



The Buzz

A semi-regular newsletter about the **Highlander** universe in its many forms. Contributions are welcome. For the time being *The Buzz* is free to anyone interested in receiving it. If you would like a copy of the next issue, just send a stamped (45c) self-addressed envelope to :
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Issue 5
Dec 96

Hello again. Last December, when Jan & I decided to hold our first Highlander Day, we really had no idea how much of a following the show had in Brisbane. We booked a venue, thinking it would be a one-off event. And 50 people came along! A couple of weeks before that meeting, on impulse, I put together the first issue of *The Buzz*, again thinking that it would probably stop there.

Now it's December again & here I am, working on issue 5 (which would have been issue 6 if I hadn't gone overseas in October) and the meetings have become a regular event. *Highlander* has taken on a 'presence' in Brisbane. So much so, that in April next year, we will be staging Australia's first ever **Highlander convention!**

Highlander DownUnder will take place 26 April 1997 at the Mercure Hotel, Brisbane. It will focus on the series, but, like *The Buzz*, will feature Highlander in all its forms. Look for details on **Highlander DownUnder** in January.

Much of this issue is taken up with The Gathering 3, the third annual official Highlander convention which took place 11-13 October, in Denver. More than 1700 fans attended, including two from Australia. Bernice Cuffe & I had a great time! It was a non-stop sensory overload of upbeat fans, articulate Guests, spectacular costumes, internet friends, the most dangerous dealers room I've ever encountered, the longest lines I've ever stood in, lack of sleep, lack of food (too busy to do either) and generally a fantastic weekend.

As always, many thanks to all our contributors in this issue. I hope you enjoy their efforts.

Hold on to the magic,
Sonja

Snippets

In *Issue 3*, I reported that the **4th Highlander movie** would not feature Duncan MacLeod. However since then, rumours and hints have flourished. At The Gathering 3, Bill Panzer nonchalantly asked fans how they would feel about a *Highlander* movie starring Adrian Paul. After the roaring cheer quietened down, he smiled and said, "Oh." Various media outlets are also hinting at the possibility.

Bill Panzer also made reference to a :::shudder::: **Highlander musical!**

Thunder Castle Games are planning a **Highlander comic** based on the series.

Watch out for *Highlander* on **Entertainment Tonight** in the near future. ET sent a crew to Paris during the filming of HL's 100th episode. The 100th episode will also be celebrated with a feature in **Hollywood Reporter**

Melaini Paul will appear in the upcoming *Tarzan, The Epic Adventures*

Jim Byrnes will spend the hiatus treading the boards in Vancouver in a play called *Orphans*.

Also, watch out for Jim Byrnes in a movie called *Smart Alec* with Patrick Stewart. (Sorry, I can't remember if he said he had filmed it, or was about to) It will be a cinema release. There are also rumours of a second *Wiseguy* movie.

No less than three new **Highlander novels** are currently in the making. The first is due out early next year. The third book in line is by Donna Lettow, is called *Zealot*, & will be available mid-late 97.

Highlander in the Media

Since the Australian media remains silent on *Highlander*, I thought you might appreciate reading what they're saying overseas. These clippings come from France and the US.

From *Tele7 jours*. by *Cecile Negrevergne*

Many thanks to Parisian fan, **Anne-Claire de Benoist**, for her translation and for forwarding this.

Sorry for my bad translation, I didn't have a lot of time to polish it and my English skill is not good either. So here it is: : Anne-Claire

"Adrian Paul is filming in Aquitaine" (the name of the area around Bordeaux) "He appreciates France and claret"

Behind the camera, Adrian Paul looks satisfied. Duncan MacLeod, the chivalrous immortal of *Highlander*, he's also directing the 100th ep of the series. "It's the first time we have left Vancouver studio so early in the season and I am finding out that the weather in France can be nice and hot" says while smiling the man with the pony tail. (I'm not sure he's not going to change his mind, the rain hasn't stopped for 3 days).

"Usually the shooting takes place in Paris from November to February. It's cold, it snows or it rains" Adrian joking pretends to find out the European weather. Because, even if he's living in LA with his wife, Meilani, Adrian born from an English father and an Italian mother, has spent all his youth in England. Later, as a top model and debutant dancer, he travelled a lot around the old continent. "I feel like being European and I would like more and more to live here. I am going to buy a house, but I don't know yet if it will be in Spain, in England or in France". Along with the filming of *Highlander*, Adrian has got to know our country. "In Paris, I don't go out a lot. After 5 days of shooting, I need to rest alone at home during the weekend. I go sometimes to the "Bus Palladium" or the "Bains Douches" (French night clubs). I appreciate a lot of French "bistros" and Italian or Chinese restaurants".

Nevertheless, according to the legend the *Highlander's* hero is vegetarian, doesn't drink alcohol, doesn't smoke. Adrian smiles "I sometimes appreciate a very good piece of meat. I need it to be in good shape. I didn't smoke, but in Madrid a friend of mine made me smoke cigars. I'll have to quit. And I drink 2 glasses of wine per day". During his stay in Bordeaux, he has been enthroned as a member of the "confrerie du bon temps" (bunch of folks who like life and good wine). The ceremony took place in the castle Smith-Haut-Lafitte cellar, where the owners produce graves (Bordeaux), red and white.

