well, there was 1982's E.T. but in ALF's own words, "Why are you always comparing me to E.T.? I'm nothing like E.T.!" Nothing could be truer than this statement. E.T. was a relatively quiet, introspective alien with cosmic powers of telepathy and healing. ALF on the other hand was loud and sarcastic, and had amazing powers of infinite stomach capacity and the cosmic ability to program the VCR.

Little did the world know that on the 22nd of September 1986 we would be invaded by a being that would steal our hearts . . . and try to eat our cats! That is the day when orbit guard Gordon Shumway crash landed into the Tanner family's garage – an event that would forever change their lives and ours.

But how did NBC come to sign an alien life form as the star of his own sitcom? What sort of red tape did they have to go through to keep the Alien Task Force from storming the set? And what sort of extravagant luxuries did ALF demand during the contract negotiations? Okay, so we all know now that ALF was really a technically elaborate puppet requiring three people to operate, but at the time you wouldn't know it. Never is the creator Paul Fusco

credited as the voice of ALF, nor is Michu Meszaros credited with appearing in the ALF costume in shots where ALF is seen walking around. Paul Fusco went to great lengths to preserve the magic of ALF. Even today, ALF is more than the sum of his parts; he transcends the mechanics and the puppeteers and truly is a life form all his own.

And he's still a part of our lives after all of this time. I was a fan of the show from the first season. I was the age of Brian as the show originally aired and now, 25 years later, I have an autographed photo of ALF on the wall in my office. Join me as I take a trip down memory lane back to 1986, when ALF showed on TV for the very first time.

The show opens with Willie locking on to an unknown object in space on the infrared radio band. This would be the first of many times Willie is seen fiddling around with the radio equipment in the garage, but the only time we would hear ALF speaking in his native Melmacian language and, of course, the only time we would see a spaceship crashing into the garage. "We ... we have a visitor ..."

From the opening credits alone, we could see that the Tanner family's lives were about to get very interesting. We see ALF removing the lens cap to the family's camcorder, a giant beast of a machine that could give the average human bursitis, not to mention a vertically-challenged Melmacian. We see through his camera lens Kate shooing him away as she gets in the shower, Lynn shooing him away as she uses the phone, and ALF setting the camera down to chase Lucky through the house. It became immediately evident that life with ALF was going to be challenging for the Tanners, but always interesting.

After the opening credits, ALF and Lynn hastily carry the marooned visitor inside to the coffee table. Kate asks, "What is it?" to which Brian immediately responds that it is a real alien. Willie, a science enthusiast, concurs that it is indeed

an A.L.F. – an alien life form. Willie waxes on about how



meeting a space alien is the culmination of a lifelong dream, to which Kate immediately responds, "We've got to get rid of it!" Willie calms down and begins thinking more pragmatically and agrees that it is not safe to keep the A.L.F.



to which the hairy visitor responds, in the Tanner's own language. It is never explained how ALF has become knowledgeable of Earth languages, but it is one piece of evidence among many that Melmacians must have been quite

knowledgeable of Earth's cultures. For example, it is later learned that ALF was part of a dinner theatre production of *Man of la Mancha*, and ALF's Melmacian buddies Skip and Rick are once seen teasing him about asking Rhonda out on a date by singing The Beach Boys song "Help Me, Rhonda."

Although the family was nearing the conclusion that they needed to call the authorities, they are conflicted when ALF wakes up and asks for help in repairing his spaceship. Of course, they don't get too far into the conversation before ALF is ready to a snack. "You got a cat?" asks ALF, to the Tanners' shock. He is forbidden from eating cats, but Kate reluctantly allows him to have a dented cat food can. In the end, Kate gives Willie one day to help ALF with his ship before they decide what to do. Not a moment later Lucky the cat careers through the kitchen window with ALF in

hot pursuit. "He's quick – I'll give him that!"

Although ALF is quite fond of cats (in the culinary sense), ALF never eats a cat while he is living with the Tanners. He is, in fact, only once seen eating a cat hair, when visiting his friend Jody. However, in a flashback during the episode, "Help Me, Rhonda," he is seen dining on a whisker omelet with tail

on the side, while his friends Skip and Rick dine on chili cat and feline and fries, respectively.

When the alarm clock goes off the next morning, Kate lets out a blood-curdling scream when she

ALF at 25: Looking back at Episode 1 (continued)

finds ALF lying in bed next to her. An equally mortified ALF runs into the bathroom with Willie and learns many new things about human hygiene rituals. ALF peaks through the window, providing the nosy neighbor Raquel Ochmonek her first glance at the alien.

