

# Erika's World

## Off the Cuff

February 15, 2008

### Erika Slezak

#### Official Fan Club

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## Founded

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Dear Friends:

Halleluiah, the writers' strike is over! I really can't say that I've noticed much difference with the writing on OLTL, although I know that some viewers have mentioned that they can see some. I miss seeing Viki in Paris, Texas! I had the opportunity to watch Erika tape her very first scenes at the Bonjour Cafe back in October, and that certainly was a lot of fun. I'm enjoying Erika's work with Brian Kerwin (Charlie), and judging from her fan mail and emails sent here to the website, so are you!

How sad I was to learn of the passing of Lee Patterson (Joe Riley/Tom Dennison). I was vice president of Lee's fan club in the early 1970's, and Lee was a charming man who was always approachable, and never seemed to take himself too seriously. I recall meeting Lee years later at Chasen's restaurant in Beverly Hills, and we picked up right where we left off. He never talked much about himself, but always wanted to know more about what was going on in my life. I know how fond Erika was of Lee, and that went both ways. Erika and Lee were the first "super couple" of One Life to Live. Lee, you are missed by many!

I had a nice chat with Erika for this newsletter. She was candid, and let me know that she's happy with the direction of the show, which is nice to hear, especially since the show (at least in my opinion) was at a major low point this time last year.

I want to thank you all for your nice comments about our online newsletters, and I hope you continue to enjoy them.

Best,

Walter Miller

## online fan club

To become an online member of the Erika Slezak Fan Club, please send your email address to: erikaslezakfc@yahoo.com There are NO dues to become a member, but by supplying us with your email address, you will be notified when newsletters have been posted to the website, and you will receive emails about any pertinent Erika-related news. Please note that if you have already submitted your name to the above email address, it is not necessary to do so again.

**Hi Erika, I hope you are doing well, we have received many questions from fans.** I'm doing great. Based on today's schedule, we have about 45 minutes for this interview.

**We haven't talked about your trip to Africa this summer – what made you choose Africa?**

It is someplace that we have always wanted to go – but you need time – you can't do it in a week or two weeks. So I knew we needed a good break and because Michael was going to business school, we knew that he would have the time after he left his job here, and before he started school in England, and so we planned it, and it turned out to be just a marvelous, wonderful trip.

We spent almost a week in London, first, and Michael got an apartment in Oxford while we were there, and got everything settled. Then we flew to Nairobi and we were on safari for about two weeks and then we flew back home via London but it was just a change of planes in London, so it was a long flight back. But the trip was just, absolutely incredible.

**It must have been extraordinary – something you had never experienced.** No we had never experienced anything like it, and yes, it was extraordinary – exactly.

**And I know you said at Disney that so much of Animal Kingdom reminded you of the safari.**

Animal Kingdom at Disney World is unbelievable – it is so realistic. I mean, they obviously, intentionally, replicated everything that they could from Africa and it is quite remarkable.

**How long were you actually there on safari?** Two weeks.

**What was your favorite part of the trip?** All of it! You know, it's hard to pick out one. It was an extraordinary trip. We visited five different safari places. The first one was Samburu, which is

Northeast of Nairobi, then we went to Masai Mara, which is way out in the west. Then we went to Tanzania, to the Serengeti, then to the Ngorongoro Crater, and then to Lake Manyara and then we flew home.

**You really did a lot!** Yes, but you are in each place about 2 or 3 days, so it's good. Oh, and we flew right past Mount Kilimanjaro, also.

**How did you pack for a trip like that? What is the climate like out there?**

They were very specific about packing, and not only that, they send you a little suitcase. And they say that you cannot have any more than 30 pounds per suitcase, because it was safari where most of the travel was done on smaller aircraft. We were a small group, as there were only 11 of us. But some of the planes literally held only 12 people – the pilot and the 11 of us. The planes are very limited and you really cannot have any more than 30 pounds in your suitcase. The suitcase itself weighs 6 or 7 pounds. They tell you exactly what you need. You need a couple of layers – for like the crater in

Ngorongoro – it got quite chilly in the evening so we had a fleece. The rest of it was all very, very light weight – khakis, vests – well, they give you a vest – obviously a hat and sunscreen --- actually, that was their winter, but still it is just south of the equator, so the sun is very hot. And we went north of the equator first. But they tell you very specifically what you should bring, which is incredibly helpful.

**Right – because you wouldn't know.** You don't know. We went with a wonderful tour group called Micato and they were just so brilliant. They took such good care of us.