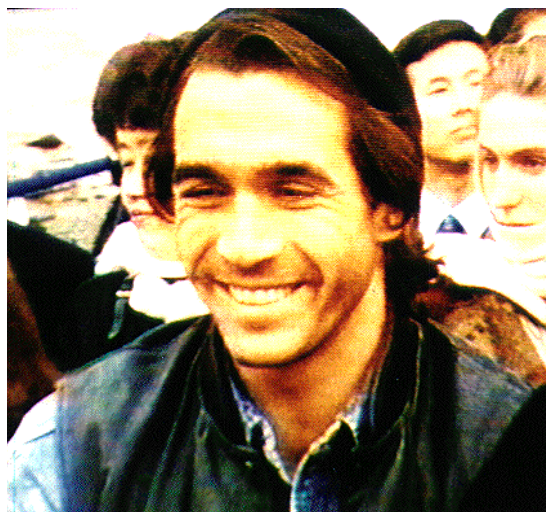
Like Duncan MacLeod, Adrian gives out an impressive energy. This high level sportsman practices boxing, karate, aikido, "hanga" (Hung Gar?), rugby and football. Every day he wakes up at 6 a.m, and practices in a dojo at 7 a.m. "This year, I am training in a new Philippines martial art: balintawak, with 2 canes or 2 swords. A physical actor, Adrian carries out all the stunts. His back and his hands are covered in scars from swords blows. [Um, Methinks this may be a bit of dramatic license on the journalist's part. Sonja] "One time, I have disappeared in the fire of an explosion. Everybody thought I was dead. They had forgotten I am not immortal.

Since five years Duncan MacLeod's and Adrian Paul's destinies are mixed up. "He's a positive character. Violence exists both in the series and in real life, but we teach the young people to make the difference between the Good and the Evil. I am very proud of this. Duncan is a bit of myself. The writers use my personality. His joy of living is mine. An acting teacher told me: to play one character changes your life. That's true".

Adrian never gives his age. He's used to answer: "I am 400 years old like Duncan". For our newspaper, he confesses to being 33 years old.

I hope you'll enjoy it.

The last time I have checked for the barge (this morning at 7 a.m), she was not yet moored on Quai de la Tournelle! Anne Claire



[*"Last time I checked for the barge" !! ::sigh:: Anne-Claire lives in Highlander heaven. Sonja]*

HEADS UP FOR 'HIGHLANDER' FAN Aurora Resident produces newsletters for popular television series

by Cindy Brovsky, *Denver Post Staff Writer*

Thanks to **Molli Struebing** for forwarding this

AURORA- Krystmas Tarr won't lose her head over the cult phenomenon of the "Highlander" television series and movies. While the 26-year old Aurora resident founded the Highlander's worldwide fan club, she insists she's not obsessed by the series, which features medieval characters who are immortal until they're decapitated. The good-vs.-evil themes shift from historical flashbacks to Scotland for battle scenes to modern-day dilemmas, such as an inner-city slumlord taking advantage of his tenants. Add a "drop-dead gorgeous" hero, Adrian Paul as Duncan MacLeod and the TV series is a soap opera with swords. The hour long drama, which mixes action and romance, attracts an estimated 12 million viewers worldwide, which some say rivals "Star Trek's" following in Denver, "Highlander" airs at 9 p.m. Saturdays on KTVD-Channel 20. "Some male fans like the sword fights. A lot of women like the romance. Others like the clothing and historical flashbacks. I can't nail down the one thing that makes it so popular/" Tarr said As a 16-year old, Tarr saw the first "Highlander" movie in 1986. The movie was a bomb in U.S. theaters but a huge hit in Europe. The opening scene of the movie -an All-Star Wrestling match- suddenly shifts to a sword fight in an underground parking garage. A bad immortal guy tries to kill the main character, Connor MacLeod, played by Christopher Lambert. Connor is the cousin of Duncan MacLeod, the hero of the TV series. But Connor MacLeod decapitates his enemy. Flashback to 1500 Scotland when the Highlander immortals, including Connor, began their centuries of struggle. Time travel to 1986, where MacLeod finds love with a bubbly blonde mortal who tells him "not to lose your head" when he dumps her. He has a change of heart and the final shot is the two kissing on a hilltop in modern-day Scotland. "I loved the movie so much, I went back again the next day," Tarr Recalled. Five years later, a sequel to the movie spurred Tarr's interest in the fan club. "I discovered, despite the popularity, there was no fan club. So I wrote the producers and asked if I could start one." Nearly 300 people got the newsletter the first year.

"I stole ideas from other people's newsletters," Tarr recalled. "And they were really supportive. They gave me good tips, like buying paper in bulk." This year, the newsletter has as many as 47 pages an issue and is mailed to 2,000 fans worldwide, including Australia, England, Scotland, Japan and Lithuania. Fan club members range in age from 9 to 70. Tarr runs the operation out of her Aurora home. "I began this as a hobby and did the work while my newborn slept," Tarr said. "Five years later, it's become a full-time job with calls 24 hours a day." New York fans on their way to work call Tarr at 6 a.m. They want to know story lines or discuss an episode that bothered them. "The way some people get worked up, they act like their lives depended on what happens on a television series. I don't get into it that much, and this is my job." Her love of the series is shared by Tarr's fiance, Rob Knoke. The 26-year old writer began watching the series while in college. "The best story line recently was when a side character I didn't like got axed. Just about everyone I know is a "Highlander" fan," he said.



The fan interest fuels Tarr's income. Her pay comes through merchandise sales and the coordination of annual conventions in Colorado. Since 1994, more than 3,000 fans have visited Denver to meet the series' stars and buy merchandise. The convention last month attracted 1,500 fans- some dressed in medieval clothing. "I don't like it when people make fun of us and think we're weird people, or compare us to 'Star Trek' fans," Tarr said. "When you go to a Star Trek' convention, many of the fans are young college students or people who work in fast-food restaurants. Most of the "Highlander" fans are professionals. We have teachers, lawyers and doctors. The clothing is about a time period. You wouldn't find any funny ears." Her defense of the fans comes from personal experience. "Some people laugh out loud when they hear what I do. When I quit my job, my family's reactions was: "Oh? That's real smart." But once my parents saw the money we deal with and the numbers at the convention, they realized this is a profitable thing."

