



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, self-addressed A4 envelope to :
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Issue 11
Oct 98

Hello all,

This is a kind of interim issue, with one foot in the past and one in the future. We have come to a new and exciting stage in our journey and I hope you will join us on it. Carmel and I are thrilled to announce that Highlander DownUnder has been endorsed by Bill Panzer as the Official Highlander Club of Australia! I am hugely excited about this. The past three years have been a fantastic ride for me, bringing with it new and valued friends, new places and new skills. I look forward to things getting even better from here. I am convinced that Highlander will go on for many years to come. The quality of both the show and the extraordinary creativity it generates within its fan community seem boundless and I very excited to be a part of it all. You will find more details on the club on page two.

As always, my thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue. It wouldn't exist without you!

Congratulations to Jenny Haas on the birth of her daughter, Eleanor, who was born on 9 October!

Come join us for even more of the magic, Sonja

Snippets

Highlander 4 has been delayed until next year. In a recent internet chat, Peter Wingfield mention that there may be a possibility that both Joe and Methos will make an appearance. However at this stage **nothing is confirmed**. Two scripts have been considered and rejected. A third is being considered. Even so, Christopher Lambert has shot some footage for the movie. The working title remains The Search For Connor

Carnival's Extasy, the ship which will be the vessel for the November **Highlander cruise** was slightly damaged by an onboard fire.

Marcus Testory (Caspian, Rev 6:8) and his band, M.E.L.T recently participated in a benefit concert to help a 3 year old child with Morbus Canavan disease receive expensive therapy involving contact with dolphins.

Adrian Paul appeared as a host at the Athletes & Entertainers for Kids Shaqtacluar 3 in September at Universal Studios, Hollywood. Shaquille O'Neal and Kevin Sorbo were among the guests. Adrian Paul MC'd the opening and closing ceremonies as well as being an event announcer during the day

The Adrian Paul has released a **baby book**, "Images of a Young Adrian Paul," which includes photos & stories of his childhood.

Watch for **Valentine Pelka** in a movie called "What Rats Won't Do."

Highlander: The Raven premiered in the State on 21 September. So far, the reactions have been mixed.



Highlander DownUnder The Official Highlander Club of Australia

In a letter dated 17 August, Davis-Panzer Productions agreed to the establishment of the club, noting that "we would of course endorse it completely."

As club organisers and co-convenors, we (Carmel Macpherson and Sonja van den Ende) invite you to join us in Highlander's continuing journey in Australia. It's going to be a lot of fun!

HLDU: The Club will continue the contact that many of us have come to know over the past 3 years. **The meetings** in Brisbane will continue on a bi-monthly basis. Everyone, is welcome to attend these. You won't need to be a member to do so. We hope that meetings will start up in other cities as well.

The Buzz will undergo a face lift and will become the official newsletter. It will feature only original and/or first-print material and will include regular features like interviews, updates, reviews, thought-provoking articles and much more. Contributors' copies will be available and we look forward to receiving items from club members.

As I mentioned on page 1, The Buzz 11 is an interim issue. It will be the last of the old-format issues that have served us so well for the past 3 years and has been distributed to let all of our friends who are not on-line know of our exciting changes. If you have joined the club recently, this issue is not part of your subscription. It has been sent to you as a way of saying welcome while we work the club through its initial stages.

HLDU2000, our third convention, will take place in the first quarter of 2000, probably in March or April. Club members will be entitled to a discounted registration fee.

The club will be running a free private email loop for club members. All members are welcome to join, to discuss the show and to stay up to date on the latest news.

We'll be offering a range of club merchandise including convention tapes, t-shirts, photos etc.

Who are 'we'?

Co-convenors: Carmel Macpherson and Sonja van den Ende

Invaluable Assistants: Brenda Hotop (truly invaluable person), Fran Koerner & Judi Southwell (US liaisons), Paul Macpherson (web master), Lynn Hocking (club illustrator)

Our thanks also to Paul Edmonds, Pam Laity, and Lanko Miyazak at Davis Panzer Production for their assistance

Visit our club site at: <http://www.powerup.com.au/~sonjav/>

Annual Subscription: Australian members \$20

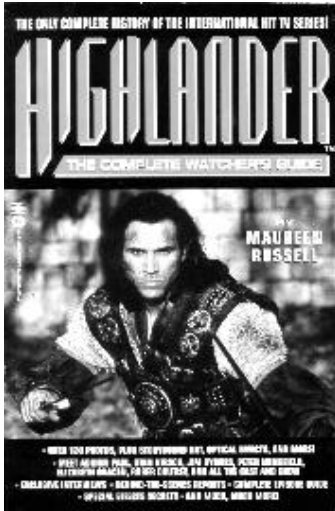
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Highlander DownUnder

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Saving Grace ... A Saga in an Episode
Greg Taylor



Highlander - The Complete Watcher's Guide

Maureen Russell

Review by Karen Scott

At last - someone has finally put together a book on Highlander - The Series. To say I was over the moon when I finally came across it would be an understatement.

It may not be a large book, but it certainly covers a wide area of good detail. The author, Maureen Russell, not only talks with the main cast and crew, she also manages to talk with just about everyone who has had anything to do with Highlander over the last six years, the three most notable exceptions being Alexandra Vandernoot, Philip Akin, Lisa Howard.

The book is split into eight chapters - Beginnings, The Writers, Production/The Shoot, Sets/Costumes/Swords, The Actors and their Characters, Post Production, The Last Day, Parting Words. There is also a full episode guide and listings of websites and fan clubs.

All contributors gave freely of their time. It is very much apparent that they all enjoyed the opportunity to work on such a unique series and were more than willing to discuss their part in it.

I have discussed this book with several people and have noted a few areas where people were not overly happy with the way this book was put together. One aspect was that though he was the star of the show, Adrian Paul's interview in the section covered by The Actors and their Characters was only four and a half pages against ten and a half allocated to Peter Wingfield. (I personally have no problem with this, but that's beside the point)

The only possibility I could come up with was that maybe Maureen Russell felt that since she also interviewed Adrian in the section Production/The Shoot, discussing his role as Director, she may have felt it was not necessary to have a longer interview with him. This being the case she has underestimated her readers' interest in this man and his character.

The only other area that annoys me about this book is to do with the photos. Now I'm not saying they're no good, they are. It's just - well - couldn't they have picked a better picture for the cover? I'm sure any of us could have picked a more suitable and impressive photo. On that same theme, although the pictures inside are very good, couldn't they have been in colour, or at least a few colour photos in the middle. Trivial, I know, but I thought I'd mention it anyway.

If you have enjoyed the series and want to have a detailed account about how this excellent series was put together, then this is the book to buy.

"Highlander: The Complete Watcher's Guide" (Maureen Russell, Warner Books, September 1998. ISBN: 0-446-67435-4

Romance & Magic are Eternal

An In-depth Look at a Classic Hero

Laurie Gold

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Duncan MacLeod is a man. He is a laird and a loner, a warrior and a lover, a teacher and a student. He is also a 400 year old man, an immortal man. He is a hero, a romantic hero in the classical sense. He lives and might die by the sword and I love him.

You won't find Duncan MacLeod in your favorite romance novel, although many authors have created heroes in his image, or that of the wonderful actor who portrays him, Adrian Paul. He is the lead character of a television show - Highlander: The Series, currently in its fifth season.

My interest in this character has grown recently, in response to author Deb Stover's recent definition of a new heroic archetype - the gamma male. After discovering that Romance Readers are often Highlander fans as well, I decided to contact the man responsible for the show, much as I have contacted authors who have written books I have come to love.

As I wrote in a recent column, Deb Stover's definition of the gamma male is: "One who doesn't fit the image of the macho Alpha male, or the easygoing Beta either. He's a combination -- a mutation? -- of both types of man, and makes a hero to die for." She added that, "Tom Selleck. . . comes across as almost Beta at times, though still has enough Alpha to make him appeal to readers who prefer a tougher hero. Also Harrison Ford would fall into this description. He's definitely

Gamma material in Star Wars!"

Not all readers agreed either with Deb's definition or the heroes who she listed. In fact, author Suzanne Brockmann has written an exciting Topic of Discussion for The Romance Reader that describes Harrison Ford/Hans Solo as perfect alpha material. (That topic, btw, will be online at the start of April.)

I believe Duncan MacLeod is the archetypal gamma hero. He is wonderfully complex, filled with passion and pathos. He is not a cardboard cut-out of a super hero, something that the writer who gives Duncan his soul, made sure I understood during our discussion.

I spent some time with David Abramowitz, who has been responsible thus far for the the evolution of Duncan MacLeod and the show for 99 out of 106 episodes. In our discussion, we talked less about the Highlander: The Series in general and more about the character of Duncan MacLeod . The passion felt by avid fans of the show comes directly from the passion felt by actor Adrian Paul and David Abramowitz. Just as authors I have interviewed talk about their heroes as though they are living beings, so does David Abramowitz. Fans of romance will recognize in Duncan aspects of their favorite heroes. He is a hero through and through, and like the best heroes in romantic fiction, at times he can be both morally ambiguous and ruled by passion.

For those readers who are unfamiliar with the show, I will briefly attempt a description. I have left this interview in q&a format rather than try to interpret David's words, which speak for themselves and need no help from me.

The character of Duncan MacLeod was born in the Highlands of Scotland in 1592 and was raised to be laird of his clan, only to be banished as a demon after he awoke from the dead. He has wandered the world since then as an immortal, being taught and teaching other immortals, living lives over and over, loving and losing his mortal lovers time and time again.

As with all immortals in the Highlander mythology, Duncan can only be killed if his head is taken by sword. When he kills another immortal, he experiences the quickening, and receives into his body and soul all the power of the dead immortal.

As a 400-year-old man, he has knowledge and wisdom of a multitude of lifetimes. He also has the pain of loss from a multitude of lifetimes. Duncan MacLeod has done things he is not particularly proud of because he is, after all, human, and filled with the same foibles and passions we all have.

Duncan MacLeod embodies the best qualities of heroes we have come to know and love. A good man, an able warrior, a delicious lover, and a man with a strong moral compass, he nonetheless exudes the aura of danger we love in our heroes. The internal paradoxes that make up Duncan MacLeod are what we find so intriguing in our favorite heroes. Leader but loner. Warrior but lover. Teacher and student. Pragmatic but passionate. Good yet filled with the capacity for great evil.

Before I prattle on endlessly, I'll stop here and let you read on.

LLB: Your title is Creative Consultant. Can you explain what that title entails?

David Abramowitz: I am the head writer. I run the writing staff. My title is Creative Consultant because the show is a French-Canadian production and because I'm American, I can't take a executive producer credit, which is what I'd otherwise have. My name can't appear on any of the scripts.

LLB: How big is the writing staff?

David Abramowitz: We have one writer in Canada and, until recently, one writer down here in Los Angeles. And then, all the work is done by free-lancers. We create most of the stories in-house, send out the treatments to writers all over the world, they send us back a script, and then we rewrite their script. Very often we rewrite it completely.

LLB: How many of the writers are men? Women?

David Abramowitz: One of the executive producers of the show is a woman. Marla Ginsberg. About 80 percent of the free-lance writers are men. But my in-house staff is all women, so while the credits would say 80 percent of the shows are written by men, the percentage of women who really write the show and create the show is closer to 50 percent women.

