

LET'S TALK

TRIVIA, ETC.

Riegert a local hero; film-star pooches imported

By Taylor Michaels

Q: I have enjoyed watching Peter Riegert over the years, and my favorite of his movies is *Crossing Delancey*, co-starring Amy Irving.

I'm delighted to see him appearing weekly in the series *Middle Ages*. Could you please tell me more about him and give me an address to write him?
—Susan Nair, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

A: *Middle Ages* appears to be one of the few shows this season with what it takes (you know, the little things like good acting and scripting) to find a home in the hearts of television audiences.

Riegert's career has been highlighted by several noteworthy performances, including his first starring role, as Boone in *National Lampoon's Animal House*. His other credits include *Americathon*, *News at Eleven*, *Head Over Heels*, *Local Hero*, *Ellis Island*, *A Shock to the System*, *The Object of Beauty*, *The Runestone* and *Oscar*. You may write to Riegert in care of *Middle Ages*, CBS, 51 W. 52nd St., New York, N.Y., 10019.

Q: I would like to know about the dogs that were in *Turner & Hooch* and (TV's short-lived) *Tequila & Bonetti*. What breed are they, and in what country are they bred?
—Charlotte Bone, Nathalie, Va.

A: Both Beasley, who starred as Hooch, and Foster, who played Tequila, are French mastiffs and natives of (you guessed it) France.

Q: Several years ago I saw an old black-and-white film on the late-night movies. It starred Fred MacMurray, who played a census-taker who goes into the back woods and gets caught up in a family death. Can you tell me the name of the movie and if it is available on video?
—Carlene Eads, Trumann, Ark.

A: The title of the movie is *Murder, He Says*, a slapstick flick made in 1945. No source I checked confirmed that it is available on video, but you might try calling the Video Library of Philadelphia at 1-800-669-7157 and see if they can help you.

Q: Would you please settle yet another disagreement?



Peter Riegert

A Western titled *The Way West* starred Sally Field as a young girl on a wagon train heading for Oregon. She became pregnant by a man who was hung for accidentally shooting an Indian child who was wearing a wolf or coyote hide. There was also a scout for the wagon train who was going blind.

I say the man who played the scout is the same man who played the detective in *Cape Fear* who told Sam Bonden, "I think you misunderstood me....," but my husband says that the detective was played by Gregory Peck, who was not the same man who played the scout in the other movie. Can you help?
—Donna Lester, Macon, Mo.

A: To answer your question, let's first clear up who played the scout in *The Way West*. That was Robert Mitchum. Now, you say the scout (Robert Mitchum) also played the detective in *Cape Fear*, and you are right — if you mean the police detective in the 1991 version (Joe Don Baker played the private detective hired as a bodyguard, the role Martin Balsam had in the 1962 original). Gregory Peck played attorney Bowden in the original and appeared briefly as the lawyer representing Max Cady (Robert De Niro) before judge Martin Balsam in the remake. Of course, Robert Mitchum turned in one of the finest performances of his career as a subtler version of sadistic Max Cady in the original.

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

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All about Andy Hardy

By Steven Alan McGaw

Questions:

1. How many Andy Hardy films were made?
2. Identify the play from which the Hardy family characters were taken.
3. Lewis Stone and Fay Holden are remembered for their portrayals of Judge and Mrs. Hardy. Who played the roles in the series' first film, 1937's *A Family Affair*?
4. What small American town provided the setting for the Hardy films?
5. In what film did Judge Hardy try to prevent the eviction of an elderly couple?
6. Name the aquatic charmer who played Andy's love interest in *Andy Hardy's Double Life*. (Bonus: Identify the irascible '70s cop-show star who has a small role in this film.)
7. In 1958's *Andy Hardy Comes Home* (the last of the series, after a 12-year break), who played the young son of Andy (Mickey Rooney)?

Answers:

1. 16.
2. *My Darling Clementine*.
3. Skidding, by Aurania Kouverol.
4. The town was Carvel. No state was given.
5. Judge Hardy and Son.
6. Esther Williams, Robert Blake (Barbra).
7. Teddy Rooney, the actor's son.

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Michael Gambon plays a shrewd sleuth in *Malgrat*, a six-part *Mystery!* beginning Thursday on PBS.