While the conventions have been popular, Tarr isn't sure she'll schedule one in Denver next year. She's busy with the four newsletters a year, along with raising her 5-year old daughter, Leighton, and another baby due in March. And actor Adrian Paul's popularity means he's now in demand for other movie deals.

"His fan club is called **Peace**," Tarr explains. "That's an interesting name for a guy who now makes his living cutting off people's heads."



Clint Haines, a 17-year-old Commerce City resident recently joined the fan club. He began collecting swords when he was 10. "My Dad bought me my first swords, so it's pretty cool to watch the series. I like the time travel stuff." said Haines, a student at Adams City High School. Tarr's enthusiasm for the fan club impressed series producer Bill Panzer. "At first it surprised us. We'd heard of fan clubs for actors but not for a program," he said. "Before we knew it, we had a growing membership."

[Does the style of journalism remind you of anything, folks? Sonja]

The Gathering 3

Denver, 11 - 13 October 1996

Muddled memories by Sonja van den Ende

As I mentioned earlier, I had a great time at The Gathering. While it was my 23rd con, it was the first I had attended overseas & certainly the biggest I'd been to, even bigger than the World Con in Melbourne in '85. It felt weird not running around organising stuff, but whenever I got a little twitchy, I just sat next to the tech desk for a while & that helped. My primary reason for going was to meet many of the people I now talk to via email, but having the con thrown in was a bonus. And yes, if you twist my arm really, really hard, I will probably confess that having most of the cast there was pretty darn good - ok, fantastic -as well.

Guests included Adrian Paul, Stan Kirsch, Jim Byrnes, Elizabeth Gracen, Producers Bill Panzer & David Abramowitz, Swordmaster F Braun McAsh, and production office staffers Gillian Horvath & Donna Lettow.

As I mentioned earlier, a lot of my memory of the con involves standing in queues. On the Friday it took me an hour & a half to reach the registration desk, another 45 minutes to get to the table that was assigning the autograph tickets (one ticket per person per GOH), over two hours to reach Adrian Paul & Stan Kirsch during their autograph sessions, as long again the next day to reach Jim Byrnes and Elizabeth Gracen and about 30 minutes to get autographs by Bill Panzer, David Abramowitz & F Braun McAsh. Phew! When I list it like that, it sounds horrid, but it never was. While we stood (& sat) in line, the fans were interacting, discussing episodes, making friends and just enjoying the excitement of the con. One of the security blokes, Brad, went out of his way to keep us informed of progress & occasionally entertained us with song & dance. When we began to expire from heat & lack of oxygen, he brought a fan to force air down the long & pokey corridors we were in. And all the while, many of us who were waiting in line were conscious of the fact that if we were waiting for hours, it meant that the Guests were signing for hours. I noticed Jim Byrnes flexing his right hand at one stage & I expect the rest of the cast were feeling the same.



2 hours down, & AP still has a greeting for everyone.

Yet if they were, they never showed it. When Bernice & I finally got to the head of the line, Adrian Paul was firing in all cylinders! He had a greeting for everyone, and was smiling and joking (with an unexpectedly American accent) as he worked. Bernice forwarded greetings to him from Australia and he looked a little taken aback & said he hadn't realized HL was showing here. We then spoke very briefly about it not being on & he told us not to worry. "It's going everywhere!"



Stan Kirsch was just as friendly and unstinting with his welcome, though in a quieter way. He impressed me at every encounter. He was

articulate, sensitive, generous and entertaining.

Next day, we lined up all over again for the Jim Byrnes & Elizabeth Gracen autograph session. Unlike any of the other Guests, Elizabeth Gracen was personalizing her autographs. We had been told by security that we were not to ask for personalized signatures as this would slow the line down, but EG was reading people's nametags as they approached, and occasionally even greeting people by name! I had to be quick to stop her putting my name on the photo I gave her (I had plans for that one). Jim Byrnes was chatting to fans as he signed. He seemed to be most responsive to anyone who wanted to talk to him about his music.

Music seems to be Jim Byrnes' first love. During his Q&A he invited fans to come along to the blues concert that he and his band were putting on that night & "see what I really do". And he does it well! It was a fantastic concert! The band was hot and the crowd was wild. The music pumped loud enough to clean the rafters. We all knew we were alive!

I had heard Jim Byrnes sing in several episodes, (his music often plays in the background in Joe's bar) but to be truthful, I'd never been particularly taken with it; I'd often thought his voice was a bit sharp. Not anymore! And certainly not at that concert! He sounded great! His voice was as rich and full as his guitar work. I spent a lot of time just standing and enjoying his obvious talent. The band seemed to be enjoying

Jim Byrnes
a la Hendrix one minute
smooth as silk the next



themselves too & that made it all the better.

Adrian Paul's Q&A

Oddly enough, this session drew the largest audience of the weekend. Standing room only. AP was in form, joking with the crowd at some times & being more serious at others. Speaking of the upcoming season, he said there would be some light hearted stuff, some darker episodes and some things "you've never even thought of". When told by a fan that he was occasionally likened to a young Sean Connery, he replied that Connery had been his idol when he was young. He spoke about studying martial arts for 6 years & spoke about varieties in styles (Chinese, Korean etc) & how styles used in the series depend on the villain.

When asked what his best work as an actor had been, he said that he had just finished an episode called *Comes A Horseman* with Peter Wingfield that he thought was the best in his career. "Sometimes it can become very real & you can lose yourself in it." But when asked about which roles in Shakespeare he would like to play, he left his options open.



Chemistry on screen
and on stage

Elizabeth Gracen came up on stage and asked him to autograph some photos. When he good-naturally pointed out that he was busy talking to an audience, she smiled one of those Amanda smiles & Adrian Paul lasted as long as Duncan would in similar circumstances. Before he knew it, he was sitting down, signing autographs. While he worked, EG came and (much to the delight of the audience) sat on his lap, causing a barrage of camera flashes. "You'll start them talking!" he said & the laughter and flashes started up all over again.