LLB: How did the television show and the character of Duncan MacLeod evolve from the three Highlander films?

David Abramowitz: Duncan was a spin-off, created by William Panzer, who was the original producer of the movies. He decided there should be a kinsman to Connor MacLeod, the movies' protagonist, and created Duncan and cast Adrian Paul.

LLB: When did your involvement with the series begin?

David Abramowitz: There have been 106 hours of the show. I came on the show on show number seven. The character has developed over the past 106 episodes. The reason it's different than the movies is that we've had 106 hours to define and create his character.

LLB: In my mind, there is a connection between these immortals and vampires. (I've also wondered about the parallel between Anne Rice's Talamasca and The Watchers from the series.) Is there any connection between vampire lore and your immortals?

David Abramowitz: There is no connection with vampire lore, although, in some ways, they are similar. They're immortal, they can be killed only in particular ways, and there is a sense of tragic loneliness that exists with vampires and immortals. They will see all that they have loved, if they continue to live, all that they love will die.

LLB: What about the violence? My main focus is on the character of Duncan MacLeod, but he comes part and parcel with the mythology of the series. Talk about that for us.

David Abramowitz: Because there can be only one, at the end there will be only one. If that one is good, the world will see a golden age. If evil, the world will fall into anarchy. There are basic myths that go to the core of man. There is violence because the movies were violent. This is a classic battle between good and evil. MacLeod is a classical kind of hero, with human flaws, with great humanity, with passions, with pride, with all of those things.

LLB: One of the things I most enjoy about the show and the character of Duncan MacLeod (and all the immortals) is the moral ambiguity.

David Abramowitz: Just as there is in all of us.

LLB: Is that something you've purposely injected as the show has progressed?

David Abramowitz: Absolutely. It makes the character more interesting. It gives the character more to play. What we like to do on occasion is take a basic moral question and spin it. Our best shows are the shows that deal in gray areas.

For example, one recent show featured a wonderful woman character who failed in an attempt to kill Hitler. That is a classic Highlander in terms of who's right, who's wrong, and the pain that MacLeod feels for making certain choices. There is moral ambiguity. And sometimes he acts out of passion and not totally out of his sense of justice, but he pays the price emotionally. He is not a simple hero. He is extremely complex who sometimes is not totally consistent, just as we are all not totally consistent.

LLB: Several of the shows have featured plot-lines without the immortal connection. These are not my favorites, and, from what I hear from other fans, are not their favorites either. How do you respond?

David Abramowitz: They are not my favorites either. You know, every show finds its legs and tries to figure out what the show is. What we didn't want to fall into was "The evil immortal of the week". We tried a number of times to do shows without immortals, but that wasn't our show. We tried comedy, which is also not our show, but we still do it on occasion. We try all different kinds of things and we are constantly trying to keep the show fresh, so it's not the guy with the biggest sword each week, it's the moral dilemma, and emotional question.

What's the difference between pride and honor? What does a 400 year old man think about God? How does he love? When does he tell someone he's immortal? Who does he trust? When is it appropriate to kill? Who gives him the right to kill? What is justice? What is justice over time? If something is socially abhorrent, does that mean it's evil? Is redemption possible? Those are the things we like to deal with. But you can't do that every week because we don't come up w/enough ideas.

LLB: Which are your favorite episodes?

David Abramowitz: One favorite is Valkyrie, the episode I mentioned a moment ago. Another would be the duo of Comes a Horseman and Revelations. Those were very intense and very different. Also, Legacy, which introduced Amanda and went back to medieval times.

LLB: What about Dark Quickening, which showed the immense power and possibility for evil the immortals have inside? What I enjoyed so much about that particular two-parter was that the writers didn't flinch from showing Duncan as consumed by evil and didn't try to manipulate the viewer.

David Abramowitz: Great show. That is another favorite. Adrian wanted to play darker in some part of his life. But we needed to create a manner that would play into the mythology and so that the audience wouldn't hate him and view him as a tragic character, which is what he was. I believe that we found a way, which is the cup fills and runneth over and he can't control it. He was wonderful and very excited about doing it. I think they are two of the best episodes he's done.

LLB: Duncan is both a laird and a loner. In romantic fiction, these seemingly contradictory facets are often combined in a hero. Talk about this and Duncan.

David Abramowitz: He's a clan leader because he believes he is responsible. Even if you are an immortal, who you are as a child in many ways is who you become. Duncan's father was a clan leader and so Duncan was raised to be a clan leader. He was raised to make decisions on right and wrong and to be responsible for other people.

The loner part in him comes from the responsibility, the burden of carrying that responsibility, the burden of the responsibility and truth of being immortal, and the knowledge that evil can attack at any moment and that people around him die. So that leaves him with a sense of great pain in his heart. Tess is gone. Deborah Campbell is gone. The great loves of his life are all gone.

The other thing is because he carries this burden of leadership and this burden where he holds himself up to the highest scrutiny, it always leaves him with a sense of not having done enough and yet at the same time, he's lived all these years, he thinks to himself, "Why doesn't life just let me be?" But he pushes himself to be heroic. There is a sense in him that won't let go, that says, "You are responsible. You have to make these choices. You have to make these decisions."

LLB: Is there a woman immortal who is Duncan's equal in any sense?

David Abramowitz: I think there have been women immortals who have been probably greater than Duncan, in some areas. Different people have different skills and different beliefs. There was an immortal named Kierdwin who was a great fighter. Different characters have different strengths. Was there a woman immortal as good with a sword? It's hard for me to find an actress who is 6'3" and weighs 200 pounds. Amanda is smart and quick. I think she and Duncan keep each other guessing. I think their morality is different.

LLB: That's what I mean. Most of the immortal women are not portrayed as good guys. Tracy Scoggins (the Bronze Age immortal who recently appeared in Comes a Horseman and Revelations), I liked her a lot. In the one sense, yes, I'm talking about the physical, but in the other, I'm talking about goodness.

David Abramowitz: You have to be realistic. Women survive in a warrior's game by being different kinds of warriors. Just as when we had an immortal named Kenny who was an 800 year-old child, he survived using different tools. You can't expect a woman who is 5'4" and 130 pounds to survive in the same way. To do otherwise would defeat the essence of the show. Immortals are not super powered. It's not like saying this is Wonder Woman. They're just us, . . . and they happen to live longer. So it's hard for me to understand, no matter how good she is with a blade, that a woman could take on a great athlete and survive. Amanda has survived, and taken heads, but she's used different skills to survive.

LLB: She is very morally ambiguous.

David Abramowitz: Hell, she's a thief! But MacLeod still loves her. Her ethics are immoral but she's a remarkable character and we and I love her.

LLB: Two questions that may be related, or may not, depending on the rumors you listen to. Why oh why did Duncan/Adrian cut his hair? And, has he signed for a sixth season?

(After much hesitation. . .)

David Abramowitz: Yes, he will be on the show. He'll be on the show next year.

LLB: Is it still going to be his show?

David Abramowitz: Yes, it is still going to be his show.

LLB: Personally, I like the long hair - it fits a 400 year old man Highlander better.

David Abramowitz: But times change.

LLB: Okay, tell me about that.

David Abramowitz: I can't tell you about that. Let's let that be a surprise. That part has to be a surprise.

LLB: Can you give me any specific generalizations for the direction of the show next season?

David Abramowitz: Some of the moral ambiguity will become, Duncan will be clearer about the nature of good and evil. Some of the ambiguity will be gone.

LLB: I think Adrian Paul is wonderful in this part. He can play the gamut of emotions, is great to look at, and has that balletic athleticism a swordsman requires. (And, I'm glad the sort of swordplay the immortals engage in is not of the prissy Erroll Flynn variety swordplay and is more of the medieval knight with chain mail variety.) Are there any plans to take this series to the big screen?

David Abramowitz: I think Adrian is physical, a good guy, a consummate professional, great talent, a star. I foresee movies, but that is a question for Bill Panzer and Peter Davis. They are working on it now.

LLB: Any final words to Highlander fans who are also romance readers?

David Abramowitz: I am passionate about this character. I love this character. Romance and magic are not dead.

About David Abramowitz:

David began his career as a musician and singer, at one point working for the National Endowment for the Arts as a sort of wandering minstrel, writing and performing musical children's fairy tales from school to school. He came to Los

Angeles to sell his fairy tales, instead found work playing piano, then parlayed a \$25,000 win on game show Tic Tac Dough into a sabbatical that allowed him to write for a year.

He sold a series to PBS on Indo-Chinese children, wrote episodic television for such shows as Cagney & Lacey and Murder, She Wrote, then went on to produce Jake & the Fatman before being hired for Highlander: The Series.

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THE SAMURAI

Review by Mark Rae

Firstly let me say that I have been a dedicated Highlander fan ever since the first time I sat in the second row of the Pitt St Cinema, Sydney, 1986. I can distinctly remember the huge red writing (From the dawn of time we came.....) Sean Connery's mesmerising voice and the eruption of "the" Queen theme song that we would all come to love. When I found out that a series had been produced I expected greatness and retribution for the disaster that was Highlander 2: The Quickening (I know I will probably receive some nasty comments about that remark however, HL2 can simply not be compared to the first movie or the series). It was with immense relief and pleasure that I found Highlander: The Series far exceeded my original expectations.

There are two primary reasons why I have chosen to review this particular episode.

1. It was an excellent episode to commence season 3,
2. I feel that this episode demonstrates a clear picture of how Duncan MacLeod has matured over the centuries and it shows the code of conduct by which Duncan lives with his immortality.

The episode begins with a Japanese woman, Midori Koto witnessing the execution of her lover by her very own husband, Michael Kent. Upon his return to their home she stabs him in the back, running from the apartment assuming he has died. Midori turns to Duncan for help as he she has been handed a spy glass through the generations which symbolises a promise made to her ancestor that the Koto family could turn to the Macleod's for help in a time of crisis. Matters are made more complicated when MacLeod finds out that Kent is an immortal. It is from this part of the story that another exceptional episode of Highlander emerges.

We are now taken to Japan, 1778 where a man, Hideo Koto discovers a "dead" Duncan Macleod floating in the water. Moments later he is surrounded by 3 other swordsmen who attack. It is at this moment that Duncan awakes to see a man outnumbered 3 to 1 so with the chance to engage in combat, generously helps out.



Midori turns to Duncan for help
Both Hideo and his daughters appear immaculate in both dress, language and the way in which they move. It is not long before Duncan embraces certain aspects of the Japanese way of life as he begins to wear their clothes, eat their food and abides by their customs.

It can be seen from this duel that although Duncan fights well, he has a very rough style of swordplay, especially when you compare him with Hideo who appears precise and controlled in his movements. This is a credit to Adrian Paul who as an actor can portray Duncan as still being a rough and ready Scotsman who is a very different man to the one living in the 1990's. As a sign of thanks, Hideo takes Duncan into his home even though foreigners are strictly forbidden to be in Japan at that time. Immediately we see Duncan become accustomed to his new friends way of life.

When Duncan enters this home he looks a disheveled "barbarian". We see this by his clothes and the way he keeps his hair (very messy and most probably in desperate need of a wash). This is a complete contrast to the Japanese style of grace and beauty.

Both Hideo and his daughters appear immaculate in both dress, language and the way in which they move. It is not long before Duncan embraces certain aspects of the Japanese way of life as he begins to wear their clothes, eat their food and abides by their customs.

