

ALFMEISTERS

Vol. 2 No. 1

Oct. 96

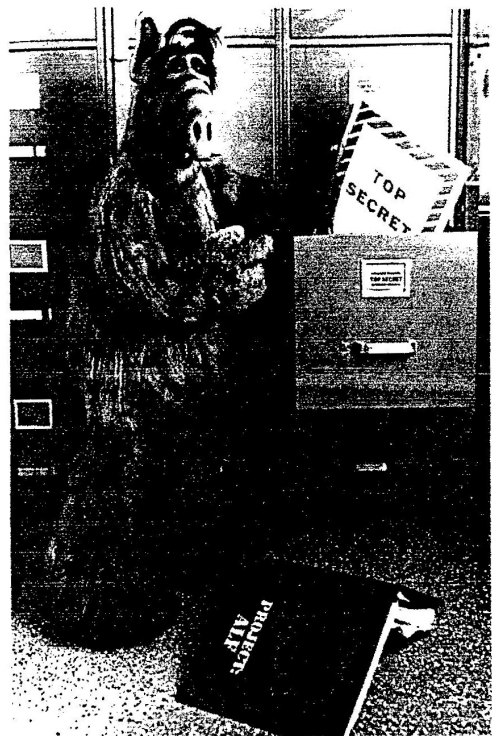


HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
ALF

IT'S A TRIPLE THREAT

Here we are back for our third issue. We hope you are enjoying them as much as we are enjoying producing them. Of course the big news this time around is the movie back in Feb. What did you think? I've spoken with several different club members and gotten several different opinions. In the following pages you'll read a review from staff member Tom.

It's hard to believe it's been ten years this September since ALF crashed into the Tanners' garage. It's disappointing that the show has not remained on the air the whole time but hey, we've got over a hundred episodes, several seasons of two different cartoons, a movie, reruns and tons of memorabilia to keep us satisfied. We can keep this newsletter going along time but we would like more input from you folks. Take a minute to write down your experiences with the first time you saw ALF or your favorite cartoon episode or whatever and send it in. Chances are you'll see it in print *Duff*



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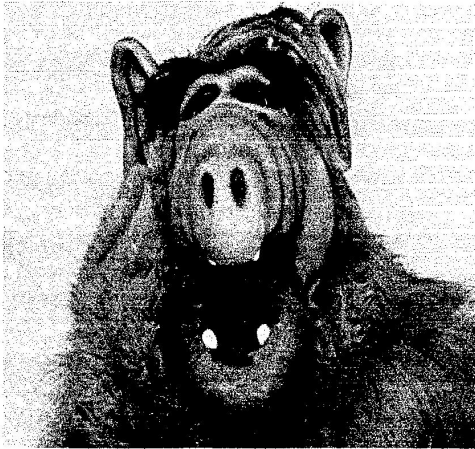
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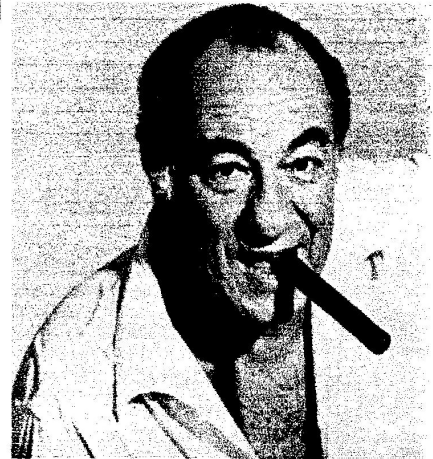
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Fun With ALF will return later



TALKING WITH TREVOR

Interview with John LaMotta



We all remember the Tanners' next door neighbors, the Ochmoneks; Rachel and Trevor. Recently, Alfmeisters staff member Scott Brodnax had the opportunity to talk with John LaMotta(Trevor). Here is the gist of their talk.

AM. Can you give us a little background?

