

Bewitched

Episodes viewed in class:

Abner Kadabra (Season 1 - Episode 29)

Make Love Not Hate (Season 6 - Episode 30)

Creator **Sol Saks'** inspirations for this series were from the 1942 film *I Married a Witch*, developed from Thorne Smith's unfinished novel *The Passionate Witch* and the John Van Druten Broadway play *Bell, Book and Candle*, which was adapted into the 1958 film *Bell, Book and Candle*.

Sol Saks, the screenwriter and TV executive who became a millionaire for writing the pilot for the TV series *Bewitched* (1964), was born on December 13, 1910 in New York City, though he was raised Chicago from the time he was two-years-old.

Ironically, after writing the script for the pilot of *Bewitched* for ABC, Saks never wrote another word for the hit series that ran on ABC for eight seasons from 1964 to 1972 and 254 episodes. The royalties accrued from creating the series made him rich. Saks lived to be 100 years old.

In the film *I Married a Witch*, Wallace Wooley (Fredric March) is a descendant of people who executed witches at the Salem witch trials. As revenge, a witch (Veronica Lake) prepares a love potion for him. She ends up consuming her own potion and falling for her enemy. Her father is against this union. In the film of *Bell, Book and Candle*, modern witch Gillian Holroyd (Kim Novak) uses a love spell on Shep Henderson (James Stewart) to have a simple fling with him, but genuinely falls for the man.

Both films were properties of Columbia Pictures, which also owned Screen Gems, the company that produced *Bewitched*.

Columbia Pictures filmed 1959's *Gidget* at a real house that can be found at 267 18th Street, just north of Montana Avenue in Santa Monica, California. Even more interesting, the house that was built on the Warner Brothers Ranch lot is actually the complete reversal of the real home in Santa Monica – almost an exact mirror image – in that everything on the set house was switched to the opposite side. The Stephens home at 1164 Morning Glory Circle in West Connecticut was later used for other projects, including NBC's rival show *I Dream of Jeannie* for the home of Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Bellows.

Before Elizabeth Montgomery scored the role of Samantha Stephens, ABC had different things in mind for this show. The studio wanted Tammy Grimes to take on the lead role. The beloved witch was actually named Cassandra in the first draft. The Tony-winning star of *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* wasn't too enthusiastic about the script and decided to turn the role down and pursue *The Tammy Grimes Show* instead. This project ended up being a huge failure and it was canceled after only four episodes.

Before production began Jackie Cooper Vice-President in charge of Screen Gems Television had a showdown with Elizabeth Montgomery. She was demanding approval on all directors and casting otherwise she would not do the series.

According to Cooper, he instructed the casting office to find another Elizabeth Montgomery type for the role. Three other ladies were brought in for the testing of Samantha. A director was hired and Dick York was brought in to be a part of these tests.

Cooper felt it would better to replace Montgomery instead of giving in to her ultimatums. The day before the tests were to begin, a more calm Montgomery initiated a resolution, possibly because she found out the upcoming tests. Everything was back on with Montgomery and the tests were called off.

Lillian Hokom Ugrin was better known as Peanuts who created the hairstyles on *Bewitched*.

In 1935, Lillian married Eugene Lockridge, which later ended in divorce. Her second husband was Anthony V. Ugrin, who worked as a still photographer for Twentieth Century-Fox.

Her first film was the 1948 Dana Andrews and Jean Peters drama *Deep Waters*. Several other films followed that included actors such as Tyrone Power, Cesar Romero, Jean Crain, Myrna Loy, Joseph Cotten, Ethel Barrymore and a young Marilyn Monroe.

Upon leaving Twentieth Century-Fox in 1951, Lillian worked for a few years as a freelance hairdresser on several films. Lillian began working on *Bewitched* during the 1960's, adopting the memorable name "Peanuts" as her nom de plume. She remained with the series until the end of its run, retiring in December of 1971 following completion of the show's final episode.

The Flintstones was one of the shows created by Hanna-Barbera Productions, but that's not the only connection between this series and *Bewitched*. The animated classic actually featured a

crossover episode guest starring Elizabeth Montgomery and Dick York.