I feel this is an important factor in why Duncan has survived so long as an immortal, both physically and mentally. He has obviously learned that to survive as an immortal one must adapt to the surroundings he is faced with. It has been seen in many other episodes as well as this one, that Duncan continually wishes to be educated in the ways of other peoples. Therefore, he has seen the need to exercise the mind as well as the body. Duncan also has the advantage of being able to spend years learning the lessons needed to master a craft, something the average mortal can not. This would give Duncan a goal to keep on living as even eternal life would get boring from time to time.



You cannot win honour with a lie.

Duncan's form of hand to hand combat is seen as extremely inefficient compared to Hideo's who defeats Duncan in a sparring match. Duncan quickly discards his own style of "boxing" and immediately sets out to learn the techniques demonstrated by Hideo. Duncan also becomes proficient with a new form of swordplay as taught to him by Hideo. This style of swordsmanship is still practiced by Duncan today and can clearly be seen in another excellent season 3 episode "Shadows".

There are other cultural clashes demonstrated in this episode. A humorous scene involves Duncan bathing in a tub when suddenly Hideo's daughters enter the room and demand that he get out of the water, wash himself first and then rinse in the water. He quickly and with much embarrassment tells them to go away and mind their own business as he can wash himself, thank you very much!!!

Unfortunately it comes to pass that because Hideo has housed a barbarian, which is strictly forbidden under Japanese law he must commit Hari Kari to save his family name. Duncan can not truly understand this decision and telling Hideo of his immortality offers himself as a sacrifice to be killed instead. However, the Koto name is to be continued with honour and accepting his friends customs and request to be a second in the ceremony (i.e. Duncan is to finish the death if Hideo falters) Duncan performs what his friend wanted. Before his death MacLeod gives his word that the Koto family can always come to the MacLeods for help. This is where Duncan receives the sword that he still uses today.

We are now transported back to present day with a full understanding of why Duncan will do all that is needed to protect Midori Koto. To Duncan it would not matter weather it was 20 years or 200 years, he had learnt a valuable lesson in honour and he was not about compromise his promise to an ancient friend. This is another important part of Duncan MacLeod's personality and character that makes him so likable on screen. Although there would always be the fact that "there can be only one" he can still make friends with other immortals and mortals, like Joe Dawson knowing full well that they could go after his head at any time. However, most of the people that have come into contact with Duncan respect his way of life and his friendship. In most cases Duncan has given these people help in bad situations (e.g. taking in Richie and killing John Durgan who murdered Joe's girlfriend in "The Cross of St. Antoine").

Duncan approaches Michael Kent, not with a sword but with words to try and end this feud without bloodshed however, like MacLeod this immortal has his own set of standards by which he has survived through the centuries and will not back down. MacLeod ends the discussion with the ultimatum "leave her or I will have to kill you".

Although Midori gives up the fight and goes back to Kent, MacLeod follows them back to Japan as he will not relinquish his vow to protect the Koto family. With both parties unable to compromise they engage in immortal combat to the death with MacLeod the victor.

The episode finishes with a lesson as Midori states that "it is not about making the right choice, it is about taking the consequences". Originally Duncan did not agree with Hideo's choice to die or with ending the conflict with Kent by the sword however, he had to respect the consequences of his actions and do what he believed to be right.

This to me is why Highlander is so successful. Sure, there is the main theme "there can be only one" with immortals chopping off heads however, through the years we have seen the character of Duncan MacLeod mature and change into the suave and sophisticated man we know today. Remember, it is not always the end which is most enjoyable but how you get there!!

Bring on Highlander 4!!

Unusual Suspects

Review by Peter Briscoe

The friendship between Duncan and Hugh Fitzcain is a relationship in Highlander I have enjoyed since Season One. The constant stream of comical bickering and petty rivalry combined with each man thinking he is superior to the other is very amusing. The hilarity that arises from Duncan's and Fitz's competitiveness often disguises the strength of their loyalty to one another.

We rejoin the antics of Duncan and Fitz in Unusual Suspects and find that Fitz is the victim of a murderous plot for his wealth, just when he has finally 'arrived' as a member of the aristocracy. Fitz cajoles Duncan into helping him discover the identity of the murderer, but as each suspect ends up in the freezer room, Fitz must finally come to terms regarding his widow's scheming plans.

While the usual bumbling situations occur when Duncan and Fitz are reunited, (Is it just me, or does Duncan seem to operate on a lower IQ level when he's around Fitz?) it was the setting at Fitzcarron Manor that I found restricting compared to their other encounters. Duncan's bad acting to conceal Fitz's plotting with his constant notebook checking of dwindling suspects is amusing, as is Fitz's unpredictable entrances. This episode could well have been Highlander's answer to Cluedo and though enjoyable, was for me not as enjoyable as The Stone of Scone. Perhaps the inclusion of Amanda and/or a larger assortment of eccentric characters could have confused the situation further.

It seems that Unusual Suspects tries too hard to be funny, while the funniest moment occurs at the final scene when the news of the Wall Street crash is realised, and Duncan's amusement at the predicament Fitz the Aristocrat now finds himself in. Unusual Suspects may not be the funniest encounter between Duncan and Fitz. But it is a welcome return to another of their exploits. The importance of their friendship is one of strengths of the Highlander universe and the inclusion of Fitz as the go-between to Duncan in To Be and Not To Be is a fitting tribute to their eternal boyish naivety that is Friendship.

Sensuality, Sets and Highlander

Carmel Macpherson

I couldn't believe the richness of Highlander's sets and the clothes - the superb taste. Everywhere you look your senses were being titillated in some way:

1. Aural: The richness of Duncan's wonderfully layered and lilting brogue (who cared if it was accurate); Tessa's smoky dialect; Joe's blues guitar; Bellon's music; Methos' and Kronos and Darius' voices and accents...

2. Visual: Those *sets* - the Loft and Barge in particular - the earthy warmth of the rich woods, materials in the cushions, bed linen, the clothes, flashback costumes...the silkiness of Duncan's hair...the vistas of Mongolia, Japan...the rivers...the wildflowers in Colorado.....Paris.....Scotland.....those Merchant and Ivory flashback scenes in Modern Prometheus....

3. Touch: the old books...the objet d'art.....mouths and hands and fingers moving over the skin and hair of the beloved...like a braille journey...eyes closed, letting the finger tips explore the desired territory...letting the hands capture and trap the hair as the head is controlled and brought into contact with the mouth and the lips..moving up and over the neck, feeling the thrum and the neat of the heart.

4. Taste/smell: The amount of food and alcohol were amazing....tempting morsels were always being laid in front of us...bowls of fruit...bags of shopping offering hidden gourmet delights...rich red wines and whisky....feeding, feeding feeding.....lips tasting golden skin, drinking your lover in....

Everywhere we looked we were assailed by beautiful works of art, beautiful lighting, beautiful backdrops...long swirling coats...silken shirts and blouses....magnificent dances and Katas and sword fights that delighted and disturbed...it was such a rich, multi-layered tapestry that just left you so unbelievably contented. And now that it is gone, I have still found nothing that even comes close to achieving what it achieved. Multi-culturalism was its bedrock and the superb blending of the European and the Canadian and American in its production, combined with regular infusions of almost every major culture and way of life in the world, via the flashbacks and memories, made it, quite simply, unique.



Visual

Duncan and Tessa were, for me, the embodiment of pure sensuality, complemented superbly by Joe and the way his music wrapped itself around him and us...Methos - his legendary sprawl, his languid grace.....

It spoke to my senses and fed my heart and soul. It left me going "...aaaaaaargh..." every week, in utter contentment. For even if the plot had left something to be desired, or the characterisation...there was always something to enrich me...the music, or the way the sun played through the windows of the Loft...or the way Duncan used his eyes to convey such feeling...or the sheer stark beauty of the denuded Barge against the magnificent backdrop of Notre Dame....

Its sensuality ensorcelled me....

Trivia Quiz

by Brenda Hotop

- 1 What interesting skill did Randi McFarland attribute to Tessa in Innocent Man?
- 2 What is the Indian referred to in See No Evil?
- 3 In which episode did Duncan first acquire the barge?
- 4 What is the name of Michael Moore's alter ego?
- 5 In The Darkness, what object did Richie find after Tessa was kidnapped that Duncan gave to Greta in the hope of getting a clue to her location?
- 6 In Bless The Child, what does Duncan consider a nutritious breakfast?
- 7 In Cross Of St Antoine, what artifact did Duncan promise to locate and return?
- 8 In which episode does Richie experience his second death?
- 9 Who was Kallas ultimately looking for when he goes to the Shakespeare and Co bookshop in Paris?
- 10 What object caused Duncan to return Home after 250 years?
- 11 What type of wildlife did Killian keep as pets in The Colone!?
- 12 In Wrath of Kali, what ancient Indian cult did Kamir belong to?
- 13 Where did Methos think that Alexa would have liked to be buried?
- 14 What do all of Methos' wives have in common?
- 15 Who did Jacob meet that sent him on a killing path of revenge in Judgment Day & One Minute To Midnight?
- 16 Who was the first immortal Duncan met?
- 17 In Money No Object, who did Cory not know well enough to dislike?
- 18 In Little Tin God, which of Larca's three disciples did not survive?
- 19 In what year is the episode Stone of Scone mostly set?
- 20 In Forgive Us Our Trespasses, what act pushed Stephen Keane to renew his search for Duncan?



The Highlander Clearance Sale and Warehouse Party

Report by Nora Jones

[In September, Gillian Horvath, Donna Lettow and Anthony DeLongis were featured guests at a Highlander party and clearance sale near Chicargo. Gillian and Donna did Q&A sessions and showed videotapes; while Anthony DeLongis presented a sword demonstration. Sonja]

I enjoyed seeing Anthony (Tony) DeLongis and partner for this shindig, Robert (Bob) Chapin (tall, slender, blonde... very nice looking, and very personable). I was really intrigued with what they had to say about what they do as science and art... so much so that I completely forgot about them being two gorgeous men.

Maureen Russell was there, but I didn't know that she would be, so didn't bring my Complete Watcher's Guide for her to sign. She, Tony, and Bob seemed to come as a set to this thing.

Gillian and Donna were delightful. I've not been to one of their sessions before, so all of what they said and did was new to me. They work so well together, too, which really impressed me. Of course I'd heard this before, but seeing with my own eyes was a treat.

The video clips they brought included things others have seen before, plus a couple that were new to fandom, one of which I enjoyed thoroughly. The things from before included the Comes A Horseman car scenes. (I did enjoy seeing these, and now see why the editing of them to create the final product must have been very difficult and the product not quite up to viewer's expectations who had heard ahead of time how "in the zone" the actors were at the time). There was the Archangel tag that wasn't used -- the 20 years into the future idea. The screen tests for Kronos. Heh heh... I forget which one, Donna or Gillian or both said Valentine Pelka wasn't their first choice... he was too pretty. They were right, he was, but they uglified him up a bit by cutting his hair and giving him that scar -- and he made the character live.