JL. I was born 1-8-39 in Brooklyn, NY. I've been acting for 31 years. I started on the Broadway stage, did musical theater and singing. Prior to that I was a bank auditor.

AM. How did you land the role on ALF?

JL. Tom Patchett (ED. Alfs' Producer) wrote the role for me. He belonged to the same workshop as I. He was in the Directing dept. He wrote a part for me in a show called "Washingtons" for the Showtime Cable Network. A bull in a china shop character which he wrote into the ALF program. I was lucky, but thats what this business is all about, luck.

AM. You were involved from the pilot episode through to the end, weren't you?

JL. Yea. Everyone was sitting around doing it for the paycheck, cause it'll never go anywhere. It ran for four years.

AM. Do you have any favorite episode?

JL. Not really. We only did 12 out of 26 episodes in a year. (ED. He and Liz Sheridan;Racheal) We were guaranteed 12 but we weren't in 12. Altogether we did 35 or 36 out of the four years.

AM. Do you have a favorite story or anecdote about the show?

JL. Not really. When doing a sitcom its all business, its not funny, its funny for the audience. Its hard work, especially this show, very tedious. ALF is a puppet and Paul (Fusco) did all that, I give him credit, he is a talented guy, its very hard work. Don't forget he does every episode, he does the voice along with the physical stuff.

AM. Regular sitcom episodes, aren't those taped in four or five days?

JL. Well thats what we did with ALF. Two days rehearsal, three days shoot. We had a lot of time to shoot because there was no live audience.

AM. Have you had any contact with any of the other cast members since the show ended?

JL. Yea, Liz I talk to once in awhile. In fact I saw Liz at the theater Sunday, (Feb. 4th, 1996) and I keep in contact with some people.

AM. The very last episode of the show was left open. At that point in time did

you know if you were going to be renewed?

JL. We had a suspicion. It was going downhill, the ratings dropped, the episodes were getting terrible. They started bringing (Ann) Meara and other stars into guest star then writing everybody else out. We had a feeling. We didn't think it was going to go another year.

AM. Any talk of making a movie while the series was still going?

JL. No. Oh yea, there was. The fourth year there was talk about a movie, a regular feature.

AM. What happened?

JL. I have know idea.

AM. Are you familiar with details of the ALF puppet?

JL. Its a muppet, not puppet. Muppet is from underneath, a puppet is with strings. They had back-ups but mostly used the master muppet. Its really heavy. The thing weighed about 65 pounds. Paul controlled the head including the eyes and the mouth with his right arm and his left arm controlled ALFs' left arm. The ears were controlled remotely offstage. Pauls' assistant (Lisa Buckley) controlled the right arm so they worked belly to back in a very small area. It was very hot, hard work. I have to give them credit.

AM. What have you done recently?

JL. A movie called "A Vampire in Brooklyn" with Eddie Murphy. An episode of "The Nanny", a movie of the week called "Sweet Mouthful" on CBS or ABC. I do small guest shots. Oh, and I did a couple of guest shots on E.R. as a Russian. I work alot and now I'm collecting a pension so I don't give a crap.

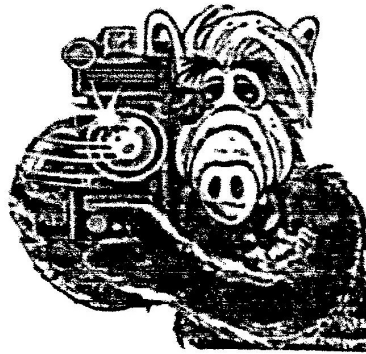
AM. Was Trevor the best role of your career?

JL. Its not the best role, but its the most lucrative role. You get yourself a sitcom baby, you're going into a different tax bracket.