A fan asked if the T'bird was his own car. "No! I hate that car!" It is forever breaking down, needing new gearboxes etc. Asked which of the many facets of Duncan he likes best, he replied with a grin and a heavy Scottish accent that he preferred "Duncan MacLeod, the warrior", but then went on to comment that TV often gives a romanticized view of history. Living back then would have been hard & uncomfortable. Would he be doing any Highland flings on the show? Another laugh. He didn't know, but he was practising a flamenco routine for the show. "It's harder than it looks!". He is also going to be playing some golf in an episode. When asked later what part of golf he likes best, he replied with a grin "The clubs, of course." He spoke about some of the fun that was had on the set. The cast often play jokes on each other. In *Chivalry*, the slap of paint on Peter Wingfield/Methos' nose was not in the script. AP did it as a joke.

When a fan asked how he would end the series if he were writing it, AP said that he didn't think Duncan should die, or that the game should progress to the point where he was the only immortal left. How he would end it would be to have MacLeod face a problem that would cause a major change in his life. The series should end in an open-ended way.

A very young fan (maybe 10 years old) came to the microphone and pleaded him to "Please do another year." It was shamelessly manipulative, but all's fair in love and getting your favourite actor to stay on. The crowd cheered, myself included. AP gave us a 'not fair!' look & said that after 5 years, Duncan was starting to look older. A fan at the front called out something about season 10 & in reaction, AP wobbled across the stage leaning on an imaginary walking stick.

When asked what it felt like to film a quickening he replied that sometimes it felt really stupid doing this (he writhed about for a bit) in front of the crew. But when asked what it felt like for Duncan, he said it was probably like receiving a sacrament or a really big orgasm.



To my disappointment, the PEACE meeting scheduled for later that afternoon had to be cancelled. AP had to catch a plane. He was directing the next episode and had to go into prep. Actually he should have been in Paris days before the convention, but had delayed in order to attend, something we all appreciated.

Before leaving, he spoke about PEACE, about how important it is to him to spread the message of peace and to encourage others to help one another. "Peace in your mind, peace in your heart & peace in the world." With that he was gone & I, for one, was very sorry to see him go.

Elizabeth Gracen's & Jim Byrnes' Q&As

Elizabeth Gracen & Jim Byrnes each had a Q&A session of their own, but later shared a second one. I missed most of EG's first talk, but caught most of the other sessions. However, my memory is pretty hazy on these. I remember EG being asked why she had dyed her hair white late in 4th season & she spoke about what a competitive industry she works in. If she changes her hair occasionally, she looks different and can try for more roles. She mentioned that Amanda was originally going to be a one-off role, but that fan response had brought her back. When she was offered the part, the person who phoned her said something like 'How would you like to go to Paris, all expenses paid and get paid a lot of

money?' "I said"Let me think about it." In answer to the same question, Jim Byrnes said that he had been guaranteed a certain number of episodes when he began.

In response to questions, Jim Byrnes spoke about the difficulties he faced in getting work after his accident. He hadn't worked for more than 15 years when Stephan J Cannell gave him the role in *Wiseguy*. "Bad attitude isn't my problem. It's theirs." A woman came to the microphone and told how after an accident, she had been unable to raise her arms, but how she had used Jim Byrnes as an inspiration and had eventually won out over her injury. In tribute to him, she waved her arms high.

JB said he was doing a play in Vancouver during the break because an actor needs to return to the boards every now and then. When quizzed about just who is the practical joker on the set, he claimed that he was, but then said everyone got in on it & that the jokes help to keep the spirits and energy levels up. One fan waited in line to reach the microphone and when she got her chance said that all she had wanted was his undivided attention for 4 seconds.



Another fan asked if he could change one thing in the world, what would it be? Jim Byrnes replied: "Put an end to racism."

Someone else asked what would he like to have happen for Joe. "Sex." said JB with a grin. When EG was asked what she would like happen for Amanda, she said that she's like to see Amanda gain a little more maturity.

Elizabeth Gracen's lone Q&A was marred slightly by the appearance of a male fan who should have had a lot more sense than he displayed. This person had apparently given EG some problems earlier, because when he came to the microphone, she answered his question very briefly and waved him away. Instead of leaving, this moron went behind the PA stack which was just to the side of the stage, and came back with a sheathed sword! Jokingly (but not completely) he challenged EG to a duel & for a few seconds, things were tense & unpleasant. There were two con staff members between him & the stage, but fortunately they weren't required. The idiot must have realized what a total fool he was making of himself because he turned and stalked out of the room. Elizabeth Gracen dismissed the incident and resumed her Q&A.

From Script to Screen

A Talk By Donna Lettow & Gillian Horvath

One of the highlights of the con for me was the talk on what goes into creating an episode. Donna Lettow (script coordinator) and Gillian Horvath (associated creative consultant) have given this talk at previous conventions and having heard about it from other fans, I went with high expectations which were met at every turn. Their presentation was polished & highly entertaining. They worked closely as a team, occasionally completing each other's sentences and at other times enacting little scenes between them to highlight a point.

According to Gillian & Donna, the process of getting a script to the set breaks down to a number of chapters. These include The Pitch, The Beat Sheet, The Outline, The Script Writing etc. *Highlander* does not accept unsolicited scripts. Nor do authors submit finished scripts. Rather, a writer will submit a pile of story ideas from which one or two are chosen (The Pitch). When Gillian was writing for *Forever Knight* she once submitted 15 ideas & they finally went for number 12.