Now the stuff most haven't seen. The Duende Flamenco -- truly the editing improved the scene for the episode. It was nice to see Adrian Paul doing his stuff, but there was no building to a climax (which the episode needed) when all of Dunkie was visible. The Duende day-into-night fight in the rain was very interesting to see and hear about. Shows how dedicated and professional both Adrian and Tony are. Tony went splat twice because the "magic circle" was so slippery. Of course Adrian, with his wonderful penchant for making light moments, started the "singing in the rain" thing we see

(but don't hear) on the 2nd blooper tape. (The man *can* sing! He can, he *can*, he CAN!!! He's just chosen to put his efforts into developing others of his many talents.) The one that was, for me, the most delightful to see, was part of the dailies from the Eiffel Tower tango in Finale -- I'll end with that one. One of the others from this set showed a place where Adrian forgot his lines... said "I forgot (might've been "can't remember") the f***ing lines" in place of the line he forgot, this was almost still in character. I rather enjoy knowing that this is one that trips off his tongue when he hits one of those moments <evil grin> Seemed like an effort to stop, but stop they did and did it again just that moment later and his lines were perfect that time. The highlight was the POV camera... where the audience gets to dance with Duncan. :) The thing I liked best about it was that Adrian couldn't keep a straight face while dancing with the camera. :) The whole thing was clowning -- a raised eyebrow here, the eyes bugging or dancing in quick circles there, playing peek-a-boo with the camera more than the sultry glance away and back that it was supposed to be, one of those silly grins like we see on one of the blooper reels. Cute, cute, cute! -- I lapped it up!! Then Liz did the same thing. Hers was perfect... she *could* keep a straight face to the camera... sultry and sexy like it was supposed to be.

You can reach Nora at: najones@ilstu.edu
or check out her great Duncan pages at: <http://www2.ilstu.edu/~najones/duncan/duncan.html>

The Gathering 4: The Official Highlander Convention Denver, 16-18 October 1998

[Recently fans from around the world attended the fourth Official Highlander convention in Denver. Among them were our own Aine Gliddon and Carmel Macpherson, both of whom took their instructions from me seriously, and came in with flying colours. My thanks to both for their reports. Sonja]

Denver Highlander Convention Aine Gliddon

Sonja said "Take lots of notes" - a near impossible task when you actually find yourself across the room from Adrian Paul! So, this account is based on my adrenaline charged memory and the feelings I recall from that amazing weekend.

And, for me, it all started with that - a feeling.

Driving home one cold wet Blue Mountains night in early June. My mind got to wandering - to Highlander, as it usually does. I started thinking about the Con in Brisbane, how much I had enjoyed it, meeting Peter Wingfield, how charming he was. It occurred to me that I may never see him again, but that I could live with that. Then, from out of nowhere the thought hit me, that in all my life I would probably never see Adrian Paul. That thought overwhelmed me with sadness, a feeling I couldn't shake for the rest of the evening.

I knew from the Internet that the convention in Denver was coming up in October, but had dismissed it - too expensive, too far - I couldn't justify it on any level. Midnight - sitting at the computer. I pulled up the convention web page - took one look at my poster of Adrian next to me - printed off the registration form and had it in the mail on my way to work the next morning.

So, based on a feeling - here I was, via 4 days in San Francisco, a day trip to heaven (Yosemite National Park) and a wonderful 2 day train trip across 3 States. I am (as I write this) staying with Chris Hendrickson - she was the lone USA representative at HLDU2 in Brisbane. We had been conversing over the email ever since and she invited me to stay with her before and after. She lives in what she calls her 'Shack' - a really nice mountain cabin, 7000' up in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains with deer, mountain lion and who knows what else in the back yard!

The day of the Con - we arrived at the hotel about 3pm, but our room was not ready so we went off in search of people - of which there were about 800. This sounds a lot, but the hotel was large (I am sure anyone not associated with the Con staying there fervently wished they were somewhere else) and at no time did the number of people seem overwhelming. In fact I got to know quite a few - even managed to find them again - chatting in lines, in sessions in dealers rooms - it was a very social occasion. While still waiting for our room we inspected the Highlander Store, Dealers Rooms and PEACE table. This was a good strategy (one of the many good strategies I had this weekend) as there were not too many people at this stage - and more importantly - they had not sold everything!

Finally got to our room, just in time for the Highl-L List party. This was a get together of people on one of the many Highlander email discussion lists and it was great to be able to put faces to names on the bottom of a screen. Carmel was there and special guest Peter Hudson. He was just delightful and was most impressed that Carmel and I had come all the way from Australia. Peter's birthday is in the week following the Con and a surprise was arranged for him. It was thought red-fog might be the order of the day - but no, a beautiful birthday cake was produced - with 'Quickening' candles - which would not go out unless doused in water. He was given a suitably large knife to cut it with and was quite happily handing pieces out to everyone, until someone took over for him. He posed for photos and stayed something

chatting to each table. I will never be able to look at James Horton the same way ever again.

The rest of the evening was taken up with a pajama party in the bar which was a good time to chat and meet people. At about midnight Chris and I called it a night and went to bed.

Next morning the High-L List had a breakfast party - also attended by Peter Hudson (to think people paid money in the Auction to have breakfast with him on Sunday - and we had him for free - and for longer too).

Next up - the important bit. Autographs with cast. My decision to register early paid off big time. Autographs were arranged by registration order - and mine was 66. A lady from UK was 10 and another from France in the twenties - must have something to do with distance and sense of urgency. We were taken into a room with rows of chairs - so we could sit down and 'calm' down. At the front of the room was a row of tables. Adrian came in first - if you think this guy looks good on the screen, you have not seen anything. Drop dead gorgeous does not begin to describe him. He was wearing a white T-shirt, blue trousers, looking incredibly tanned and his hair grown out a bit down to his collar. The whole room went into a collective swoon. Jim Byrnes came in next - to a great cheer, then James Horan [Greyson, Band of Brothers] and Peter Hudson. We sat and waited for a while - Adrian started scribbling all over the paper on the top of his table. A group of women from the Clan Denial were in the row in front of me "Where's Stan??" . We were assured he was coming - and about 5 minutes later he appeared to rousing cheer from row in front. (Apparently they had all been out on the town the night before - Stan certainly was looking the worse for it, although I was told that he does not handle Denver altitude well - lets hope he does not get sea sick too! (he is going on the cruise). One row at a time we got up to meet them. Stan really did not look good, was a little 'frosty' even, not quite what I had imagined, but he certainly improved over the course of the weekend. Adrian was next to him. Before I left Australia a good friend had made a leather covered travel diary for me. At the airport she told me "to come back with Adrian's autograph in it". I told Adrian I was from Australia and explained the diary, in which he wrote "Hope you had a good trip, Peace Adrian Paul". I said that we would love to have him come visit us in Australia, to which he said he would really love to visit. I assured him we would make him most welcome - gaze into those big brown eyes and that was it - all in about 20 seconds. Then, in a total daze, I got Jim, James and Peter to autograph my diary as well.



Stan Kirsch & Adrian Paul sign autographs
Photo by Wendy Carpenter

Well, I thought - that was pretty good, and wandered off - with a very warm glowing feeling - to see what else was going - not that I recall too much of the next hour or so. There was a screening of To Be/Not to Be, which I caught the end of, more perusing of the Dealers Room, lots of chatting to people - totally forgot to eat anything all day. Stopped in on James Horan and Peter Hudson's joint 'Q & A' and also Jim Byrnes' afterwards. I don't recall much of it but do remember Jim saying that at some stage he will record the piece from the end of Archangel.

Later a huge line developed outside the PEACE room where Adrian and Stan were going to sign after their 'official' time upstairs. These were mainly people with registration numbers in the 800's who knew they never stood a chance in hell of getting an autograph any other way. I half heartedly joined the end of

this line - far too late to have any chance of getting anywhere, but it was fun talking to those in the line - people from all over the States, Alaska. During the course of this lineup Stan started his 'Q & A', so when it became perfectly obvious that I was not getting in I dropped out of the line to go and listen

I had paid extra for reserved seating - so imagine my 'delight' when I discovered that out of everyone who had done so, I was the only one they had managed to double seat! It was a seat in the middle of row E, to the side of the room - not particularly good. I went in search of Officialdom the end result being they let me put a seat on the aisle end of the row - much better as I could duck down easily to the front to take photos. It was also right across the aisle from Carmel.

Stan is a great performer and obviously loves playing to the crowd. He is very funny and never misses an opportunity to make rude comments about Adrian. I can't recall too much of this session except his expression of appreciation for the support he gets from his fans, that he likes stage roles - where he started acting - and that if he had not become an actor he would probably have used his Political Science Major to end up being a Lawyer.

Next was Adrian's Q & A. I know Carmel was taking notes so I will leave her to go into more detail of what he actually said - I spent most of the time just watching him - and listening. He is so much better looking than Duncan - if that is possible - but he is. Duncan is usually sooooo serious and often sad. Adrian is funny, just about always smiling, telling jokes, poking fun at Stan interacting with the audience, generally having a good time. Sometimes he sounds like Duncan - when he gets passionate about what he is saying - that happened a few times, occasionally he looks like him, but most of the time - and it is not just his shorter hair - he is Adrian - a very different person to Duncan. (It is interesting, since coming back and watching some HL episodes - I find myself looking for Adrian in Duncan). There were a wide

range of questions asked - from the downright silly (but sometimes fun) to insightful. Carmel asked one of the better ones and which got a great reaction from Adrian. She asked what he (Duncan) meant at the end of 2B/Not 2B when he said 'Never, never again'. Carmel knew that they had scripted a different ending and that Adrian had changed it. He said originally they were to end all having a toast, and Adrian said no, that is not how Duncan would have done it. The Never again referred to never involving or endangering his friends, but that he Duncan still had a job to do, to ensure that evil did not triumph over good and, that he would go on alone and "Get the job done". He obviously felt very strongly about this and he became very animated on he stage while answering.

Someone asked him to name the happiest moments in his life, to which he replied, that he still regarded his wedding day as one of the happiest days of his life - his tone of voice sounding just a tad on the sad side. He finished off by imparting words of wisdom to us all about how we can all attain our goals and dreams if we really want to - isn't that just how I came to be there?

Next came the auction. Adrian was joined by Stan, Peter, Jim and James and it went for about 2 hours or more. First went seats at their respective tables for breakfast - towards the end of which Stan was hovering around in the background cooking up something. We soon discovered what. He had had a T-shirt made with a picture of him and Adrian on the front and - on the back - the list of "The Top 10 things Adrian Paul says to himself when he looks at himself in the mirror every morning" (It read like a Steve Libberman top ten) (A collective group of us on Sunday morning could only remember 9):

10. I'm so pretty
- 9 I still have a full thick head of hair
- 8 Bill Clinton, my hero
- 7 Have to remember to call Elizabeth Gracen and remind her I taught her everything she knows
- 6 Remember to cruise UCLA campus to pick up date for movie premier
- 5 Remember to shave my knuckles (this comes from an internet discussion)
- 4 Remember to set VCR to record 'Cover Girl Murders'
- 3 Maybe Connan O'Brien will call to reschedule interview (big time talk show host - I think)
- 2
- 1 "Bond, James Bond"



Photos by
Wendy
Carpenter



The place erupted in laughter. I do not recall what this went for, but it was a lot! Stan modeled it too- which caused uproar when he took his shirt off. Then there was a set of Gathering Convention security T-Shirts which had all been signed by the cast. One by one each member of the cast took off the shirt they were wearing and put on one of the G shirts - until there was one left - for Adrian. You can but imagine what happened when he took his shirt off. But - there is more. someone had the bright idea to auction the right to take that shirt off him. It went to a woman for some \$2000 US (I think) - but she got her money's worth - so did we. I think perhaps Adrian got more than he bargained for, but it was all good fun. Other things auctioned included jackets belonging to both Stan and Adrian and a piece of tape that got stuck to his pants went for \$150 US - Eventually they ran out of things and by now it was almost 8pm and time to eat!