VIDEO

ALF-a-bits



Alf at the 1989 MACYS' Thanksgiving Day Parade

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was hosted by Deborah Norville, Willard Scott and Alf. Alf's segments were all done from a first floor open window in a building overlooking the parade route. Alf could be seen from the waist up holding an NBC microphone in his hand. Nothing was in the background. Deborah and Willard did the majority of the hosting but would occasionally pass over to Alf. The first time Alf appeared, he was introduced by Willard who asked a couple of questions about Thanksgiving on Alf's home planet.

Alf appeared a total of 14 times usually doing upcoming attractions and intros of the next float or band. Of course he always had a few snide remarks and funny comments to make.

At one time he introduced a coming float by saying "of special interest to me, that tall skinny cat, the Pink Panther." Another float was greeted with "the biggest turkey you ever saw, next to Ishtar." When the Pink Panther float finally did arrive, Alf said "that would feed my whole planet." After picking on a few people in the crowd, Alf introduced "Garfield the delicious", "heres the fat cat I've been waiting for", and "gaint feline mignon". For his final appearance his face was superimposed between Deborah's and Willard's who both kissed him.



SUB

PROJECT: ALF: A REVIEW
BY TOM CANNAVO

Just as Alf rode in the back of a 1959 Pink Cadillac, the movie "Project: Alf" is vintage Alf. Ten years after his crash landing with the Tanners and six years since we last spotted him, Alf triumphantly reemerged on February 17, 1996 on ABC Saturday Night at the Movies.

Alf returned as witty and sarcastic as ever in escaping the clutches of evil Colonel Milfoil, played brilliantly by Martin Sheen. Promos for the movie included examples of Alf's wit such as his comment to Nina, Dexter Moyer's beautiful assistant, "How do you feel about dating outside your species?" Her response was equally funny, "It wouldn't be the first time." Another especially vintage moment is when Alf is strapped in and surrounded by soldiers with guns drawn and exclaims, "Any chance of me getting a Cappuccino?"

"Project: Alf" also reaffirmed Alf's appeal to adults. When asked to choose between his money and his life, Alf puts his four-fingered hand on his chin and retorts, "I'm thinking, I'm thinking", reminiscent of the legendary Jack Benny. When referring to his fur color as Burnt Sienna, Alf explained that it's the same color as "Lucy... towards the end." This baby boomer's favorite line is from the scene where Alf is phoning the military base and is asked his location. "I'm standing on a corner somewhere in Arizona, not a fine sight to see...hold it, there's someone slowing down to take a look at me", answers Alf lyrically.

The movie also revealed to Alficionados the facts about Alf, some of which were previously unknown. Alf's seven stomachs and measurements of 47 inch waist, 16 inch neck and 22 inch sleeve were mentioned. Also, certain time gaps were explained. Alf's home planet exploded in 1985 and Alf wandered around for almost a year until landing in the Tanner garage in September of 1986. From the time of his capture by the Alien Task Force in 1990 to April 16, 1996 is still unaccounted for, but we can assume tests were conducted, similar to those in the movie which were "edited" from that date until February of 1996. For now, Alf remains as the "Ambassador from Another Galaxy" with his new-found friends, including his new robot assistant, Rocket, or "The Rockmeister" as Alf calls him.

Alf memorabilia collectors were also treated to some interesting sights and sayings in the movie. The movie's opening featured black notebooks with "Project: Alf" written on them, certainly coveted props if they were available. Alf memorabilia was even mentioned in the movie when Alf lamented "Let's not forget the merchandising possibilities." When asked if he really wanted to see Alf dolls in all the toy stores, Alf replied, "As long as they're plush, I don't render well in vinyl."