Salem, Massachusetts celebrated the 40th anniversary of this timeless classic by unveiling a statue of Samantha flying on a broomstick on June 15, 2005. Montgomery also received a star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame posthumously on January 4, 2008.

The series *Tabitha* followed the young witch's adventures as she navigated her life in Los Angeles, where she worked as a production assistant at a TV station. But instead of casting Erin Murphy, who played the role before, ABC decided to go with newcomer Lisa Hartman. The show wasn't a huge success and ABC canceled it after a single season.

Elizabeth Montgomery met director William Asher on the set of the 1963 film *Johnny Cool*, in which he directed and she starred. The two quickly started dating and tied the knot shortly after.

They started searching for their next project together and found what they were looking for in *Bewitched*. The creator of this show, Sol Saks, revealed that their agents sent them out as a team and that was the reason why they were hired together. They separated while the show was still on the air and officially went their separate ways after it wrapped up.

Elizabeth Montgomery was pregnant a total of three times during the show's run, but her first pregnancy wasn't a part of the storyline. So, to cover it up, the team first filmed the scenes that didn't feature her appearance and finished the rest once she gave birth.

Her second and third pregnancy were a different story and the writers found a way to squeeze them in the script and make everything work naturally. They were incorporated into the show and Samantha had two children born - Tabitha and Adam.

Dick York - was not the first choice for Darrin. For the role of Darrin, several actors were considered, including Richard Crenna, and Dick Sargent, who claimed that he was the first choice for the role, but had to decline due to his commitment to the Universal series, *Broadside*, which also premiered in the fall of 1964.

After suffering a severe back injury on the set of 1959's *They Came To Cordura* that forever changed his life, the production team was aware of Dick York's back issues from the very beginning and they did everything in their power to make it work. Special furniture was used on set and the crew even built a slanted wall for him to lean on between the shots so that he could rest his back.

But things started getting worse after the third season and the writers went an extra mile to prepare for any emergencies that may occur. York often had to miss work due to his back pain so they prepared Darrin-less scripts or gave his lines to his boss, Larry Tate (played by David White) in case he didn't show up.

His frequent absence was explained by saying he was "away on business" and he could often be seen seated or lying down. He decided to leave after suffering a seizure during filming of the *Bewitched* episode "Daddy Does His Thing" in 1969.

Darrin and Endora couldn't stand each other, but the relationship between Dick York and Agnes Moorehead was the exact opposite of their screen characters. The actress had a hard time adapting after he left the show, due to the close friendship they developed over the years. It's been reported that the duo bonded over their love of spirituality and Moorehead had a lifelong interest in religion. York's successor, Dick Sargent, recalled she would arrive to set with the Bible in one hand and the script in the other.

One day, York was rushed to the hospital after he collapsed on set and the incident brought his acting career to an early end. Leaving the show wasn't an easy decision to make, but he decided it was time to devote himself to his recovery. York left the show to focus on his health.

Alice Pearce - At age nine, she fell off a swing after losing her grip and landed on her chin. This left her with an undeveloped chin.

She began working in nightclubs as a comedian and was cast in the original Broadway production of *On The Town*. Gene Kelly was so impressed by her that she became the only cast member to be included in the film version in 1949.

She met her husband, director Paul Davis, during a Broadway production of *Bells Are Ringing*. In 1964, Pearce was originally approached to play the part of Grandmama in the ABC television comedy series *The Addams Family*.

Also in 1964, Pearce joined the cast of *Bewitched* as the nagging and nosy neighbor Gladys Kravitz. Pearce was diagnosed with terminal cancer before *Bewitched* began. She kept her illness a secret, although her rapid weight loss was quite evident during the second season of the sitcom. Pearce was posthumously awarded an Emmy Award for this role. Her husband accepted the award on her behalf.

The producers of *Bewitched* were undecided about what to do with the character of Gladys after the death of Alice Pearce in March of 1966. First they had actress Mary Grace Canfield play Harriet Kravitz, Abner's sister, who was visiting him while his wife was visiting her mother.