Chris and I grabbed some takaway and went to watch an episode of 'The Raven'. It was OK - EG was true to Amanda, but the rest of it was just a cop show - not a bad one, but it was not true Highlander. The room was really cold and I kept wishing it would finish so I could get out! - that's how good it was.

Next up was the Jim Byrnes Concert. It was due to start at 9.30 - 10.30 we went in. So we had an hour or more of 'In line' conversations. We were discussing the price that some of the stuff went for at the auction. One lady said "Oh, well, its cheaper than drugs, and the high last for longer" - she's right about that - even taking the cost of coming from Australia into account.

I don't know why we bothered to line up as we spent the best part of the concert dancing on the floor. It was great - Jim is a very multi-talented man. Apparently Adrian and Co., were seated somewhere on the other side of the room (typical), but I did not see them or know they were there until next morning.

It was 2am before we went to bed with Plan A worked out for the morning's breakfast - get up early, get in line early. It worked too. Breakfast was 9am, we were in line - almost at the front at 7.30 and ended up sitting just across the room,

with direct line of sight on Adrian. They did not arrive until about 30 minutes after us. I might have been a little peeved if I had paid a lot to sit at their table. Stan had a contingent of red-shirted Clan Denial women on his table and a vase of red roses was delivered to him - which he shared around them all. Adrian was wearing a dark blue shirt and jeans this day. Now, I know it is rude to stare - my mother always told me so, but sorry - I did - along with just about everyone else in the room. After about half an hour a critical decision had to be made. Did I stay and keep staring or take my chances in the PEACE line for another shot at the real thing? Chris cased the line for me and said it was getting long. Instant decision to quit breakfast and join the line. The fates were with me this weekend. As I got to the door they only allowed 5 more in and yes, I was one of them - phew!!

Stan was there too and I asked him if he would put the '10 things AP says to himself' on his web site. He said no (he has a very sloooow way of talking) but that they might make a T-Shirt of it - I said that would be fun and moved on to Adrian. PEACE have produced a book of AP baby pictures which I asked him to sign, plus a photo which will fit nicely in my diary he signed previously. I thanked him for making my visit so worth while to which he replied "My pleasure". I asked if I could shake his hand, which he did, more gaze into brown eyes - my day was well and truly complete.

Stan and Adrian did the next Q & A together. They are so funny - a regular Laurel & Hardy act. There was this little girl - maybe 4 years old who had to stand on a chair to ask her question. "Adrian, why did you kill Stan" - she was so cute - the question has been asked before, but from her - it was wonderful. "Well" says Adrian "First of all, I didn't kill Stan, I killed Richie" and the answer went on. Somewhere he made a slip of the tongue and did say he killed Stan, to which Stan said something along lines of, "That was a Freudian slip - or do you wish?"

Someone else asked what size shoes Adrian took - pretty inane but the reply was good "11, and the rest of the body follows in proportion" He then asked Stan what size he took "9". "See, I told you, the rest of the body follows in proportion".

All too soon they were making noises about, planes to catch and time to go and it was all over and they were indeed gone.

I am staying in US for a few more weeks and for my birthday giving myself a mega treat of going on the Highlander Cruise - but Adrian will not be there. However, I have a very strong feeling, that it won't be the last time I drag myself half way across the world for a chance to see, and perhaps meet again, this one very, very nice guy. If you get such an opportunity - grab it , go for it - you will not regret it.

Aine Gliddn

The Gathering 4, Denver 16-18 October 1998

Adrian paul's Question & Answer.

Carmel Macpherson.

Right - Adrian's first Q&A. Well, I'd decided to stop whining about questioners who never asked questions about what I wanted to know and to get off my butt and ask the question myself. Problem was I always like to take detailed notes. So poor Rachel Shelton was immediately delegated to be Note Taker Extraordinaire while I undertook photo and questioning duty and primed my memory to remember every syllable uttered. Between Rachel's notes and our collective memories we reckon we've got a lot of it covered. I'm sure you'll all soon let me know if your recollection differs. I'll mount a G4 Web Page when I get back to Australia next weekend.

Right - I've said it numerous times before and I'll say it again - Adrian lights up a room (thank god, as there was precious little other lighting.) He is genuinely charismatic and creates a tangible energy field. He is also very animated and nervous when he starts off, pacing and almost loping from one side of the stage to the other. He looked terrific - in a white t-shirt and very dark navy trousers that looked to be a sort of silk/linen blend. He's fortunately off the skateboarder look and these trousers were very nicely tailored. His hair is looking thick and glossy and had lots of wild curls determined to do their own thing. So, whilst I'm sure that there were many there who would have been content to just sit and watch the poor man, he did actually open his mouth and here's what he said.

NB: these are not verbatim unless I use quotation marks. They are my interpretations of what Adrian said, taken from notes and from my aging memory. I don't pretend that they are a transcript and my observations may be off the mark.

He took his coat off and someone yelled out for him to also take off his shirt but he said "NOT!"

#1: 1995 Sci Fi Universe Awards:

The Q said that Adrian was nominated for an award but that B Boxleitner (?) won but that in her opinion the person who should have won was standing on stage in Denver. Adrian responded very graciously, saying that he certainly appreciated her vote of confidence but that he never begrudged others winning these awards and was genuinely pleased for them. Speaking more now of the Denver situation he said that, much as he loves being on stage, he still gets quite nervous suddenly being in front of many hundreds of people and that this trait will probably never leave him. (Carmel: This will be obvious to everyone who watches him on VIBE or at Cons he takes a little while to calm down but I think that this is a good trait, personally - the adrenalin would give him a bit of a charge and it indicates a lack of complacency that I admire.)

#2: "If you could change one thing about your life what would it be?"

Adrian said that he wouldn't change anything. What followed was a familiar pattern to his general philosophy on life - that there is no such thing as a *wrong* decision - that it is our lot in life to deal with whatever comes our way and that we can learn from that. So - there is no point in wishing that something had been done differently because it has happened and has to be dealt with. He said that in his experience, even when things seem to be going badly, that more often than not the new direction that is forced upon you will often turn out to be for the best. (He quoted the PEACE Foundation) as an example, whereby he was going to take it off in one direction but had been let down by some people he put his faith and trust in and now he is going to take it in a different direction, allied with the Shaq people he did the recent Athletes and Entertainers for Kids day with in Los Angeles. He felt that the new direction was, in deed, the better direction. He said that whilst it can be very disappointing when things don't turn out as we originally hoped, there is a particular challenge in finding the good in the bad and the unexpected.



Photo by Wendy Carpenter

#3: What was it like killing Richie?

"..Well - I didn't personally kill Richie ". (I took this to be Adrian drawing a distinction between Adrian Paul and Duncan MacLeod - a distinction not drawn by the questioner.) Adrian went on to say that it was extremely hard to be involved in the ending of Richie's life, after having worked together so closely for five years.

#4: Will Adrian be involved in any way with Raven?

He said that he had no idea whether he would be involved in any way - directing or acting. I got the distinct impression that there is nothing obvious in the wind.

#5: How did Adrian get into Chi Gung?

As I recall, he spoke about his getting involved in the martial arts when he was a teenager, for protection, but that his attitude towards the martial arts changed as he matured and came to see that they were far more about defence than attack, about building the inner spirit rather than the outer muscle. Chi Gung was therefore a logical extension of learning to attempt to master the energy channels and to acquire both a physical and mental and spiritual discipline. Learning to focus was an important part of this.

#6: How old are you? (Traditional HL question)

Right now - 406 (traditional HL answer!).

#7: Would you re-enact the proposal scene with Tessa?

I think that Adrian misunderstood the question. I *think* that the questioner was asking him to go down on his knee and sing the "Will you marry me..will you marry me?" scene from The Darkness, but Adrian seemed to think that something far more intimate was being asked for and asked the questioner how he would react to being asked to get undressed in front of everyone and said that that was what it would feel like for him to re-enact the proposal scene, so he declined.

#8..(I'm vague on this) - it was something about the questioner not saying "Thank you" in a letter or for a letter (???)

Adrian said that it really touches him when he hears that people's lives have changed for the better because of something that he has instigated or inspired - that he feels good when he hears about this.

#9: What advice does Adrian have for young actors?

"Work hard!" This answer reminded me of a similar question at Anaheim when he was asked to explain his amazing work ethic and he said "Because I wanted to be good!" At Denver he went on to say that there is a study period involved and it must be approached very seriously - and whilst he didn't actually say this, it is obvious from his statements that his view of life is that it is all about continuous improvement - that you *never* stop learning and you can never become complacent. Every time he talks to us he is talking about a new activity that he is involved with (in this instance

gymnastics and something starting with *P* - some form of ritualised exercises I think but the word meant nothing to me or Rachel. Anyone else??

#10: I've got a gap on this one

#11: *He was complemented on his directing skills and asked about the differences..*

Adrian said that he is always attracted to the entire piece - the acting *and* the visual and that it was not easy doing both acting and directing.

#12: *How fine is the line between Adrian and Duncan.*

He said that there is a lot of Duncan in him and vice versa - that you cannot *be* that character for 6 years and not, in reality, merge, in many aspects of your life and that whilst the writers wrote for the characters they inevitably also wrote to accommodate the actor and their views on that character.

#13: *What would your favorite fantasy be if you were on a Fantasy Island. (much laughter and very expressive facial gestures from Adrian as he appeared to be fantasising)*

He actually then became serious and said that his favorite fantasies would be to see an end to racism, prejudice - " if we could all get along " that would be his favorite fantasy.

#14: *If you could invite any 5 people to dinner from any period in history, which 5 people would it be?*

"I don't throw dinner parties!" Someone suggested Stan and he said "Oh yeah Stan would invite himself." He said that he would love to have someone spiritual like the Dali Lama on a personal level. He jokingly said "Marilyn Munroe?": and laughed. We never found to who the other two would be

#15: *Will there be any more Adrian Tapes?*

Adrian confirmed that there will be.

#16: *How did Adrian start PEACE?*

He said that he felt that peace was something that he lacked in his own life at the time and that if he was going to have a fan club he wanted it to be meaningful and something that could be genuinely involving for all concerned.

#17: *What gets you out of bed everyday?*

I love it when Adrian becomes passionate and the energy just sparkles all around the room. He has a smile that is just so warming and joyful. He took a deep breath and said that what gets him out of bed of a morning is the absolute belief that life is good and there to be enjoyed and savoured and experienced to the full - that he likes getting out of bed in order to be able to do this.

#18: *If you could play one character out of literature who would it be?*

He said that he has always been fascinated with Julius Caesar and then proceeded to tease us with his also wanting to play the Count of Monte Cristo. (No- he never confirmed whether he is going to play either of these characters. He did drop a big hint about Monte Cristo at Anaheim and said that he was working on something along those lines at the moment!).

