

LET'S TALK

Hercules no kin to Superman; looking for a moving Van?

By Taylor Michaels

Q: Could you please tell me if Christopher Reeves (sic), who plays Superman in all the movies, is any kin to George Reeves, who played Superman in the television series *The Adventures of Superman*? —Michelle Strickland, Benton, Ark.

A: Superman is quite a topic of interest among the readers of this column, including Shirley Baldasaro of Claremont, N.H., and Ginger Lowe of Oakley, Idaho, and I will attempt to answer all your questions.

The most recent Superman movies started Christopher Reeve, therefore making his relation to George Reeves not only unlikely, but untrue. A few readers have even wondered if the modern Man of Steel is related to Steve Reeves, who many also mistakenly believe played Superman. Steve Reeves is an actor best known for his portrayal of another strongman, Hercules.

George Reeves did star in *The Adventures of Superman*, which made him a big star, and, perhaps at the same time, hopelessly typecast him to the point that no one would accept him in any other role. Though he had appeared in great films like *Gone With the Wind*, *Rancho Notorious* and *From Here to Eternity*, the trauma of being forever identified with a cartoon character supposedly led to his suicide in 1959. Singer/songwriter Don McLean ("American Pie") has begun a personal vigil in an attempt to prove Reeves did not kill himself and may have been murdered. He's also written a song on the subject.

Q: I really like the voice of the Crypt-Keeper on *Tales From the Crypt*. Can you tell me his name and address so I can write him a letter? —Rachel Boyer, Condon, Ore.

A: Designed by ghoul guru Kevin Yagher, the caustic Crypt-Keeper, who opens each segment of the popular HBO anthology series, is voiced by John Kassir. You may write to Kassir in care of The Gersh Agency, 232 Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif., 90210.

Q: I am a great fan of all Westerns and have on videotape over 500 movies,



Christopher Reeve

but only four of my favorite Western actor, Clint Walker. I know he made more than those four movies, and that is why I am asking how I can write to Mr. Walker and ask him what other movies he made. —Tony Galk, Sedona, Ariz.

A: Walker is best known for his title role in the TV Western series *Cheyenne*; a part he reprised in the 1991 miniseries *The Gambler Returns: The Luck of the Draw*. A list of his film credits includes: *Fort Dobbs* (1958), *Yellowstone Kelly* (1959), *The Night of the Grizzly* (1966), *The Dirty Dozen* (1967), *Yuma* (1970), *The Bounty Man* (1972), *Pancho Villa* (1972), *Snowbeast* (1977) and *White Buffalo* (1977). I'm sure you'll still want to write Walker, and you may do so in care of First Artists Agency, 10000 Riverside Dr., Ste. 6, Toluca Lake, Calif., 91602.

Q: Can you please tell me the name of a movie with Van Johnson and Jane Wyman (I think)? He goes off to war and dies holding a medallion that she gave him. He comes back (from the dead) to see her, but no one believes her until they see she has the medallion in her hand. —Brandy Rice, Carthage, Texas.

A: The picture of which you write is 1956's *Miracle in the Rain*. Incidentally, bridging the hereafter must have been a favorite theme of Johnson's. He played in the similarly moving films *The End of the Affair* and *A Guy Named Joe*, the latter of which was remade in 1989 as *Always*.

Send questions to Let's Talk, Features Dept., P.O. Box 961009, Fort Worth, Texas, 76161-1009.

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