Sandra Gould - began acting in films with an uncredited role in *T-Men* from 1947 and was the Phone Operator in *Romance On The High Seas* from 1948 which was Doris Day's debut film. She guest starred in the 1950's and 1960's in such television series as *I Love Lucy*, *December Bride*, *The Twilight Zone*, *Burke's Law*, *I Dream Of Jeannie*, *Gilligan's Island* and *Mister Ed*.

Sandra Gould got the role of Mrs. Kravitz when actress-comedian Alice Ghostley turned down the role. Gould reprised the role of Gladys Kravitz in 1977 in a spin-off of the series, *Tabitha*.

George Tobias - came to Hollywood in the late 1930's and became a fixture in films of all genres, mainly at Warner Bros. He was a frequent foil for James Cagney playing everything from comedies to dramas and musicals. Tobias was in four Oscar Best Picture nominees: *Ninotchka*, *Sergeant York*, *Yankee Doodle Dandy* and *Mildred Pierce*. He also appeared in an uncredited role as a courtroom spectator on *Perry Mason*.

In the 1960s, he achieved greater fame as the long-suffering neighbor Abner Kravitz on *Bewitched*.

Marion Lorne - Aunt Clara loved collecting door knobs and this unusual hobby was actually based on Marion Lorne's obsession with these antique trinkets. The actress behind this character really had a personal collection of over 1,000 door knobs and some of them were even used as props on the show.

Lorne debuted on Broadway in 1905. She also acted in London where she had her own theater, the Whitehall. Lorne had top billing in plays written by Walter C. Hackett, her husband. None of her productions at the Whitehall had runs shorter than 125 nights.

She made her feature-film debut in her late 60's in *Strangers On A Train* directed by Alfred Hitchcock in 1951. In the early days of television, Lorne had a regular role as the confused junior high school English teacher Mrs. Gurney on *Mister Peepers*.

Her last role, as Aunt Clara in *Bewitched*, brought Lorne her widest fame as a lovable witch who is losing her powers due to old age. She made 27 appearances in this role.

Agnes Moorehead was already a very well known actress with three Oscar nominations under her belt when she was cast in the role of Samantha's quick-witted mother Endora. Elizabeth Montgomery and William Asher asked her to play this role after they randomly ran into her at Bloomingdale's.

Moorehead was reluctant at first and thought no one would possibly want to watch a show about witches. Her expectations were extremely low when she agreed to film the pilot and she did not see its huge success coming. She was so surprised actually that she later confessed she felt a little bit trapped by its success because she didn't have enough time to pursue other passions.

David White - graduated from Los Angeles City College and began acting at the Pasadena Playhouse along with the Cleveland Play House. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. After his discharge, he made his Broadway debut in 1949 in *Leaf and Bough*. While made numerous appearances on television programs such as *Peter Gunn*, *Mr. Lucky*, *The Untouchables*, *The Fugitive* and *My Favorite Martian*.

In 1964, White was cast as advertising executive Larry Tate on *Bewitched*, a role he played for the show's entire run. He also directed one season-six episode of *Bewitched* titled "Sam's Double Mother Trouble".

By the end of Season 2, David White was having issues with William Asher and wanted to leave the show. According to Elizabeth Montgomery in 1989 she said, "Oh God! Bill would have had an absolute coronary if David would have quit!

After *Bewitched*, he was on many television series for the next decade, including *The Love Boat*, *Remington Steele*, *Adam-12*, *The Rockford Files*, *Rhoda* and *Quincy, M.E.* His final television role was on a 1986 on an episode of *Dynasty*.

Irene Vernon - was the first "Mrs. Larry Tate" for the first two seasons on *Bewitched*. The producers, actress Elizabeth Montgomery and Montgomery's husband, director William Asher, reportedly pressured Vernon to also leave the show due to her friendship with producer **Danny Arnold** who frequently butted heads with TV executives regarding issues of content and fair shooting schedules. The official reason given for Vernon's departure was that her husband was ill.

Kasey Rogers - was born Josie Imogene Rogers. As a child, her prowess at the game of baseball led her friends to nickname her Casey. Rogers began work professionally under the names Laura Elliott and Laura Elliot.

Her best-known film role was in Alfred Hitchcock's *Strangers On A Train*, playing Miriam, the scheming, adulterous wife of Guy Haines played by Farley Granger.