#19: *What was the best day of your life?*

This was poignant, I thought. He stopped and thought for a while and then said " I would have said getting married and it was still a great day " I guess I thought that it was a very nice example of putting his money where his mouth is, in that he had told us all earlier that every situation has good in it, if we take the time to find it. And so I was pleased that he didn't come across as bitter and twisted but could immediately choose his wedding day as one of the best days of his life, regardless of the hurt that obviously followed many years later. He went on to say that he found it hard picking just one occasion - that there had been lots of great days - travelling in Paris, conversing with friends .

#20: *Was that your butt in Chivalry?*

"Yeahhhhhhhh I don't do butt doubles " He went on to say that Anne Turkel was in front and didn't know about it and got a bigger surprise than anyone. (Carmel: Hmmm poor woman .we should all be so traumatised)

#21: *How much can you benchpress? (Or what weight can he lift or something)*

This was a child asking, and Adrian said that he wasn't into this aspect of fitness and that it is very important to work out correctly, particularly at a young age, and to get the right balance. He said that concentrating on bench pressing and weights can adversely affect the large muscles and can inhibit flexibility and extension work, which he needs to be able to do for sword work and various martial arts. He gave some delightful arm demonstrations, showing the difference in reach with a shortened upper arm muscle and a flexible one (like Adrian's) almost unconsciously, as he was talking to the child. He said that he is currently heavily into Gymnastics and something that sounded like Polagies (???)

#21: *How many scars and stitches do you have?*

Adrian paused and said he'd never really counted them but that he'd been fortunate in never having any broken bones although he'd had his fair share of stitches - on his fingers, and he referred to the bad cut at his right eye. He said that he'd rarely got hurt before joining Highlander..and that he wasn't allowed to do things like ski while contracted! He also mentioned the bad fall he'd had in Season 3 when he had to wear a neck brace and said that he'd had to have bone fusions as a result. (First we'd heard of that!)

#22: What if you were out on a date and wanted to impress your date and you both arrived at your car and there were 8 big burly men leaning all over it. What would you do?

"Take a cab!" I thought that this was a great response - very quick witted and sane advice. He said that he's never had to use his martial arts in any such situation and would avoid doing so if possible - that he doesn't need to prove anything.

#23: If you could change one thing about your body what would it be? (This was asked by a little girl - in fact, there were a lot of questions asked by children.)

Adrian recounted the story from a superb new book on his childhood called Images of Adrian Paul (it has a picture of a very young Adrian kissing his Mother on the nose. Run, don't walk to the PEACE web site and order a copy immediately.) Anyway, in this little book, Adrian tells the story of how his Aunt believed that he had over-large nostrils when he was a baby ("..Gorilla nostrils ..") so he intimated that "..maaaaybeeee.." that would be a feature he would change but then he said that really, he wouldn't choose to change anything at all. ("Amen" came the collective audience sigh ..)

#24: Has he been going through Highlander Withdrawal symptoms?

He said that it was time to move on and that he needed to do different things both personally and professionally but that obviously you don't work in a show like Highlander for 6 years without it being very important to you. He reiterated how much the entire experience had meant to him and how much it had allowed him to grow. I never cease to be amazed at what a *family* feeling there is to the show and how this comes out when you see the various actors interacting with each other. I'll go into this more when I write up James Oran's and Peter Hudson's session.

#25: Do you wear boxers or briefs?

All he would admit to was Calvin Kleins.

#26: Are all the kata's choreographed?

He pointed out that the Katas are *real* - and that this is very very important to him that such forms are kept as real as possible. He pointed out that his many years of study with Hung Gar, King Fu etc etc enables him to put together the appropriate Kata for the appropriate occasion.

#27: Is the Quickening painful or is it like an orgasm? (How does that man keep a straight face????)

He observed that the questioner must not have been to any other Cons - there was much laughter and he gave the traditional answer - that they are a combination of both.

*#28: A child asked this question of almost every GOH - it sounded like it had been learnt by rote and went along the lines of "According to my teacher it is a scientifically proven fact that people who listen to classical music are more intelligent than people who don't. Do *you* listen to classical music?" (*Much* laughter)*

Adrian very quickly picked up on what was the right answer and said that Mozart was one of his favorites and that he definitely listened to classical music. The child seemed suitably satisfied that she was conversing with someone worthy and departed. I notice that Rachel's notes here say "..doesn't listen to it that much " but can only assume that this was an aside muttered by Adrian as the child walked off. I was rolling around the floor trying to get a decent pic at the time and remember laughing at his response.

#29: I've no idea what the question was but the answer was fascinating. He said that he has had a very spiritual year (I sat bolt upright at this stage, remembering how I'd speculated that Adrian had been in a Trappist Monastery all year, so little had we heard of him!) he went on to say that the answers we seek usually come unexpectedly and that fear is the greatest barrier in our lives to our searching and seeking and taking risks. "..If people stop being afraid, they'd have more fun find your path and follow it ..".

#30: I've no idea what this bit was about now - I've waited too many days!

#31: What cologne does he wear?

He did rattle off some Italian sounding brands but I missed them. He did say that he often buys a brand just for the pretty bottle!

#32: What are his favorite Italian meals that his Mother used to make him?

I was immediately transported to Double Eagle as he proclaimed "PASTA!" - he mentioned one with clams, I think it was and also pointed out the social repercussions on a poor tennage boy of having an Italian Mother who adored garlic and very liberally laced their meals with it. He said his pleas for her to tone down the garlic, as his love life was suffering, merely resulted in he putting in two large juicy cloves instead of three. He said that he was particularly fond of a dessert his Mother made full of cream and chocolate (*not* Tiramisu) but resembling it. He also revealed that he likes cooking when he has the time to do it.

#33: Are Something Wicked and Deliverance his favorites?

Adrian said that he particularly loved these two because he got to be *bad* and that is always very challenging for an actor. He was also asked why he signed with his left hand when he signed onto the vessel going to Le Havre. He said that he couldn't remember doing that and maybe the film got reversed. He said that he really got *into* the part and was able to stretch in the EDM role. (Stan later revealed in their joint Q&A on the Sunday that Adrian was so into the role that the sword fight really had them both going - the bow, the kissing of Richie's head, EDM's kissing of the sword - all were ad libs. Stan also said that Adrian told him the morning of the sword fight in the Dojo that "..you better be ready for me because I'm coming for you")

#34: If you were offered the opportunity to play Rock Hudson would you take it?

"Yes - definitely." He said that he wants to really stretch and be challenged.

#35: How would you prepare for a romantic role?

"..I don't need to prepare..". The phrase, of course, said with the most marvellous mischievous teasing laugh and much eye twinkling. Never let it be said that this man doesn't know how to get an audience eating out of his hand. And of course, dear reader, we all took great delight in sitting back, agreeing with Adrian's self assessment - for isn't this the essence of what makes Highlander such an erotic show - the sensuousness and the love scenes never look rehearsed. As I've stated before, they just seem to fall into the loving. Ah yes - Question #36 ..ever onward, after that brief but edifying distraction.

#36: Are you going to do any more autographs? (Little boy..)

"Maybe tomorrow.."

#37: In Duende, did you do all the flamenco dancing?

This was clearly a reference to the fact that the flamenco dance was edited in such a way that we rarely saw a full length shot of Adrian dancing. Adrian stated here in Denver and also at Anaheim that it was indeed him and his feet that were doing the dancing. He then gave us an impromptu demonstration - in so far as his suede shoes allowed.

#39: What was the saddest episode for Duncan?

This was a very very interesting answer. Adrian said that Duncan had a couple that changed his life markedly - Tessa's and Richie's deaths. The audience called out "Darius!" but Adrian maintained that Tessa and Richie "were his blood.." and that Darius was a very good friend, but not "..blood.." so he believes that Tessa's and Richie's deaths affected Duncan more deeply. He then spoke about his relationship with Werner Stocker and that Werner's coming from the German school of acting, Adrian wasn't sure that it was going to work but that the relationship *did* work and worked very well. He re-told the story of the need to fundamentally re-write Band of Brothers once Werner became so ill - and that in a strange way it was all art imitating life.

*#40: How does it feel for you to be at these Conventions, knowing that everyone in the room *wants* him?*

Adrian admitted that it made him nervous, but that he has always loved being on the stage and so tries to just go with the flow. He admitted that he does find it all very flattering but tries, as his Mother taught him, to keep grounded and keep it all in perspective.

#41: Have you seen the Duncan MacLeod mug???

Well, dear reader, this was probably one of the few times in Adrian Paul's life when he has been struck utterly speechless, a look of stupefied horror written all over his beautiful face as *the* mug was handed to him. He held it out in front of him, clearly afraid to let its karma come within cooee of him. Is there anyone out there who, like me, sits and shakes their head in total befuddlement at what could possibly be going through the heads of the marketers when they actually view the finished product of something like "..the Duncan mug". Do any of them actually *watch* the show? If so, how could no-one not realise that the cast for the Fonz or Elvis seemed to be substituted for Duncan MacLeod? I actually think that the mug will become a collector's item, so horrific is it. Now, where were we? Ah yes - Adrian's reaction. He also thought it looked like Elvis - suggested using it as a weapon. and then blamed The Powers That Be ..(Fran Koerner has just shown me *her* Duncan mug, all 1000 pieces of it, which is apparently how it arrived from the Highlander Store. I suggested we make a mosaic talisman and hang it on her front door to scare away evil spirits. I also suggested that it was not the US postal service that was at fault but the mug itself spontaneously exploding in self mortification at being so unsalvageably horrific.. Careful everyone - I can hear the tiny explosive Quickenings of Duncan mugs all over the United States.)

#42:..Did you ever play a musical instrument? (small boy asked this.)

Adrian admitted wanting to play the violin .he said that until the child had asked the question he'd completely forgotten about it and that he now recalled sneaking into the music class and pretending that he had every right to be there until the Music Teacher wised up and kicked him out. He said that he did play the obligatory Recorder as a child and strongly encouraged children to learn any instrument because of the discipline involved and said that he plays the bongos and hand drums. (Am I the only one who sits there feeling like the worst slob on earth???)

#43: What's happened to the Banana Cookbook?

Adrian isn't really sure what's happening with it - but he doesn't have the resources to print and publish it.

#44: The Questioner commented on how committed Adrian appears to be in all that he does. "If you only had 5 years left what would you want to accomplish?"

"Getting my Foundation off the ground." Here Adrian spoke of being let down by some people he had given his trust to and that it hadn't panned out but that he believed that what happened happened for the best, ultimately and that he was actually more pleased with the new direction that he was going to take the Foundation in - aligned with more active mentoring and coaching of children.

<<Adrian had mentioned during his Q&A session that his P.E.A.C.E. Foundation was not moving in the direction he had originally planned, so I asked him if he could tell us about the Foundation's new direction. He said it would be associated with the Athletes and Entertainers for Kids organization. He said he didn't want the Foundation to be involved in the kind of fundraising where, say, 250,000 dollars are raised but that 200,000 dollars of it goes for expenses. He wants to be actively involved in the mentoring and education of kids. Adrian also said that he doesn't believe all celebrities are sincere when they lend their support or name to a cause, but that he wants to be. >>

#45: In The Samurai you were humming a particular tune - what was it?

(Is it just me or is there anyone out there who remembers what tune they were humming three years ago on a particular day?? Do we really think that Adrian sits and watches Highlander episodes between his stunts on the parallel bars?) Er um he pointed out that he didn't remember and that it was probably something he heard on the radio that day on the way to the set.