If Bill Panzer approves a Pitch, the story gets given a bit more substance. A Quickening here, a confrontation there etc. It then goes to The Outline, where character responses are worked out. Again, Panzer has a lot of control. Finally, when The Outline is as rounded as possible, it goes to the author who has a couple of weeks to return a first draft script. The revisions begin as soon as it comes back. And occasionally revisions follow revisions follow revisions. To illustrate this point, Donna and Gillian took the audience through some of the trials & troubles that came with *Cross of St Antoine*.

This was originally meant to be a second season ep called *Chalice of St Antoine*. However due to a legal problem, they couldn't use it in year 2, & David Tynan was given only a few weeks to come up with an emergency replacement script that had to include Amanda. What he came up with was *Legacy*. But now, a year later, they were ready to use *Chalice of St Antoine* in season 3. Thing was, it had to be changed from a Paris story to a Seacouver story. So the script was divided among the staff for what they unflatteringly referred to as a gang bang. Everyone had to rewrite their bit to fit Seacouver. It was a race to see who could finish first. Donna won. "I'm from New York. I'm fast."



Legacy was written as an emergency, but became a fan favourite

"So,... we have a nice, clean, finished script. Our job's done. We can get to work on *Courage*."

Then the phone calls start. It's the guys who look after the money. The budget is tight. The script needs a huge cast. There's not enough money. Now, remember Lauren, Joe's girlfriend who is strangled by Durgan/Thorne? In the original script, we actually get to meet Lauren. She speaks. But ... If we cut Lauren's lines, we won't have to pay her as much. It will save money. Rewrite number one.

By now, the director has gone into Prep & has seen the location for the flashback. It's an old western fort. He loves it! He loves it so much, he wants more fort! More flashback! And he loves Thorne's security devices. More security devices! "For a while there, we thought we were on McGyver." Another rewrite. Every rewrite goes out on different coloured paper so that the cast & crew can be sure they have the latest copy. The director spots the school teacher from the flashback. He loves her! He loves her so much that he wants more school teacher! Write more lines for the school teacher! Another rewrite. Pity about Lauren, but it's okay now, we have a complete script. Time to get back to work on the next episode.

The phone rings. "Ring!" Gillian pulls out a tiny red plastic pistol, the type that shoots suction caps, and raises it to the side of her head. "Hello?"

We think it would be more dramatic if Joe tries to rescue Lauren by smashing the window in the door. But smashing windows requires candy glass & candy glass is expensive & the budget is tight. "But we make it work" says Donna. "That's what we're here for. What can we sacrifice for candy glass?"

Remember when the priest and his sidekick walk into the fort with the cross? In the original script, they rode in on horses. Fire the horses! Buy candy glass with the money! The candy glass is bought, but on the way to the set it breaks. No horses, & now no glass. There is no money for another pane. In desperation, the props department finds a sheet of thick glass & Jim Byrnes does his famous blooper act while the now silent Lauren meets her fate.

The cast gets the script. Gillian's pistol has left her temple, but now it returns. "Ring!" "Hello?" Joe has a line that goes "She's an art historian. Her name is Lauren." But Jim Byrnes feels that it would be so much better if he said something like "Her name is Lauren. She's an art historian." Another rewrite, another colour paper. In the end, he turns it round on the day anyway and says "With an art historian. Her name is Lauren."

Meanwhile, back at the office, "Ring!" Gillian grimaces and lifts the gun to her head. "Hello?"
Donna (in a very english voice): "Adrian here. I've read the script, and, you know, I think I should be shot."
Gillian smiles through gritted teeth, slowly lowers the toy pistol - and fires. "Okay Adrian. You're shot."

Twenty revisions & a multicoloured script later, the production crew complain about "those office people who keep sending up more changes".

Donna & Gillian then went on to show a few clips from up coming episodes, including a doozy of a Methos spoiler (ever wondered why there are no Methos flashbacks?) But for me the most interesting clips they showed were the those that demonstrated how quickenings are filmed. (I'm fascinated by the mechanics of creating a TV show)

When asked during his Q&A what it was like to film a quickening, Adrian Paul answered that it often felt a bit silly, writhing about in front of 40 people. I'd never thought the quickenings looked silly - until Donna & Gillian showed a silent take of AP writhing about. Without sound & lightening, this scene made many of the audience laugh. But then Donna & Gillian replayed the same scene with all the special effects & suddenly there was nothing silly about it.

In another quickening Duncan 'hears' & 'sees' people from his past. First, Donna & Gillian played the complete version with all the sound and vision in place. It seemed perfectly natural for Duncan to be moving and reacting as he was. But then they played the silent wilds of AP as he was filmed, in front of a blue screen, moving & reacting to nothing at all. Watching that footage, I had nothing but admiration for his skill as an actor. In another shot, the camera was in a close up. AP, again in front of a blue screen, yawned tiredly then said (we could lip-read this) "Is someone going to yell action?" Someone must have because almost instantly his head fell forward and came up again in full quickening mode. The transformation was startling.

According to Donna & Gillian, if *Highlander* has the quality it does, it is because everyone on the show cares. The cast and crew work long, grueling hours. The props department continue to work overtime even though there is no more money in the budget, because they want the show to look the best it can. The woman who adds the bird sounds cares whether they are the right birds**. Even the bloke who adds the effects to the Quickenings "the lightening guy" is in love with his job. "Today, I'm going for organic. See how the lightening follows the contours of Duncan's body."

** (I toyed with the idea of asking why then had this person had a rooster crowing in downtown Paris (*Counterfiet 2*), but it seemed a

petty thing to go to the microphone for).

