

**LET'S TALK**

**'In the Heat of the Night' theme gives reader chills**

By Taylor Michaels

**Q:** Can you tell me who sings the theme song for *In the Heat of the Night*? It really turns me on. —Mildred Weathers, Portland, Ore.

**A:** The performer is Bill Champlin, who sings the song written by Alan and Marilyn Bergman, with an arrangement by Chris Page and music by the ubiquitous Quincy Jones.

**Q:** After seeing Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, I was reminded of a movie several years ago of the same name, however it was not a cartoon. I think George C. Scott played the role of the Beast. Do you know if this is true and if it is available on video? —Joan Fazzini, Clarksburg, W. Va.

**A:** Yes, Scott indeed played such a role in a 1976 made-for-television production, which, unfortunately, is not available on video according to my sources. Two other notable live-action adaptations of the fairy tale that have been released on video are Jean Cocteau's brilliant 1946 version (in French) and the *Faerie Tale Theatre's* production, starring Susan Sarandon.

**Q:** Many years ago, I saw a movie about a deranged mother who traveled all over the world with her son to places where he would meet other men and young boys. In the end, a gang of young men paid him back for something by killing him. I'd like to know what the name of the film is and who played the mother and son. They were both top stars. —Ann Turack, Seal Beach, Calif.

**A:** The film you describe must be *Suddenly, Last Summer*, an exceedingly strange film made in 1959. It starred Katharine Hepburn as Sebastian Venable's unbalanced mother, who begins to worry that her niece (Elizabeth Taylor), who witnessed her son's mutilation in Mexico, will spill the beans about their dark family secrets. She hires a neurosurgeon (Montgomery Clift) to perform a lobotomy on Taylor. This adaptation of the Tennessee Williams play isn't for everyone, but it is intriguing.

**Q:** My husband and I have a disagreement about the fabulous, late Lucille Ball. I say she had two children, a boy and a girl, both of whom were fathered by Desi Arnaz, but my husband says the father was James Arness of *Gunsmoke*. Also, what are the children's names? Did Lucy ever have a romance with James Arness?



Carroll O'Connor

—Nancy Humbert, Portland, Ore.

**A:** Arnaz and Arness may sound similar, but the connection ends there. Lucie Arnaz and Desi Arnaz Jr. were both Lucy and Desi Sr.'s children. And as far as anyone knows, Arness and Ball were never romantically involved.

**Q:** My grandmother is 66 years old and lives in a senior citizens' apartment complex. She lives alone after losing my grandfather, and she listens to all of Randy Travis' tapes and watches him on the country shows all the time.

**A:** An autographed picture of Randy Travis would mean more to her than you know. Could you print an address where I could write to him? —Sheila Harridge, Bohaire, Ga.

**A:** Certainly. You may write to Travis in care of the Lib Hatcher Agency, P.O. Box 121137, Nashville, Tenn., 37213.

**Q:** Please settle a disagreement among our office staff. I say that Max Baer Jr. is dead. The other girls say he is alive and directing films. Can you please give us information regarding this actor, who played *Jethro Bodine* on *The Beverly Hillbillies*? —C.D., Nashville, Tenn.

**A:** In this case, no one in your office is exactly right, but you are the most wrong. Baer, son of heavyweight boxing champ Max Baer Sr., is still alive, but he hasn't directed a picture in a good while. His directing credits include: *The Wild McCullochs* (1975), in which he also starred; *Ode to Billy Joe* (1976) and *Hometown USA* (1979). Baer also wrote, produced and starred in *Macon County Line* (1974).

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



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