While Alf had been away from the Tanners for six years, "Project: Alf" failed to provide an adequate explanation for the fate of the Tanners. The movie's opening scene in which Alf's immediate fate is being decided by a panel of military and political leaders, reveals that the Tanners entered the Witness Protection Program in 1990 only to be relocated to remote Reyjavik, Iceland with no telephone. We are also expected to believe that Willie Tanner testified against Alf, providing details as to the number of fires set and attempts of Alf to eat "Lucky", the family cat. If four years of Alf, the television series, taught us anything, it is that the Tanners were loyal to Alf, and vice-versa, saving him from capture and protecting him from danger on numerous occasions. These revelations provided gratuitous disappointment for loyal Alf Fans. The only semi-respectful reference to the Tanners is when Alf is asked to hide in the bathroom and he replies, "It's been a long time since those words were uttered." In this same vein, it seems that "Project: Alf" was imbalanced in that it neglected to show the tender and vulnerable side of Alf which was prevalent in the TV Series and which drew many Alf Fans to him. Hopefully, this side of Alf will return with a new series or a movie sequel. I know this Alf Fan and fellow Alfmeisters will do all we can to make that a reality.



EPISODE GUIDE - SEASON 3

PRODUCTION #3001 - "STOP IN THE NAME OF LOVE"

Concerned over Lynn's (ANDREA ELSON) depression after breaking up with Lloyd, ALF takes his cue from "Shelley Winters' Guide to True Love" and secretly secures a blind date for Lynn with "the geekiest guy in school."

PRODUCTION #3002 - "BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO"

Trevor (JOHN LA MOTTA) moves in with the Tanners after a fight with Raquel (LIZ SHERIDAN), and it's up to ALF to help them reconcile.

PRODUCTION #3003 - "LIKE AN OLD TIME MOVIE"

In a special black-and-white, silent movie parody, ALF encounters the colorization trend by imagining himself and the Tanners as the stars of the classic, silent films of Chaplin and Valentino. He appears as a "Little Tramp"-like character befriended by a poor woman Kate (ANNE SCHEDEEN), and her children, Lynn and Brian (ANDREA ELSON and BENJI GREGORY).

PRODUCTION #3004 - "PROMISES, PROMISES"

ALF betrays a secret of Lynn's (ANDREA ELSON), then tries everything he can think of and can't get Lynn to forgive him.

PRODUCTION #3005 - "STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN"

ALF wonders if the Tanners would be better off without him, and he finds his answer after awakening from a head injury. His guardian angel, Bob, shows him how he and the Tanners can have wonderful, but separate lives - for a price.

PRODUCTION #3006 - "TONIGHT, TONIGHT" (PARTS 1 & 2)

ALF stars as guest host of "THE TONIGHT SHOW STARRING JOHNNY CARSON." All of the cast in this episode are from the original Johnny Carson show. The format is a one-minute monologue given by ALF, followed by guest appearances, interviewed individually by the Alien. Clips of his show and ad-libbed comedy are all a part of this zany one hour special which brings Hollywood's most popular talent together with the world's favorite alien.

PRODUCTION #3007 - "CHANGES"

A strike sends Willie home, Kate back to her former job, and ALF into a funk. While Willie tries to run the household as "Mr. Mom," ALF relieves his separation anxiety by constantly phoning Kate at work and by constructing a shrine to her in the garage. In addition to dealing with ALF, Kate struggles with the first stages of pregnancy something that has happened every time she has returned to work.

PRODUCTION #3008 - "TURKEY IN THE STRAW" (PARTS 1 & 2)

A bum poking around in the Tanners' trash cans on Thanksgiving spots ALF, and must decide whether to turn him in to the Alien Task Force for a five-thousand dollar reward.

PRODUCTION #3009 - "DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC"

ALF gets his hands on a mail-order magic kit, and the Tanners tolerate his failed tricks - until he makes Brian (BENJI GREGORY) disappear.

EPISODE GUIDE CONT.

PRODUCTION #3010 - "SUSPICIOUS MINDS"

ALF is convinced that Elvis is alive and living next door under the alias of "Aaron King."

PRODUCTION #3011 - "BABY LOVE"

An infant brought to Kate's baby shower triggers an allergic reaction in ALF, who's sure it is a sign that he will have to make way for the Tanners' future addition.

