

Hollywood Exclusive: Ask Stacy

by Marilyn_Beck_ & Stacy_Jenel_Smi

DEAR STACY: Whatever happened to William Smith? He played Joe Riley on "Laredo," Kimo on "Hawaii Five-0" and Falconetti on "Rich Man, Poor Man." â€” Jeff, the Bronx, N.Y.

DEAR JEFF: At age 74, Smith continues to work, but in lower-profile fare than earlier in his long and prolific career. His recent credits tend to be in independent movies and direct-to-DVD releases â€” his latest being the yet-to-be-released indie comedy/thriller "Her Morbid Desires," with a cast including Tippi Hedren and Robert Loggia.

DEAR STACY: I missed seeing Daniel Day-Lewis at the Oscars. Aren't last year's winners supposed to be on hand as presenters? â€” Lori R., Van Nuys, Calif.

DEAR LORI: While that is indeed the tradition, both Day-Lewis (Best Actor for "There Will Be Blood") and Javier Bardem (Best Supporting Actor for "No Country for Old Men") were missing from this year's ceremony. Day-Lewis, who recently completed his role as the middle-aged Italian director in Rob Marshall's big-screen adaptation of "Nine," is known for being skittish and shy about coming to such events, in addition to having quite a few eccentricities, such as often remaining in character throughout the production of a film. Bardem was reported as busy filming a Spanish movie in Barcelona, but speculation had it that he was avoiding a public moment with ("Vicky Cristina Barcelona" Best Supporting Actress winner) Penelope Cruz, with whom he's been linked.

DEAR STACY: Could you please give some background on Lauren Holly? Also, why did she leave "NCIS"? I love the show! â€” Marg S., Queens, N.Y.

DEAR MARG: The official line on her departure â€” after Holly's character was killed off last year â€” was that it was a story development planned for a long time. Holly has stayed busy, guesting on "Leverage" and the Hallmark Channel movie, "Before You Say 'I Do,'" among her recent credits. She and her husband, investment banker Francis Greco, celebrate their eighth wedding anniversary Tuesday (3/10). They have three adopted sons. She was previously wed to Danny Quinn, and to Jim Carrey. The 45-year-old actress is a native of Bristol, Pennsylvania, daughter of two accomplished college professors. After graduating from Sarah Lawrence College, she moved to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career, and landed her first TV role on daytime's "All My Children" within a year. Her credits include David E. Kelley's "Picket Fences" series and the big screen "Dumb & Dumber."

DEAR STACY: Whatever became of these actresses: Dorothy Provine, Maureen O'Sullivan, and Ida Lupino? â€” Dianne L., Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

DEAR DIANNE: Dorothy Provine of "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" and other films, retired from acting in 1968 when she married director Robert Day, although she did do some commercials and stage productions after that. O'Sullivan, who made dozens of films in her long career, died in 1998 at age 87, some 12 years after portraying the mother of her real-life daughter, Mia Farrow, in Woody Allen's "Hannah and Her Sisters." Ida Lupino, who appeared in nearly 60 films and directed nine others " in addition to writing for TV and films " died in 1995 at 77.

DEAR STACY: Years ago I saw a movie on PBS with Peter O'Toole as the depraved, drug addict uncle and guardian of a wealthy young girl. I'm interested in seeing it again. Can you tell me the name and whether it's available? " Mayer M., Springfield, Mass.

DEAR MAYER: "The Dark Angel," an episode of PBS's "Mystery" series, fits your description. The 1993 British adaptation of Sheridan Le Fanu's Victorian thriller, "Uncle Silas," it was released on VHS, but has yet to come out on DVD.

DEAR STACY: Have enjoyed Leah Remini since "King of Queens" began and still enjoy reruns. Some personal info on her, please " parents, siblings, hometown, etc. " L.E., Bronx, N.Y.

DEAR L.E.: The 38-year-old, 5-foot-3-inch dynamo hails from Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, N.Y. Her Austria-born mother, Vicki, and Italian-American father, George, divorced when she was young. She has an older sister, Nicole, seen as her assistant on "King of Queens," and four half-sisters, one of whom, Shannon, also appeared on the series. Her husband since 2003, Angelo Pagan, appeared on "King of Queens" too, as the character Rico. They have a four-year-old daughter, Sofia. Remini is a devoted Scientologist. She quit school at age 14 and held a series of jobs, including waitressing and telemarketing, before breaking into TV with a role on "Head of the Class." She now says she wants to do another series. "I have read a few scripts that I really like and now it is just about waiting to see what will work," she recently wrote in her blog. Her most recent work was in the web series of "In the Motherhood" with Chelsea Handler and Jenny McCarthy. The soon-due ABC version of the show stars Megan Mullally, Cheryl Hines and Jessica St. Clair. Remini is not happy that none of the original trio is on the network version of the show, but is philosophical, saying, "It was not meant to be," and adding that she wishes the others well.

DEAR STACY: I heard that Shawn Johnson was the youngest-ever contestant on "Dancing With the Stars" " but what about Cody Linley? I thought he was younger. " Hayley P., Canton, Ohio

DEAR HAYLEY: Linley, who plays "Hannah Montana's" sometimes boyfriend on the Miley Cyrus series, was not quite 19 when he competed on "Dancing With the Stars." Olympic Gold Medal-winning gymnast Johnson just turned 17 in January.

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