**What about the kids, did they enjoy it?** Oh, God yes!

**Is Michael all setup in London now?** No, he is

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a viki moment to remember



*Prêt-à-porter*

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in Oxford – at Oxford University getting his Master's degree, his MBA. And he is doing incredibly well – he's very happy and we miss him. But we talk a lot!

**How long are his semesters?** He has one solid year. The difference between an MBA in this country and Oxford – in this country it is a traditional two-year school year, and in Oxford it is one solid year. They start October 1st and they finish at the end of the next September. It is very intensive – and awful lot of work – but you are finished after a year, and you are back in the workforce. He just loves every second – he's working very hard. He has gotten spectacular grades on his first exams – so we are incredibly proud.

**Tell us about Super Soap Weekend – it's been awhile since we talked.** It was fun – we had nice weather – and what can I say, it was fun!

**Yes it was great weather – and you were a big hit there as usual – the fans absolutely love you. It is one of the reasons why – I mean, you probably think I'm crazy for going – but, I go because I really enjoy the interaction when I watch fans approach you. And how truly wonderful you are with them – and this isn't BS. I truly mean it! I know some people must have come up to you – and at one point someone may have said something about their health – you put their arm around you and patted this woman on the back – it shows. I enjoy that so much.** Oh, thank you for all of those kind words. Most of the people there are just having a good time, but there are people with hardships in their lives, and I do truly care. All of the fans are very sweet and I appreciate what they have gone through to get to Florida and Super Soap Weekend.

**What books have you been reading, and have you gone to any movies?** Oh, I've been reading a lot and we have seen a couple of movies. I just finished a couple of interesting books. I'm reading Edward Rutherfurd's "The Forest," and I finished a book called "Winter's Tale" by Mark Helprin who wrote "Freddy and Fredericka."

We saw "No Country for Old Men" which was very, very interesting, and very violent. We saw "Into the Wild" which I didn't much care for. We saw "3:10 to Yuma" – Russell Crowe is a wonderful actor. He's wonderful because he does so little – very powerful. And there was another movie we saw but I can't remember what it was.

We haven't been to the theatre at all – in fact we haven't had a chance to go see Brian Kerwin's play – August Osage County -- but we will. It is a huge hit on Broadway. It came from Steppenwolf in Chicago. I think Brian replaced the one guy from the original company, and he's enjoying it. He's working here on OLTL and he's working there. He's having a grand time!

**How are the pets?** They are all fine, thank you.

**Any favorite TV Shows this season?** We still watch American Idol and Dancing with the Stars, Amazing Race, and House. That's kind of about it. I don't watch anything else. House is wonderful and it is all because of Hugh Laurie – such an interesting actor! He's just fascinating.

**Who were you pulling for in the Super Bowl – Giants or Patriots?** Are you kidding? I'm a New Yorker!

**Did you watch it?** I watched most of it. The first half I was sort of doing stuff but then I sat down with Brian, we watched the half time show, and then I thought, well, I'll get ready bed. Then I came back, and it was still 7-3 and then all of a sudden everything started to happen. And the end was a nail biter! It was wonderful! It was like unbelievable!! And I was very happy and then I went to bed!

**And everybody at the studio is happy!** Yes, I think so!

**Who styled your hair for the first day of Super Soap Weekend? It was very hip and looked great!** Laurie, who is my hair dresser here in the studio.

**Can they style it the same way on the show? It was different.** Yes, they can. It depends on

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what my hair wants to do on any given day.

**It probably takes longer, I assume.**

No, not really.

**That's a great cut. Didn't you say that Robin**

**Strasser's hair stylist did that cut?** He had cut it that time, yes, because Wayne was not around and I desperately needed a haircut. Mark cut it for me.

**It still looks great – do you like it?** Yes, I'm actually getting it trimmed today.

**The writing is INCREDIBLE! The characters are so interesting now – so many relationships have grown – the sibling discussions are so real – Cris/Antonio and Jess/Nat especially. It's easier to relate to them. Is the additional depth in dialog due to Ron's influence?** I'm not sure what you are seeing on the air now. I'm not sure when Ron ended and Gary started. Gary Tomlin was head writing during the strike. Hopefully the strike will be over some time later this week. They both are incredibly good at what they do. Ron, I LOVE – I LOVE the direction he took the show in. And what I think you are seeing is still what Ron did. I think the show is in very good shape.

**I find it a LOT more interesting than I certainly did over the last head writing.** Yes, there is a lot going on. It's terrific – instead of just plane crashes and train crashes.

**The show has struck gold bringing Addie back to the show! She's a good friend of yours from the RADA days.** (Large laugh) Isn't she cute? That's



Erika at Super Soap Weekend 07



Ron! Ron did that! Pamela and I were in school together – we were not in the same class but we did know each other.