#46.. What is the history of the piece of sculpture used in Not To Be, called the Immorata (sp??) Is it a real sculpture?

Adrian said that as far as he knew it was designed for the episode and was therefore part of the set design. (Carmel: Aren't these sets designers just amazing. These are the levels of care and quality that always leave me very very satisfied after watching a Highlander episode -watched in between my own amazing swirls and twirls of the parallel bars, of course, playing the flute as I whizz round and around)

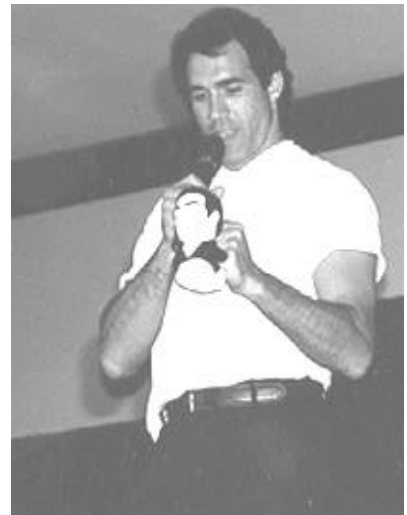


Photo by Wendy Carpenter

#47: Do you get hurt falling off your horse? (Young child). Much laughter as we all relived the Bloopers reel.

Adrian said that he should have listened to advice concerning never working with kids and animals! He retold the story of *that* horse in the Line of Fire blooper outtakes and said that a number of those falls were actually the stunt man, and not always him. He said that the horse had a sixth sense and that whenever "Action" was called the horse would take off leaving a very tired and dusty Adrian/stunt man behind. He recounts these stories with infectious humor and seems to delight in turning them against himself.

#48: Well, dear Reader, here, finally, I got to ask my question. Now I ask you, can anything compare to having the man's undivided attention (OK - he was no doubt thinking about what socks he was going to wear on the morrow, but leave me with my fantasies intact) while you ask him something that has been bothering you for months and then have him actually engage with you and become quite passionate about his response. My only regret is that I didn't ask him the other 400 questions I had up my sleeve out of a misguided sense of obligation to the people behind (ptooey!) Now those of you who think that there were some 47 people who had asked questions already would be sore mistook - a number of people went on and on and on and on and on before finally getting to their first question and then proceeded to ask another 3 or 4 after it. I thought that this should have been better policed, frankly. Anyway - where was I - going on and on and on, quite clearly OK .TA DUM .Carmel's question:

"Adrian, as a person who is widely regarded as having special insights into the mind and motivations of Duncan MacLeod, what do *you* think that he meant when he replied to Amanda's observation of "Honey, I thought we'd lost you!" in Not To Be, with "Never. Never again!"

Well - he launched straight into the response - not even a pause. He said that the phrase of "Never. Never again." was not in the original script and that Adrian had insisted that it should be as he did not approve of the original ending of Not To Be whereby Joe, Methos, Amanda and Duncan were all sitting around in a happy ever after ending, toasting each other's health. "...I fought with The Powers That Be..that's *not* what Highlander's about you have a certain responsibility to the character " Adrian says that MacLeod was determined not to place his friends in such danger again. Now my interpretation of his answer was that Duncan was determined to protect his friends and was going into the future with a renewed sense of purpose - that Duncan MacLeod would perhaps not be quite so trusting and naive in the future. I read it as Duncan being well and truly back in the Game with a clear direction and purpose. That he was determined to go out and meet the danger and deal with it rather than have it find him through his friends.

Naturally, I was thrilled with Adrian's insightful answer, because it matched completely my own humble analysis <wicked grin> - I amused myself recently attempting to analyse the Montage. Here's an excerpt:

<< So - in summary, the Montage spoke to me of the defining moments in Duncan's journey - the importance of friends, keeping your word, the richness of diverse cultures, the importance of passion, love and commitment in his life, living with loneliness and constant loss, honoring obligations, facing and overcoming fear, remembering to have fun, the danger of allowing his gifts and his immortality to overwhelm him just as it has overwhelmed so many of his friends. And ultimately - ultimately, the memories all come together to signify that he accepts who he is and what he stands for, no matter the cost.

And just as his entire life has been a paradox and a contradiction, at times tearing him apart with conflicting loyalties and obligations, so the final picture in the Montage sum up this duality - the modern man, clothed in the apparel of the late twentieth century, striding so purposefully into the next century and all its adventures and awaiting trials and tribulations and superimposed over this man is the reminder of what shapes his soul and heart - the chivalric warrior riding towards us, still a very strong part of our world.

He will not forget where he came from and he no longer has any doubts about where he is going.

All, of course, just my humble opinion.>> So - you can see why I liked Adrian's response !

#49: What is the status of the HL4 script?

Bad news still I'm afraid - he said that they'd rejected a second script and were determined to make HL4 faithful to both the Movie (note - he said *the Movie* - clearly a reference, I'd say to HL1) and the Series. It would appear as if that marriage has not yet been achieved to Adrian's satisfaction. He said that they still were on schedule however to begin filming in April 1999.

#50: What do you have in the works?

Susan's Plan. He spoke of how Landis has a very dark humorous streak and how he poured blood all over Adrian who plays the ex-husband whom the ex-wife is trying to kill.

(Carmel: I think it was Rebecca Flynn (President of PEACE) who posted on the AP Board recently that Adrian is not expecting more than 10 minutes in the film (before editing!) Go to the following Link for a good review of the film but no mention is made of Adrian, unfortunately: <http://www.afifest.com/fest98/films/susan.html>. (Thanks to Pam Laity for alerting me to this link.)

Adrian then enticed us with a reference to a possible future film starring a modern day Lancelot. Now I didn't hear the *modern day* part but many others insisted that he did say that. I just heard Lancelot .be still my beating heart .Adrian as Lancelot ..there is a goddess ..but of course he then said that he couldn't tell us any more. He did mention South Africa during the Breakfast and said that filming there was much cheaper and that he may be there in a month's time if things work out .everyone keep your fingers and toes crossed ..

#51: Where does the newer sword move come from (the reverse grip)?

Adrian attributed this to F. Braun McAsh.

FINIS - so - there you have it - my take on Adrian's Question and Answer. I hope that you enjoyed it as much as those of us lucky enough to be there and watch the passion, commitment and humor at first hand.

Access Con

Report by Mari Nolte

[Not long after the Anaheim Convention, another small con took place. This con had a registration cut-off at 200 attendees. Guests

included Peter Wingfield, James Horan, Valentine Pelka, Maureen Russell and Anthony DeLongis. Sonja]

First let me start off by saying the staff of Virago did pull off a Herculean feat. I have talked to no one NO ONE who attended, who did not think this was the best convention they had ever been to. The con-staff was so determined that everyone have a good experience, that at times I feared for their sanity. Every effort was taken to make the event pleasant and fun. If you had a problem with ANYTHING, a con-staff member was there to set things right. They had everything planned to the smallest detail and delighted in the looks on the faces of the attendees during the activities truly wonderful people who care about the fans. (((con-staff)))

Ok, now down to the details. Since I am not a human tape recorder, the statements which I will ascribe to the GOH's are paraphrased. I am not necessarily quoting verbatim.

When asked about what he thought of the Raven Chronicles, PW said that the problem that the show had was figuring out WHY these two people were together. He said that they had no "reason" to be together and had no common foundation. MacLeod was the anchor in HL and he didn't see an anchor, and that's what they were working on now.

When asked if he would be in the new series, PW replied in a very interesting way. He did not directly answer the question. He said, "You see, if you use day-players then you just pay them and off they go if you use people that have already an established rate of pay then you have to pay them at least as much as they were making before Yes Jim and I have both been approached Jim was supposed to be in the last show that was filmed here and I was supposed to be in the first show filmed in France, they're doing that again, half here and half there There's still a chance " I assumed that he meant North America when he said "here".

James Horan was really surprised that "anyone remembers me, I was 'way' back in the first season". Jim joined PW, Valentine Pelka and Anthony DeLongis in the last Q&A on Sunday and spoke of the voice over work that he is currently doing.

Maureen Russell, who wrote/compiled the Complete Watchers Guide, has a fabulous sparkling personality. At the Friday Night mixer she told a table of fans that ADL's luggage and whips didn't catch the same plane to LA. His luggage temporarily lost, she loaned him a tuxedo and magicians cape so that he could attend the festivities She just happened to have them in her closet.

I asked Maureen Russell how the Watchers Guide was put together. She replied that she had worked on some other projects (Video Life & Time's of Duncan MacLeod and one other which I forget) for Bill Panzer (who she adores) and was hoping to be able to work with him in the future.

In the interim she had written a book similar to the Watchers Guide for a soap opera. (Days of Our Lives? - again chalk it up to short-term memory loss). This book was given rave reviews in the TV Guide. One of the staff members of DPP brought the TV Guide review to Bill Panzer and "plopped" it on his desk, saying, "We NEED to get Maureen to do the Watcher's Guide". Bill Panzer called her and outlined what he wanted and she said she had a great time writing it.



Photo by Wendy Carpenter

Bill Panzer and Maureen envisioned a large "coffee table" book with loads of glossy color pictures. Warner/Aspect said it wouldn't sell in that size, and reduced it to the size it is now (6"x9"). Maureen said that Warner was out of it's mind, thinking that HL fans wouldn't spend money on a large format book and encouraged each of us to write to Bill Panzer and ask for an expanded version "If he knows it will sell, he'll do it himself "

VP talked about Krono's sword saying that it beautiful and deadly, but the since the shape of it was quite unique, it kept getting caught in his costume and ripping it.

ADL wrote as the sword expert for the Watchers, on the new Watchers CD ROM. I don't have the CD yet but he read part of the script that he wrote about Krono's sword. He called it a "tarted-up Swedish broadsword".

VP said that the first scene that he filmed of CaH was a big dramatic one with PW. He said after the first take they both burst out laughing. Which broke all the tension.

VP said that he felt trepidation walking into a series that had been going for years. He wondered how people would act towards him as the new comer. PW was in his trailer "playing his (VP searches for the correct word) music, and singing loudly". And Adrian was off "directing". But when he was getting his scar applied in make-up, PW came up and happily welcomed him to the set. VP said that he went out of his way to do that and knew that they would be great chums.

When asked about acting roles, VP explained a "real" day as working actor. He said that there is a film called Jeremiah that he worked on last week. "A bunch of actors huddled around microphones shouting and stamping their feet". When pressed for details he said, "No you don't understand, I'm not in the film, I screamed and stomped around for voice-overs, we were barbarians ". He then jumped from his seat and screamed and stomped for us to demonstrate his work "If my father saw what I was doing he'd tell me to go get a proper job".

I'm sure you've read that VP and PW registered us all in on Thursday night, much to the delight of the attendees. The next day at the first Q&A VP said, "I can't believe I registered you ALL last night, you're all my babies" he made a wide sweeping gesture with his hands.