F Braun McAsh Q&A

One of the speakers I found most entertaining and informative was F Braun McAsh, the show's swordmaster. Now, before I go any further, I need to make a confession. I had had a very wrong impression of this person. Before G3, I had seen photos and video footage of him & to me, he'd looked more like a clerk than a swordmaster. Well, let that be a lesson to me; never judge by first appearances. I was very wrong. The moment McAsh picked up a sword to demonstrate a move that he was discussing (how to disembowel your opponent without leaving your own neck exposed), there was strength and fluidity and a wonderful dancer's grace in his movements. Happily, there was a strong sense of fun as well which prevented the topic from ever getting gory.

McAsh spoke of studying under Pat Crean who was once Errol Flynn's stunt double and about his years of training in different disciplines & techniques. On the set, however things are very different. Sometimes, he said, he has only a few hours to train with the show's guest stars. He referred to sometimes having to chase up actors during their lunch break to go over their moves. Some actors have had experience & training with weapons, while others have had none. This doesn't always mean the actors with no training are the least effective. Real Andrews (*End of Innocence*) had never used a sword before, yet I think everyone who has seen EoI will agree that he looked great in that episode. McAsh thought he did.

He also spoke (as Bob Anderson has done on other occasions) of Adrian Paul's skill with the sword, and of working on fight choreographies together. According to McAsh, they always strive for accuracy, while making sure that a fight looks good for the camera. "It's television. We have to entertain." He's always trying to come up with more imaginative ways to decapitate people, he quipping sweetly, adding with a smile, "I'm a great dinner guest."

McAsh told the audience that he has always hated Richie's rapier. This sword (actually, I should say swords, even blades have stunt doubles) has a problem with the way the blade fits into the hilt which has caused it to break on at least one occasion. He also let slip that in an upcoming episode, Duncan will use a Spanish fighting technique that is similar to flamenco dancing and which uses rapier & dagger.

In response to a question from the floor, F Braun McAsh told us that he has appeared in a number of episodes. He played the hooded figure in *Shadows* and the innkeeper in *Through A Glass Darkly*. You can also see him in action in *Wrath of Kali*. That's him doing the routine with the staff. When a fan asked whether Brian Ash, the master swordsman from *End of Innocence*, had been named after him, McAsh said he didn't think so. However, soon afterward, Gillian Horvath came to the microphone and told us that they had indeed named the character after him. From McAsh's reaction, this seemed to come as a happy surprise to him.

Highlander 1 A review of the re-release

by Charles Fulghum

The movie has a lot of tid bit scenes added and some dialogue removed. The sound is better in places and still just as lousy in others. The film really does hold together better. Some of the added scenes, in my opinion should probably have been left out.

General - They've added buzz sounds that I know weren't there before. They're also much like the TV buzz sounds. Since I'm used to it, I expected it.

Sound - In some places the sound is better and in others the same. Other places ('cause I've seen the original a lot I guess) it seems sterile, it's so cleaned up. The intro by Sean Connery is also cleaned up.

The wrestling match - The blending of the wrestling and battle scenes is very good. It could be confusing as hell though if I didn't know what the movie was about.

The Fasil fight - most of the added scenes are quite good, but the tumbling (by either Peter Diamond or his stand in) didn't edit in very well and the point of the tumbling is lost on me as well. It's kinda cool looking but..

The 1531? battle - Part I - Saying goodbye to his sweetheart. While this is nice, the best part is that it sets up better the feeling the people of the village must have about Connor after he doesn't die. His own girl friend is the main person who wants to burn him. The stoning scene is that much more moving now.

Part II - longer, gorier. Perhaps I was still trying to get used to the letterbox, but I felt restricted by the letterbox during this part of the movie. I have a 27" TV, perhaps 45" or 55" or whatever the large screen TVs are may be better for these scenes.

Kurgan Introduction - The background noise during this scene is completely gone. It almost seems sterile. He pops in the tape and we hear Queen sing but... I don't quite remember the original exactly, but it's quieter now.

B-A-L-A-N-C-E - After he falls into the water, they actually cut some of the dialog. The captions are still there but the voice over is gone now.

WW II - The intro where Rachel comments on his "eyes in the back of your head" line was great. This really does add a lot. For a long time I wondered if Rachel knew. There's certainly no question now.

In Brenda's apartment - The dialog recording is still lousy as hell. I liked the commentary at the end of the video by "the guys (the producers)" about this shot. They completely reshot this whole scene, it seems. The motivation for his trance. Guess you'll just have to watch it to know what the hell I'm talking about.

Zoo - mostly I liked the buzz. Without the buzz, did he? or didn't he? know the Kurgan was there. One might have wondered. Now with the buzz, yeah... he knew the Kurgan was around.

I really liked it a lot. I liked all the extra scenes as a whole and thought it was a vastly improved version.

Highlander: The Watcher Chronicles (CD-ROM)

by Donna Lettow

Reviewed by Sonja van den Ende

This CD-ROM is fast becoming an indispensable tool for the avid Highlander fan. It provides a wealth of information on the series and its characters, substantiating previously hinted-at facts, filling in backgrounds for immortals and mortals alike, and giving a fascinating insight into Watcher culture.

The Chronicles consist of 9 books that offer such things as: *The MacLeod Chronicles*, a detailed listing of Duncan's life, his many Watchers, his travels and encounters; *Other Chronicles* listing all the immortals up to Finale Part 2; a book listing all the Watchers mentioned up to the same episode (plus a few more) and a book devoted to the many mortals who have crossed Duncan's path in the first 3 years of the series.

The information given for each is detailed enough to stay interesting even after several browsings. Much of the information is from the series, but a fair amount of what is listed goes beyond the information in the episodes. We find out things like: Horton was Kurgan's Watcher (which, for me adds substance to his fear of immortals), when Cierdwyn became immortal in 60AD she was found and taught by Marcus Constantine (which is an interesting twist when you remember that she was a member of Boadicca's army & died fighting Romans); that between 1639 & 1641, Duncan & Fitz had the same Watcher (thus suggesting they spent those years together).

