

Curtis, Lewis are 'Anything But Canceled'

Marty and Hannah together at last

By Amy Schmidt

Last May after ABC decided to cancel the comedy "Anything But Love," comedian/star Richard Lewis was anything but happy. Not that he ever really is happy, mind you, his comic penchant being pain and melancholy.

"The two years I've had with Jamie Lee (Curtis) has been really an extraordinary experience for me," said Lewis fretfully of his "Anything But Love" co-star. "I mean, I really love her and the cast, and I'll miss being with her. You know, I'll come back, and if I do television in the next year, I'll produce my own show, and it'll be a different kind of show. I'll have more sex in my show. I'm the horniest co-star that ever lived. You know, I told Jamie Lee, I said, 'If I ever do a movie with you, no matter what role I play, we're making love in three minutes of the movie. They tortured me for two years without having sex, so I'm really in a lot of pain and I'm angry.'"

Finally, the angst-ridden Lewis will have his way. Not only is "Anything But Love" back on ABC, but after two seasons of pent-up desire, this year Hannah (Curtis) and Marty (Lewis) consummate their relationship.

On "Anything But Love," Curtis and Lewis play a couple of writers working at a Chicago magazine. They oft forswore "getting involved" for fear it would ruin their great friendship. But promises were made to be broken, and Harry not only met Sally, but fell in love with her, too.

"It's beautifully done. And in fact, the number four show that we did, which is the culmination of their sexual experience, was really quite wonderful and very romantic and very naturally insecure for both people," said Curtis. "Because, in fact, what you really need to do is verify each other's performance. It's lovely. It's done beautifully. It's great."

"So it was good for you, in other words," quipped Lewis, always the comic, to Curtis.

Sure, love is grand, but one has to wonder why "Anything But Love's" creators decided to get Hannah and Marty together. Everybody knows that "Moonlighting" waned after Cybill Shepherd and Bruce Willis got married. And Sam and Diane's getting together never helped matters on "Cheers."

Opinions are mixed about whether "Anything But Love" will work or not. "Nine out of 10 chances it will fail," said one skeptical viewer we asked. But another was thrilled. "He's so nice, and she's so nice, and they deserve one another

There's good chemistry between the two."


Will Hanna and Marty have to "make it" for "Anything But Love" to make it? As precariously positioned as the show has been, perhaps it is time to go for all the bananas.

Besides, said Lewis, the two aren't going to get along that well. "I mean, just because we are lovers, you know, we have ups and downs like, well, maybe Mother Teresa and her niece get along all the time. That's about it as far as I'm concerned," he joked.



Tony Award-winner Judith Ivey and Dankin Matthews (*Nuts*) reside in a Texas fishing town in the NBC comedy *Down Home*, returning Thursday.

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