In 1964, she landed a starring role on *Peyton Place*, playing the character Julie Anderson, the mother of Betty Anderson (Barbara Parkins). Rogers left the series in 1966 to replace Irene Vernon in the role of Louise Tate on *Bewitched*. After, she retired from acting, appearing in only a few guest television spots and making appearances on the *Bewitched* edition of *E! True Hollywood Story*. Rogers also wrote five books with director Mark Wood.

Her son, Mike took up motorcycle riding in the early 1970's and Kasey followed suit. She began to race competitively and wrote a column on women's racing for "Modern Cycle" magazine and the "Los Angeles Herald-Examiner" that featured stories on racing events.

Mabel Albertson - At 50, Mabel Albertson was given the supporting role of Mrs. Carter, young actress Aileen Stanley Jr.'s mother in a Warner Bros. Technicolor musical romance *About Face*. She was beginning a movie and television career where she would play the judgmental and often wealthy mother-in-law or mother in a series of motion pictures plus television films and series episodes.

She was memorable as Jerry Lewis' mother-in-law in *Don't Give Up the Ship*. On television, Tom Ewell, Dick Van Dyke and Dick Sargent were given the same treatment by their screen mother. Mabel Albertson was no newcomer to show business. She had been a successful vaudeville performer in the 1920's, a radio star in the 1930's and a theater actress and director in the 1940's. She had tried her hand in films twice (in 1928 and 1940) but without success.

Paul Lynde - was well known for his roles as Uncle Arthur on *Bewitched*, the befuddled father Harry MacAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie* and as a regular "center square" panelist on the game show *The Hollywood Squares* from 1968 to 1981.

His first appearance as a stand-up comic was at the supper club Number One Fifth Avenue. He made his Broadway debut in the hit revue *New Faces Of 1952*.

After the revue's run, Lynde co-starred in the short-lived 1956 sitcom *Stanley* opposite Buddy Hackett and Carol Burnett. Lynde returned to Broadway in 1960 when he was cast as Harry MacAfee, the father in *Bye Bye Birdie*. He also played the role in the 1963 film version. During the 1961-62 television season he was a regular on NBC's *The Perry Como Show*.

In 1965, Lynde made his debut appearance on *Bewitched* during the first-season episode "Driving is the Only Way to Fly". His role as mortal Harold Harold, Samantha Stephens's nervous driving instructor. This role was well received by viewers. Lynde impressed Elizabeth Montgomery and her husband, director/producer William Asher. They created a recurring role for Lynde as Endora's practical-joking brother Uncle Arthur. Lynde made 10 appearances on *Bewitched* as this character.

In 1966, Lynde debuted on *The Hollywood Squares* and quickly became its iconic guest star. Eventually he assumed a permanent spot as the "center square," a move that ensured that he would be called upon by contestants at least once in almost every round. Despite an urban legend to the contrary, Lynde remained in the center at the producers' discretion.

Bernard Fox - is remembered for his roles as Dr. Bombay in the comedy series *Bewitched* on 18 episodes, Colonel Crittendon in *Hogan's Heroes*, Malcolm Merriweather in *The Andy Griffith Show*, Colonel Redford in *Barnaby Jones*, Max in *Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo* and Archibald Gracie IV in the film *Titanic*. He also had an uncredited role in another film about the Titanic titled *A Night to Remember* from 1958. In 2004, Fox made his final appearance in *Surge of Power: The Stuff of Heroes*.

Erin and Diane Murphy - For the first season of *Bewitched*, they were of similar appearance and stature. As they got older and looked less alike, only Erin played the role.

Following *Bewitched*, Erin Murphy guest-starred on shows such as *Lassie*, appeared in over 100 commercials and modeled for Hang Ten swimwear.

Today, Murphy is a fashion, beauty and luxury lifestyle writer, with her work appearing in numerous magazines and online publications. She is also a motivational speaker and fundraiser for charitable organizations. Murphy has been married three times and divorced twice. She also has six children.