Raquel would in fact see ALF two



more times - once in person when the backyard gate between the Tanners and the Ochmoeks is left open, and later in that same episode when ALF hooks the camcorder up to Raquel's cable box in order to talk to her over the TV and assure her that she isn't going crazy. A frightened Mrs. Ochmonek wastes no time reporting what she saw to the Alien Task Force, who would be a constant force to be reckoned with during the series and would ultimately capture ALF in the final episode of the series. But don't worry ... as seen in Project:ALF, ALF sets up poker games with the guards in his cell and soon has them kowtowing to his every whim as many of them owe him the shirt off their backs because of their gambling losses.

Willie labors tirelessly, with no help from ALF, to repair his spaceship, but Willie doesn't have the parts or the technical knowledge required to fix the ship. The derelict craft would never be repaired, but it did earn

the Tanners a significant amount of money on two separate occasions. When ALF finds out that gold and platinum are valuable substances on Earth (though they are worthless on Melmac), he sells the gold and platinum plumbing on his spaceship to buy Lynn a Ferrari. Later, they rented it to the set decorator for the movie Jupiter Guys in order to pay ALF's gambling debt to Nick "the Fish." However, with the spaceship in a state of disrepair, it seemed that ALF was without the means to leave Earth. Furthermore, he was unable to return to his home planet of Melmac (which ALF reveals is not only its name, but also what it was made out of), because it exploded.

When Darnell Valentine of the Alien Task Force knocks on the door to follow up on a tip from Mrs. Ochmonek, Kate is conflicted about whether or not to turn ALF in, considering there is nowhere else for ALF to go. When the officer described the things that might be done to ALF in the Alien Task Force's lab, she decides that ALF should stay, and sends the man away.



Later, ALF uses Willie's radio to attempt to send a message to his friends to let him know that he is living happily with a family on Earth. However, in a heart-rending speech, he expresses how much he misses

them and asks them to contact him or even stop by, promising to introduce them to the Tanners ... before eating their cat. ALF's friends would in fact attempt to come pick him up twice. The first time, ALF didn't go because he decided he would miss the Tanners too much, and since he was only in his late 220s, he figured he had plenty of time later down the line to catch up with them. About four years later, ALF decided that he would go with his friends to colonize a new Melmac. Unfortunately, the Alien Task Force intercepted and decoded the transmissions between ALF and Skip, capturing ALF before he could be picked up (little did they know what a handful he was going to be for them).

In the final moments of the first episode, ALF is livening up the scene at the dinner table. Laughter is coming from all sides as ALF cuts one joke after another. That is, laughter is coming from all sides but the one where Kate is sitting. Although Kate was still apprehensive about sharing her household with an A.L.F. it was clear to see that ALF was quickly becoming part of the Tanner family, and indeed part of our families as well.

Happy 25th Anniversary, ALF!

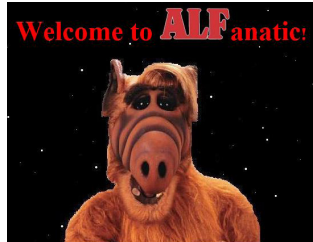


NEW ALF Website online soon!

<http://alfanatic.webs.com>

This new ALF fansite, which took the creator years to make, is filled with information about your favorite alien and contains a lot of new material that can't be found on any other ALF site on the internet.

You'll also find an exclusive interview with one of the cast members of ALF on the site!



In Memoriam: Mark Ebert (2/24/1974 – 8/3/2011)

Mark Ebert, of Lancaster, OH, passed away at the age of 37. He graduated from Beavercreek High School and received a bachelor's degree in Pastoral Studies from Columbia International University.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Carroll and worked at Verizon Wireless. Additionally, Mark was an ALF fan since 1986 and a member of the ALF TV Fan Forum for nearly 6 years. He will be greatly missed.

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ALF News

**For more information on
ALF check out these great
websites:**



www.alftv.com



www.bringbackalf.com



<http://alf.wikia.com>

The Extraterrestrial Times 25th Anniversary Issue has been brought to you by ALF fans for ALF fans.

This would not have been possible without the generous help of Jeremiah Eis and Sam Stokes and very special thanks to Paul Fusco.

Designed by Mark Witherspoon.

ALF

Gordon Shumway will return...

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