**When you saw Allison Perkins at St. Anne's – when Viki saw her – she went up to touch your heart, because of Ben and all of that stuff. She made a reference by calling him Dave. Why was that, because of Davidson?**

No, no, no – I don't know if you remember but when Allison was on the show, Ben pretended to be a patient at St. Anne's – he called himself Dave.

**Now, is she still on? Or was she a short timer.** She will always be on, when they need her. She is not here at the moment but I know she will be back.

**Oh, good, she's fabulous. She's good!** Yes, she is absolutely wonderful. Her name is Barbara Garrick and she is just so good.

**Dear Erika, as a huge fan who followed your career for over fifteen years on OLTL, it was with great disappointment when I read Ellen Holly's book and was quite dismayed to see an article printed in Soap Opera Digest celebrating the show's twentieth anniversary. While praising Paul Rauch as executive producer, your exact words were as follows...**

**"We don't have poor people in Llanview ... (Erika interrupts)** Yes, that's bullshit. Ellen was totally wrong with that quote. In fact, I was one of the few people who sort of stood up for her. And that quote is completely out of context. I can't even remember the exact quote.

**It was "We don't have poor people in Llanview. We don't have any more Black people in Llanview. We have no ethnic people. No, this is now a story of rich people and richer people..."** OK – yes, and it was a criticism of the show because what they did was to take away every thing that made the show real! They took away all of Agnes's kind of mix. And Ellen took it as me saying something positive like "isn't it wonderful we

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have no black people and we have no poor people.” It was NOT meant as a POSITIVE comment, it was a very NEGATIVE comment about the show.

**The fan continues to say... Taken aback, I searched for the excerpt on-line and was able to see the full article. Sadly, I do not think I will get a response from you but I am so bewildered by these comments I would love to hear your response. Needless to say many, many fans are also taken aback and feel just as betrayed as I was when the article was recently posted on-line.** You shouldn't feel betrayed when you read that. It was a negative comment. Ellen presented it as my saying “Thank God, we have no poor people.” But that is not at all what I said.

I love Ellen – she is a wonderful and talented actress and a beautiful woman – but she was very, very bitter, and it got a little crazy when she was let go. And she harbored that for years until she finally wrote the book – looking for anything and anybody to attack – because she was let go. She was extremely bitter and upset – and I think that influenced that whole book.

**Oh, it definitely did – I was surprised when I read that.** What I meant by that – is that it was a TERRIBLE THING! They got rid of everybody who was varied and different and you know, how can you have a town with just rich people? It's stupid! That's how that comment came to be.

**It was basically a criticism of the show.** YES!

**And it was presented in a way that made it sound like you wanted it that way.** And that is so far removed from the truth. And the nice thing is that we now have racial diversity again, and we certainly have a working class again.

**I am falling in love with OLTL again due to Ron Carlivati's character-driven storytelling. I love that he's brought true romance back to the show. I particularly love Viki/Charlie and Natalie/Jared. How do you feel about mother & daughter being involved with father & son -- and not knowing it?** You know, Hello? They

don't know it. (Laughs)

**Do you still not know it?** No – we do not know it. And Natalie thinks that he's her uncle. I think when it all comes out, if it all comes out, we'll see how we feel about it then!

**From a local resident in Paris – We sure loved having Viki in Paris.**

**I was wondering what you thought of the Paris, Texas storyline and whose idea was it to have Viki go to Paris, Texas (of all places)?**

That was completely Ron! I adored that story – it is one of my favorite stories, ever. And I'm so sorry that I'm not still there. (laughs) And I want to bring Noelle and I want to bring Moe back to Llanview, because I LOVED those characters.

**Do you think they will come back?** I have no idea. Hopefully, when the writers' strike ends, things happen but you know ... I don't know. (Asst. Editor's Note: The Writers' Strike is now officially over!!!)

**They are wonderful characters – they can work with Carlotta or open up their own Bon Jour Café in Llanview.** Yes.

**I would like to ask Erika how she feels about the writing for the romance between Viki & Charlie being similar to that of Ben & Viki.** Well, it is not at all similar to Viki and Ben.



Viki and Ben – it was danger and an incredible amount of back and forth, and back and forth. The relationship with Charlie is completely different – it is a simple, easy, uncomplicated relationship that is, of course, going to completely get screwed up when they all show up in Llanview and Dorian gets involved in it.

Charlie's a totally different character than Ben. He has something that is so honest and so real and sensitive – and it is what she needs at this point in her life. Somebody who is uncomplicated!