A fan stood and admitted distress that she had not registered last night and wondered if VP & PW would check her ID right then so she could be on of "Val's babies" VP & PW played right along "I don't have my card catalog .oh come on up" said VP. The woman walked up to the stage and handed over her Driver's License. VP said, "You've changed your hair" PW said, "This is a Calif DL, we don't take these "

PW commented that the character he plays on Cold Squad is named Simon Ross. He said he was told that that is the real name of one of the producers of the show., but he uses MacLeod Productions as a pseudonym. PW laughing said, "I just can't get away from it"

Speaking of worst jobs. PW said that as a struggling actor he did a lot of children's parties. He said it got to the point where he would do anything to keep the kids amused even if he just laid on the floor and let them kick him. (ouch)

When asked if he accidentally REALLY cut Adrian's neck in their fight sequence in Not To Be, PW said that he didn't remember a nurse being called to the set, and so no, he didn't.

When asked the old question of "Who the Heck WAS Death anyway?" VP said that he was told at Anaheim that he was pestilence. Until that time he thought he was Death. He said that as he read the script he thought End Of Time = Death. PW interrupted his story saying, "Just like an actor just reading HIS lines and no one elses " VP laughed and continued, " then I find out because of the odd timing of a NON SCRIPED line "

When asked why Methos was so different in Not 2 Be as opposed to CaH or Rev 6:8, PW replied, "I've always looked at Not 2 Be as an egotistically driven MacLeod fantasy"

Melissa part of the Virago staff asked, "There are 22 episodes that contain Methos, That's a whole season What did they do to the OTHER 5 years?" VP & PW laughed and PW shrugged

Donna Lettow and Gillian Horvath were in the dealers room on Saturday signing books. I told Gillian that I had heard that she wrote an episode of Xena and wondered when it would air. She told me that the episode is called (something like) Two Muse's. The only restrictions that the Xena staff put on her was that she had to include Bruce Campbell (who plays a handsome debonair thief). She laughed and said sarcastically, "I told them, NO problem".

I asked Donna Lettow about the mysterious "real" 6th season script. At the Anaheim convention the rumor was that Donna had been working on writing the 6th season the way it was suppose to be done before money troubles. She said that there was no truth to it because they had only sketched out an outline. She said that the production staff was just starting to go over the ideas for sets and costumes and were having fits over the expense.

Humanitarian awards really should go to: Louise H Wells, Who is a miracle worker and one of the sweetest people I've ever met. Genise (GiGi Macfru) has had a series of medical problems and attended the Anaheim convention in a wheelchair. GiGi told me that Jim Byrnes was her inspiration and she had hoped to see him at ACCESS and tell him how his struggle had helped keep her focused, so that she was now using a walker. When she found out that he couldn't attend the convention because of the filming of his series she cried for 3 days. When Louise found this out, she arranged for Jim to call from Canada and talk to GiGi. Louise walked up to GiGi and handed her the phone without telling her Jim was on the line. She was so happy, I doubt she's stopped crying even now.

I would like our viewers to know they were the smart ones, the ones that were tunes in while it was on the air. Because I predict that ten years from now or twenty years from now, Highlander will be The Prisoner of whatever decade it is. Now we're still the best kept secret on television.

Ken Gord, Producer.
Highlander: The Complete Watcher Guide, by Maureen Russell

And Pam, who purchased PW's marathon medal at the Anaheim convention. She went out and found a beautiful case and presented it back to PW at ACCESS. She said she thought it might be something that he would regret auctioning off later on and was something to treasure and pass on to his children. Staff members said that PW was very touched by the gesture

Also to PW who zoomed out of one of the discussion rooms, and with lightning speed ran by and did a "hit and run" tummy-rub on one of the fans who had fallen asleep on her back on a large, low table in the lobby. The fan screeched. Peter vanished. Everyone who witnessed the sight was hysterically laughing at "stealth Peter". I told PW at one of the panel discussions, "you know that drive-by tummy rub will go will go down as one of the great moments in fan history " PW grinned a wicked grin and said, "good" .and he looked a lot like Methos when he said it

Oh man I'm sure I've gone over the list-line-limit, so I better stop here Ooo, but there was so much more

Wish you were all there...really,

Quiz Answers

1 Fencing. 2 A motor cycle. 3 Band of Brothers. 4 Quentin Barnes. 5 One of Tessa's earrings. 6 Trout and jam. 7 The cross of St Antoine. 8 Counterfeit pt 2. 9 Methos. 10 A silver Celtic bracelet. 11 Spiders. 12 Thuggees. 13 Athens.
14 They were all mortal. 15 Horton. 16 Cassandra. 17 Richie Ryan. 18 Luke. 19 1950. 20 Duncan's killing of Sean Burns.

Season Six

Avatar

Written by David Tynan

Directed by Dennis Berry

Ahriman continues his assault on Duncan, this time through history student, Sophie Baines. Sophie must decide between her brother, Duncan (whom she recognises as the champion) and life itself, while Joe must decide on his own faith in Duncan.

Armageddon

Written by Tony DiFranco

Directed by Richard Martin

The struggle with Arhiman concludes in Darius' church and on a more spiritual plain. With help from Joe and Father Beaufort, Duncan faces his greatest foe. But before the battle is won, all three men must face up to terrible costs.

Sins Of The Father

Written by James Thorpe

Directed by Dennis Berry

When Max was a child in the Warsaw ghetto, he promised to fight to retrieve monies stolen during the holocaust. Max now continues the fight with the help of Alex Raven whom Duncan has met once before.

Diplomatic Immunity

Written by James Thorpe

Directed by Richard Martin

When conman, Willie's mortal wife is killed in a scam that goes horribly wrong, Duncan agrees to bring the killer to justice, but Willie wants a more personal and permanent outcome to their search and Duncan finds himself caught between friends.

Patient Number 7

Written by David Tynan

Directed by Dennis Berry

Kyra has lost everything, even her memory. When someone tries to kill her, she flees the hospital, running into the street and into Duncan who remembers her from a night long ago. But who is the man Kyra remembers?

Black Tower

Written by Morrie Ruvinsky

Directed by Richard Martin

A night of passion turns into a night of peril when Devon Marek includes Duncan in his own, private "game". Duncan must elude Marek's killers and earn bonus points by rescuing the maiden.

Unusual Suspects

Written by Morrie Ruvinsky

Directed by Dennis Berry

It's 1929. Hugh Fitzcairn has been murdered - and is disgusted to see only a handful at his funeral. Now Fitz calls on Duncan to solve the mystery, but Duncan's

deductive powers are stretched as suspects uncooperatively keep being murdered themselves.

Justice

Written by Micheal O'Mahony & Sasha Reinz

Directed by Dennis Berry

When Katya's daughter is murdered by her influential husband, the courts fail to bring him to justice. Now Katya vows to do that herself, but Duncan understands the price that goes with Katya's plan.

Deadly Exposure

Written by James Thorpe

Directed by Dennis Berry

Regan Cole is a bounty hunter, in town just to visit her old friend, Duncan MacLeod. But before long, Regan is embroiled in an international terrorist hunt and an unlikely relationship with a model.

Two Of Hearts

Written by James Thorpe

Directed by Richard Martin

Katherine and her mortal lover, Nick, rescue those in danger. When a case leads them to an old foe of Katherine's, she has the chance to avenge a past wrong. But Nick must face the Game from a mortal's POV. This episode features none of the regular cast.

Indiscretions

Written by James Thorpe

Directed by Dennis Berry

Past indiscretions surface for both Joe and Methos who must team up to fight Morgan Walker and his henchmen.

To Be

Written by David Tynan

Directed by Richard Martin

When a terrorist bombing goes wrong, Liam O'Rourke and his mortal wife spend the rest of her life in prison. Now Liam wants Duncan to repay him that life. The choice is simple. Liam will kill Joe and Amanda - or Duncan can offer Liam his head.

Not To Be

Written by David Tynan

Directed by Dennis Berry

Is Duncan responsible for the lives of his friends? Can he truly influence the fate of others? Should he try? An old and loved friend guides Duncan on a journey that looks at the role he plays in life.

Merchandise, Clubs, Sites, Cons

HIGHLAND BLADES Vol. 4 is a Gen fanzine rated PG-13 professionally printed 156 pages with a color cover and some B&W illustrations (very little white space) 8 1/2" x 11" tape bound and contains 9 stories. \$23 ppd in USA, \$28 for Canada and \$30 for Foreign. GraphicsOne, 910 Cloverdale Ave. #1, Crestline OH 44827, USA

SO SPEAKS THE HERO A new Highlander zine suited for general audiences available via Pat Fenech, 11 Lincoln St, Stanmore, New South Wales 2048 Email: P.Fenech@library.usyd.edu.au <http://members.aol.com/ashton7/ashton.htm>

Cult Times Special #6 has an article about HL 4 - The search for Connor.

TV Zone issue 104 - 5 pg season one retrospective. Interviews with Kevin Droney and David Abramowitz.

"Impact" May 98 issue, has an article on Lisa Howard

TV Zone #5 Behind the scenes of season 5 and episodes reviewed - eps 7 - 13 of season 6

Sept/Oct Cinescape magazine has an article on Raven

XposÈ special #5 has an article on Stan Kirsch <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Delphi/4212/xpose.html>

Starlog #256 (November.) 2 page interview with Elizabeth Gracen.

(Thanks to Karen Scott for many of these)

For an **Elizabeth Gracen** interview go to: http://www.canoe.ca/Television/sep17_gracen.html

Access convention photos <http://members.aol.com/ashton7/ashton.htm>

<http://members.aol.com/peteduel/access/access.htm> (this site has photos for sale)

Raven sites can be found at: <http://www.rysher.com/highlander/ravenindex.html>

<http://www.inquo.net/~ppearson/raven.htm>

<http://www.UltimateTV.com/highlander/>

To join a mailing list for Raven, write to : hl_the_raven-subscribe@egroups.com

Rysher trailers for the series on the site, and the production footage from Raven in the Video Library go to Mike Smith's library at: <http://www.darkmage.net/highlander>

James Horan (Greyson, Band of Brothers) now has an official fan club <http://www.jameshoran.com/index.html>

The Unofficial **Eric McCormack** Page <http://www.lather.com/popsilly/eric/main.htm#latest>

Article on Peter Wingfield/ **Cold Squad**: <http://www.vancouverprovince.com/newsite/entertainment/1634403.html>

Samantha Copeland has updated her Mother of all HL pages: http://www.wwisp.com/~copeland/samantha/hl_links.html

Chronicles 99 Birmingham, 26-28 February 1999. GOHs (all OCP), Peter Wingfield, Valentine Pelka, Richard Ridings, Marcus Testory. Registration is 40GBP. simonsd@email.msn.com Chronicles 99, 69 Merlin Crescent, Edgware, Middx, HA8 6JB, England <http://members.aol.com/dsimons206/chronicles99.htm>

Clan Highlander Cruise, November. Three days from Miami to Nassau and back. Guests include Jim Byrnes, Peter Wingfield, Anthony DeLongis, Stan Kirsch, the Jim Byrnes Band, Clanranald, Donna Lettow, Gillian Horvath, and Maureen Russell Email to: hlcevents@aol.com

The Adrian Paul baby book, "Images of a Young Adrian Paul," photos & stories of his childhood. 64 pages, expected to be around \$25 - \$30 US. Available from PEACE

The next Brisbane meeting: Sunday 15 November, Red Cross Centre, 405 Adelaide St. 10.00am- 4.00pm

We hope you've enjoyed this Issue of *The Buzz*. If you would like to, or get back issues, contact Sonja at the number or email address below.

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 (please add HLDU to the subject line to draw my attention)

Or you can find the club page at <http://www.powerup.com.au/~sonjaV/>