The text shows an intricate knowledge of the characters - and how could it be otherwise; the package was authored by **Donna Lettow**, the show's script co-ordinator. It offers frequent gems of insight into characters & plots, & an occasional gentle poke at the show itself. What the package sometimes lacks on the graphics side is more than made up for with wit & wry humour in the text. As an example, the following is a partial transcript of the entry on Martin Mathews. You may not remember Martin by name. Martin was the Watcher in Finale II who was skewered by Kalas while reporting in to Joe from inside a cupboard.

From the Chronicles:

The Tribunal regrets the loss of Martin Mathews who sacrificed himself in an attempt to save us all. It is the decree of the Tribunal that the name of Martin Mathews be added to the Hall of Martyrs so that his selfless act may be an inspiration to future Watchers. On a related note, the Tribunal asks the Communications Committee to update their policy manual, re: the proper use of cellular phones in the field.

The CD contains both Mac & PC (Windows 3.1 or 95) versions. Photos & audio clips abound, but video clips are absent. While occasional photos leave room for improvement, the graphics quality is generally good. *Highlander: The Watcher Chronicles* is available by mail order from the Highlander Store for US\$49.95. I enjoy this CD-ROM often and have no hesitation in recommending it.

At The Gathering 3, Donna Lettow stated that version 2, covering the complete series would be done "after the series

ends”.

Recycled Actors

by Monique Treurniet

Ever watched a Highlander episode & wondered where you've seen that actor before? Chances are, it was right here; an astonishing number of thespians play boomerangs on this show. Below is part 1 of a list compiled by Monique Treurniet from the US. Part 2 will follow in Issue 6. Many thanks to Monique for the effort that's gone into researching this. Monique has asked to be notified if you spot any omission or errors. Contact me and I will forward your message. Sonja

List of recycled actors up to *Finale II*. Includes only those with speaking lines -- not extras. The 208 etc. means 2nd season episode 8. The number in parentheses is the total number of recycled actors for that episode (if more than one). There have been 54 recycled actors so far, 50 episodes that had them, and the most together in one episode was 5.

1. 208 Chu Lin, Kiem Sun's protege in Road Not Taken, is also Jimmy Sang the movie star in Revenge of the Sword. Dustin Nguyen
2. 209 The street kid who gives Mac's license plate to Voshin's baddie in Sea Witch is also a runaway slave in the Run for your Life flashback. Adrian Holmes
3. 210 Judd Collins, the mineowner from The Zone flashback, is also Honniger, the newspaper magnate in Epitaph for Tommy. Ken Camroux
4. 213 Benson's deputy in Mountain Men, is also Luke Hoskins, killed by brother Billy, in Bless the Child. Doug Abrahams.
5. 214 Anton Legris, French immie killed by Xavier in Unholy Alliance I is also the Medical Examiner at the jewelry store w LeBrun in For Tomorrow We Die. Philippe Arael
6. 216 Helen, Nicholas Ward's present-day bride in The Vampire is also Claudine, Elaine's prostitute friend killed by Cahill in Avenging Angel. Nathalie Presles.
7. 221 Brother Andre, the priest w the toy cars in Counterfeit I, is also the 'fruit from the new world' tomato-vendor in the Legacy flashback, is also Father Bernard the ex-Resistance kid in Mortal Sins. (is also the priest running Pete's funeral in euroCounterfeit II) Roger Bret.

-- 222 Priest who runs Pete's funeral is also Brother Andre, priest with toy cars in Counterfeit I, is also potato-vendor in Legacy fb, is also Father Bernard in Mortal Sins. Roger Bret.
8. 301 (2) Haley, Kent's baddie who takes his orders on the boat in Samurai, is also Rawls, the other cop with Annie during questioning in Eye for an Eye. Terry Arrowsmith
9. 301 Johnny Leong, Tong leader from Revenge of the Sword is also Hideo Koto, warrior from the Samurai flashbacks. Robert Ito
10. 302 (2) Big John the trading post owner from Mountain Men, is also the biker motel clerk that gives Mac a hard time when he comes looking for Kern in Line of Fire. Rick Poltaruk
11. 302 Little Deer, Duncan's Indian lover in Line of Fire flashback, is also Sarah Lightfoot, the Indian woman who stole the baby in Bless the Child. (is also dead body in Gathering flashback?). Michelle Thrush
12. 303 (3) Anthony Dourcef, who shoots Father Stefan in Revolutionary, is also Mick, the longhaired terrorist with Annie in Eye for an Eye. Andrew Kavadas.
13. 303 Sheriff Howard Crowley from Innocent Man is also Alan Mason the reporter in The Revolutionary. John Novak, or Novack.
14. 303 Elda Gutierrez, the Mexican flashback nurse from The Revolutionary, is also Carmen the gypsy from The Darkness flashback. Lisa Vultaggio.
15. 304 George the Security guard telling Duncan and Renee to pipe down in hospital hallway in Unholy Alliance I is also George the Thorne flunky who tells Joe and Duncan he didn't see anything in Cross of St. Antoine. J. B. Bivens