Dick Sargent - was born Richard Stanford Cox in 1930. Using the stage name Richard Sargent, he would build up a resume over the years on television in both drama and comedy including work on *Gunsmoke*, *Wagon Train*, *I Dream Of Jeannie* and *Adam-12*. He would also find support work in such hit movie comedies as *Operation Petticoat* and *That Touch Of Mink*, both with Cary Grant.

Sargent could also be seen in *Fluffy* with Tony Randall, *Billie* starring Patty Duke, *The Ghost and Mr. Chicken*, *Live A Little*, *Love A Little* with Elvis Presley and *The Private Navy Of Sgt. O'Farrell* with Bob Hope and Phyllis Diller.

A chance for stardom fell apart after being paired with Tammy Grimes on her TV show in 1966. It lasted only four weeks.

In 1969, Sargent, who actually had been the original choice to play "Darrin Stephens" on *Bewitched*, was given a second chance to play the mortal husband of Elizabeth Montgomery.

He continued on television throughout the 1970's and 1980's with guest parts on *Taxi*, *Alice*, *Fantasy Island* and *Three's Company*.

Guest stars in episodes viewed in class:

Cliff Norton - From 1960 to 1963 Norton was the host, performer and narrator of the silent film comedy anthology television series: "Funny Mann". The series was seen in national syndication. He performed in comedy skits in this series. The skits led into a rerun of an old silent film comedy that featured: Poodles Hannaford, Snub Pollard, Billy Bevan, Oliver Norvell Hardy (without Stan Laurel) and Mickey (McGuire) Rooney.

He was also seen in films such as *It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*, *Kiss Me, Stupid* and *Harry and Tonto*.

Alice Ghostley - began performing from the age of 5 where she would recite poetry, sing and tap-dance. She worked as a secretary to a music teacher in exchange for singing lessons, worked as a theater usherette in order to see free stage shows, and worked for a detective agency before getting her big break in show business.

She got her big break singing in the Broadway stage revue *New Faces Of 1952*, with up-and-coming stars Eartha Kitt, Carol Lawrence, Robert Clary and Paul Lynde.

Over the years in television, Ghostley made many appearances on programs such as *Love, American Style*, *Good Times*, *Designing Women* and *Evening Shade*. She was also a frequent panelist on game shows *The Hollywood Squares* and *The Match Game*.

She became a regular as the insecure Aunt Esmerelda on *Bewitched* after her first appearance as a bumbling mortal maid. The producers were so impressed with her that they created Esmerelda for her, the Stephen's babysitter who disappeared either fully or partially when she felt inadequate or upset.

Charles Lane - had nearly 400 credits in a 70 year career on the stage, in films and television. He was born Charles Gerstle Levison on January 26, 1905 in San Francisco and was one of the last survivors of that city's 1906 earthquake.

In 1928, he joined the Pasadena Playhouse. Lane made his film debut as a hotel clerk in *Smart Money* starring Edward G. Robinson and James Cagney. He was also one of the first to join the Screen Actor's Guild.

Among his numerous crank roles, Lane was in *Twentieth Century*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Mr. Smith Goes To Washington*, *It's A Wonderful Life* and *No Time For Sergeants*. In television, he was seen on *Topper*, *The Real McCoys*, *The Many Loves Of Dobie Gillis*, *Mister Ed*, *Get Smart*, *Gomer Pyle: USMC*, *The Munsters*, *Green Acres*, *The Flying Nun*, *Maude* and many, many more.

Lane honored on March 16, 2005, at the TV Land Awards for his long career and his 100th birthday. When he received his award, he said in his still-booming voice, "In case anyone's interested, I'm still available!"

Sara Seegar - performed on stage in London, starting her career with *Three Men On A Horse* in 1935. Seegar made her Broadway debut in 1940 in the short-lived play *Horse Fever*.

In the 1962–1963 season of *Dennis The Menace*, Seegar played Eloise Wilson, the wife of John Wilson. She replaced Sylvia Field, who portrayed Martha Wilson, the original "Mrs. Wilson". Seegar also appeared on television throughout the 1950's and 1960's, on *Suspense*, *Perry Mason*, and *The Donna Reed Show*.

She played ten different small roles on *Bewitched*, usually as the wife of Darren's client. Seegar was married to actor/director Ezra Stone for 48 years.

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