PRODUCTION #3012 - "MY BACK PAGES"

Home movies from the '60's spark Willie's (MAX WRIGHT) nostalgic dreams of college, with a twist--his roommate is ALF.

PRODUCTION #3013 - "ALONE AGAIN, NATURALLY"

ALF reads a tabloid story about a couple who say they live with an alien, ALF becomes convinced the extraterrestrial is his long-lost cousin Blinky.

PRODUCTION #3014 - "HIDE AWAY"

Willie's (MAX WRIGHT) co-worker, Jim, reveals to the Tanners that he is a trial witness hiding under the witness-protection program. When Jim spends the night, ALF worries that the family could be in danger from mobsters and arms the house with a series of booby traps.

PRODUCTION #3015 - "STANDING IN THE SHADOWS OF LOVE"

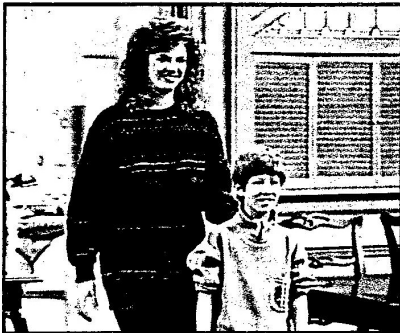
ALF ghostwrites love letters to help shy Jake Ochmonek (JOSH BLAKE) impress a girl at school.

PRODUCTION #3016 - "FIGHT BACK"

ALF uncovers a crooked auto-repair shop when he and Jake (JOSH BLAKE) use a hidden-camera to record Lynn's (ANDREA ELSON) being bilked by the conartist who has been overcharging Willie (MAX WRIGHT) for nonessential repairs.

PRODUCTION #3017 - "RUNNING SCARED"

ALF panics when an extortionist threatens to harm the Tanners and turn him into the Immigration Department as an illegal alien.



EPISODE GUIDE CONT.

PRODUCTION #3018 - "SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL"

After ALF experiences his first earthquake, he is severely "shaken" and goes overboard in his survival preparedness in expectation of the big one.

PRODUCTION #3019 - "HAVING MY BABY"

ALF helps Kate (ANNE SCHEDEEN) keep an ear on the future addition to the Tanner family in anticipation of the new baby's arrival.

PRODUCTION #3020 - "SUPERSTITION"

ALF accidentally destroys a book, which in keeping with the lore of his native planet, sets a streak of bad luck that can only be reversed by observing a silly ritual.

PRODUCTION #3021 - "TORN BETWEEN TWO LOVERS"

When ALF fumbles a phone message, Lynn (ANDREA ELSON) has a date for the dance with both Randy and Danny.

PRODUCTION #3022 - "DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK"

Brian (BENJI GREGORY) wants to back out of his first scouting campout because he is afraid of the dark, but ALF and Jake (JOSH BLAKE) mistakenly believe that a trial run of camping in the backyard will prove that there is nothing to fear.

PRODUCTION #3023 - "FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND"

After bugging Willie (MAX WRIGHT) for a pet of his own, ALF gets an ant farm and immediately creates a farm crisis.

PRODUCTION #3024 - "MIND GAMES"

Bored but with no hobby to call his own, ALF decides to become a psychologist.

PRODUCTION #3025 - "FEVER"

ALF catches Willie's (MAX WRIGHT) cold but after he shows no signs of improvement, the Tanners realize he's not used to Earth viruses and could die if ALF doesn't remember the name of the plant used on Melmac to cure sickness.

PRODUCTION #3026 - "HAVE YOU SEEN YOUR MOTHER, BABY?"

Jake's (JOSH BLAKE) mother comes for a visit, but he seems not too happy about it. When Kate's (ANNE SCHEDEEN) jewelry is missing, all suspicions go to ALF, but he knows who the real thief is.



MANUFACTURER'S NOTEBOOK

We try to be as complete as possible when listing the items produced by a company. Any errors or omissions are solely ours. In this issue we spotlight-

APPLAUSE Inc.

Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Applause produced an eight inch tall plush doll in three varieties. The doll is the same, but there are three different shirts. A Hawaiian shirt, a red and white striped tank top and a white collar with a black necktie. On each doll is a tag stating "applause 1989 Alien Prod." and their address. These dolls came in a display box with a fold back top. The box measured 17"x10"x6". On the top was a drawing of ALF saying "How about a hug for the old Alfer". Their second item is a seven inch tall plush doll with suction cups on all four appendages.

Their final item is also seven inches tall but in a sitting position and a much bulkier plush doll. Its arms and legs are outstretched in front, each with a suction cup. It has a two inch square folded paper tag on its left hand. Inside are vital statistics, on the front is the same drawing as on the display box top. All items are 1989 Alien Prod.



S.W.B.

ALFMEISTERS MEMBERSHIP FORM

JOIN OR BE
SQUARE!



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ COUNTRY: _____

If you would like to join the ALFmeisters Collectors Club, and receive our semi-annual newsletter, please send a check or money order for \$6 U.S.A. or \$9 for foreign subscriptions, payable in US funds, to:

"ALFmeisters", c/o Val Bendel, 4072 Tumbleweed Trail, Loves Park, IL 61111 -U.S.A. -

ALF SWAP!

FOR SALE OR TRADE:

Looking for that unique item of ALF? I have many great European ALF items from Germany. All items are licensed products. Write for my U.S. and European ALF lists:
Val Bendel, 4072 Tumbleweed Trail, Loves Park, IL 61111

ALF View Master Gift Set, MIB \$20; ALF IBM Party Kits by Box Office, MIB \$20; ALF episodes on video. For more info. please contact: Mr. Aneesh Sehgal, 3412 West 66th Street, Chicago, IL 60629.

For the largest ALF sale/trade list in this universe, write to: Tom Cannavo, 25 Arizona Ave., Jackson, NJ 08527

ALF Adult Halloween Mask with tag, Mint: Full Body Child's Halloween Suit, size large, Mint; "Celebrity Alien" Windshield Sun Blocker for car, Mint; Poster Pen Set #62074, Mint. Contact: Robert Gunter, 15 E. Kirby #417, Detroit, MI 48202

This spot is reserved for you. Send in your want/trade/sell list, and we will print up to 3 items in each CATEgory....
Please send your list to: ALFmeisters, c/o Val Bendel, 4072 Tumbleweed Trail, Loves Park, IL 61111 - U.S.A.

FOR TRADE:

Large inventory of ALF items for trade. If you have an item I'm looking for, I'll trade you one or more items from my extensive list. Call or write: Scott Brodnax, 225 Church St., Clover, SC 29710 Tel: (803) 222-1066

WANTED:

ALF skateboard, raincoat, & flashlight. Also, any ALF store displays or promotional items. Please write to: Val Bendel, 4072 Tumbleweed Trail, Loves Park, IL 61111

Any ALF Episodes of: ALF/ALFTALES HOUR, or ALFTALES on video with the original commercials. Also, any ALF toys, figures, or rare items. Please contact: Mr. Aneesh Sehgal, 3412 West 66th St., Chicago, IL 60629 Tel. (312) 476-0289

All 4 of "The Many Faces of ALF" Burger King Records, ALF Books "Summer Camp Adventure", "A Day At The Fair", "The Great ALFonzo", "ALF On the Move". Contact: Robert Gunter, 15 E. Kirby #417, Detroit, MI 48202-4039

ALF TV episodes on videotapes. Contact: Morton Nicholson, 3516 Patterson Ave. #5, Richmond, VA 23221

ALFMEISTER STAFF:

Scott Brodnax
Val Bendel
Tom Cannavo



Photo (left) and drawing (right) are by our new club member, Pepe Ganzález in Mexico. Visit his ALF Home Page on the internet and sign his guestbook.
<http://multired.acnet.net/~pepeglez/welcome.htm>



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