16. 305 Michelle Webster the teenage immie in Rite of Passage, is Bess in the haywagon flashback from Epitaph for Tommy. Gabrielle Miller.
17. 306 (2) Zoltan Laszlo the immie challenging Brian in Courage flashback, is also the lynching leader in the Run for your Life flashback. Mark Acheson
18. 306 Marcia, the black nurse in Courage, Shadows and Song of the Executioner, was Carol, also a nurse, in Deadly Medicine. Catherine Lough.
19. 307 The Janitor from Bad Day in Building A, the little girl's father, is also Frank Brody, Kenny's fishing buddy, in Lamb. Alf Humphreys
20. 308 (3) David Keogh, the immie from Obsession is also Robert, Horton's daughter's fiancée and fellow Watcher, in Watchers. Cameron Bancroft
21. 308 Forks, the biker hired by Chu Lin in Road Not Taken is also Henry Carter, Sarah's husband in the Obsession flashback. Kim Kondrashoff
22. 308 Mr. Renquist, Julia's father offended by David in the Obsession flashback, is also the SWAT commander in Bad Day in Building A, is also Fire Chief in charge of subway bombing in The Blitz. Duncan Fraser.
23. 309 Harry the taxidermist in The Darkness is also the guy running the witch trial in the Shadows flashback. Frank C. Turner
24. 311 Harold, the security guard who busts Richie at the orphanage in Family Tree, is also Sal, the Simon Lang henchman who comes to shoot Mac at the dojo in Vendetta. Aurelio Di Nunzio
25. 312 Grandfather Lao from Revenge of the Sword is also Kahn, the Mongolian watcher from the flashback in They Also Serve. Mina E. Mina
26. 313 Tio, the kid with attitude in The Zone is also Carlos, one of the rebels in Spain, in the Blind Faith flashback. Afonso Quijada Jr.
27. 314 Max Jupe, the bass player that Joe fired in Song of the Executioner, is also Reese, a Voshin baddie in Sea Witch. John Tench
28. 315 Nikov, the soldier arresting the (countess?) from the flashback in Warmonger, is also Patrick the jealous old boyfriend of Naomi's in Star Crossed. Frederic Witta
29. 316 Basil Dornin, Richie's teammate from Methos and Take Back the Night, is also Luc Bergon, the Xavier baddie who likes horses, and was the getaway driver, in Unholy Alliance II. Jean Francois Pages
- 317 Basil Dornin, Richie's teammate from Methos and Take Back the Night, is also Luc Bergon, the Xavier baddie who likes horses, and was the getaway driver, in Unholy Alliance II. Jean Francois Pages
- 319 Father Bernard, the priest haunted by Daimler in Mortal Sins, is also Brother Andre the priest w the toy cars in Counterfeit I (who also runs Pete's funeral in Counterfeit II euro) and also the vendor selling 'fruit from the new world' in the Legacy fb. Roger Bret.
30. 401 (3) George Lalonde, the antique shop owner with the bracelet from Homeland, is also Heinrich Faas, the guy who gets shot at Amanda's club for the plates in the Return of Amanda fb. Ewan "Sudsy" Clark.
31. 401 Angus, tavern guy telling the legend in Homeland, is also old Father Morton killed by Quenten in Turnabout. John Tierney.
32. 401 Robert MacLeod, Mac's cousin and Debra's betrothed in Homeland, is also Dennis, Nikki's scuzzy drug-dealer boyfriend in Sea Witch. Scott McNeil.
33. 403 (5) Alan Wells, Mikey's immie friend offed by King in The Innocent, is also Marco, one of Voshin's thugs in Sea Witch. Philip Hayes.

Peter Wingfield



Peter Wingfield joined the *Highlander* cast in the third season episode, 'Methos', in which he played the title role (so to speak). Since then 'Methos' has gone on to become one of the show's best liked characters. At an American convention earlier this year, Peter remarked that Methos had originally been just a job, but that the role was now playing an increasingly large part in his career.

Peter, who was born in Cardiff, originally embarked on a career in medicine, studying at Oxford & St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. However he decided that what he really wanted to be was an actor. So, only weeks before his final exams, he left medicine behind for a life on the boards.

Ironically, one of his first major roles was that of, mature age medical student, Alex, in the British series, *Medics*. He has had a full and busy career with leading roles in many British productions including: 'Lt. Nick Pasco' in *Soldier Soldier*, 'Tom Walton' in *The Men's Room* and more recently, *Over There*.

In 1995, Peter joined the cast of the popular & long running BBC radio drama, *The Archers*. Here, he portrays Simon Pemberton, a cold and seemingly ruthless character.

Peter is a marathon runner, a former national trampoline champion and an accomplished saxophonist & flutist.

CREDITS

Television

Over There (1995)
Highlander (1995 ongoing)
Murder In Mind (1994)
Crocodile Shoes (1994) (recently screened in Australia)
Nice Day At The Office (1994)
Martin Chuzzlewit (1994) (Recently screened on ABC)
Degas & Pissarro Fall Out (1994)
Into The Fire (1994)
Lifeboat (1992)
Alun Lewis: Death And Beauty (1992)
Blisters ((1992)
Trust Me (1992)
Six Characters in Search of an Author (1992)
The Men's Room (1990)
Soldier Soldier (1990)

Theatre

The Game of Love And Chance (1992)
The Rules of the Game (1992)
Point of Valaine (1991)

Film

Uncovered (1993)
Antonia & Jane (1990) (Recently screened in Australia)

Radio

The Archers (1995)

Like you say, Darling, I'm an ac-tor! Methos to Duncan, Til Death

Merchandising, Clubs, Sites

The Buzz has received a 3 page list of merchandise from a person in Scotland. I don't know the sender, so can't give any recommendations, but the list is extensive. If you would like a copy, let me know & I'll forward one to you.

Smokin' Joe's Cafe A zine dedicated to Joe Dawson \$10(US) plus postage.

Goat Path Press c/o Lori Goldman 223 Cottingham Court Oceanside, CA 92054 USA

Or contact to Lori at mgoldman@cts.com

The next **Highlander Day** will be **Sunday 19 January** See you there!

We hope you've enjoyed this Issue of *The Buzz*. If you would like to receive the next issue, or get backcopies, just send in a self addressed, stamped envelope. If you would like any further information, feel free to phone me (Sonja V) on (07) 3282 4220 or find me at: sonjav@powerup.com.au

The Buzz is a non-profit venture designed to celebrate the Highlander universe.