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Unfortunately, because of Dorian, the whole thing is going to be totally screwed up. But it is a very simple and totally uncomplicated in the beginning. Two people who enjoyed each other and were willing to put up with each other's problems – it was like leaving town, meeting somebody like that, and not having all of your baggage with you. It was that way for both of them.

**And you enjoy working with Brian Kerwin?** I love him. He's terrific. He's such a nice man and a good actor. Yes, I really enjoy him.

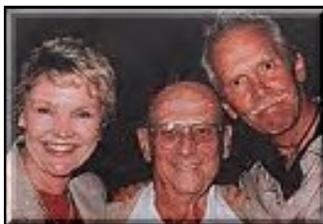
**Can you comment on Lee Patterson?** Well, I



mean obviously I was very, very sad when I heard – you emailed the piece – and I gather it was corroborated – and I actually called his brother in Texas and left a message. I've never spoken to his brother, but I have had his number for many, many years. Lee had given it to me, YEARS ago, and he said, "If

you ever need to reach me, call this number." And I did call and I left a very specific message asking his brother to call me back and let me know what happened. I wanted to be able to give the information to the acting unions, because they always print a memoriam in their newsletters. But unfortunately, he never called me back. So obviously, he didn't want to talk about it – he had some reason I'm sure.

I was very sad. Lee was a wonderful – dear friend. You know – one of these kinds of crazy guys – he would vanish for a couple of years at a time and then suddenly show up. And there he was and it was like he had never been gone – he was always a true friend. I learned so much from him in the beginning. He was a great friend to Brian and to me. We had a lot of fun with him



Lee visits the set  
Erika, David Pressman, & Lee Patterson

on his boat. We used to go out sailing with him when the kids were little – he let Michael be at the helm – he was a wonderful guy! I shall miss him. We hadn't heard from him in a couple of years so, I don't know what happened, but I'm sorry he is gone.

**I have been a fan for many, many years - but, I have become totally DISGUSTED in last few weeks, (not with Erika, as usual, she is doing a wonderful acting job), BUT, I am so upset with the way MARCIE was yelling in that baby's face and ears. Today, he looked so scared and worried.**

**HOW can his real parents allow this Erika?** I have no idea – these are remarkable little boys! Very easy going! And he wasn't AT ALL upset by it. I saw him afterwards and during the whole shooting thing – the taping of it – he wasn't really upset. He had a little worried look on his face once. She didn't do the yelling with me so much when she was holding him but later on. But it didn't seem to bother him at all. He was fine! So, I don't think when his parents signed on for this that they knew that was going to happen – unfortunately, once you signed on you have very little control over what happens. I think probably, there should not have been yelling in the child's face – they should have put the baby down and Michael and Marcie should have their scenes separate from the kid because I personally would not have wanted to play it that way. Mostly because I wouldn't have wanted to upset the child, but whoever directed it directed it that way. But he seemed fine.

**At one point he was a little scared but he just seems like such a good-natured little boy.** Oh,

he is! He's quite remarkable. We're very lucky with both of them – the little girl who plays Bree and this boy playing Sam/Tommy. They are the same way. They are absolutely wonderful! And they are so sweet.



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**Erika, we received so many comments about SSW that we can't share every one of them, but we picked one for the newsletter.**

**"I met Erika Slezak this weekend at SSW and was so taken by not only her beauty, but how she graciously greeted her fans. After seeing how sweet she was to her fans Saturday my friend and I made it a point to get up early that Sunday to get a fast pass to meet her. She was so very sweet, she is such class act."** Well, thank you very much. It was a pleasure meeting all of you.



**My name is Jaworski Johnson, from Mt. Pleasant Texas, and I am a big fan of One Life to Live and I enjoy watching OLTL. It is one of my favorite shows on daytime television and I think you are truly a very talented actress and I hope that you are enjoying the Paris, Texas storyline.** Oh, definitely!

**Will you be attending the "Broadway Cares" event?** No, I will not be able to.

**Is there a reason why is Viki left the Bon Jour Café? Could she have stayed longer?** Well, once they had all found out who she was – it would have become almost ridiculous – here's a woman with all of the money in the world working as a waitress in a café and trying to be anonymous. She was no longer anonymous, so the whole reason she was there – to be anonymous – was gone. And people would have come in, you know, all goggling and asking silly questions – it might have brought some business to the Bon Jour but it would have made it very uncomfortable, so obviously her time there had to be over.

**Many actors have had updated shots that air during the mid way point on the show. When will yours air?** When they shoot it! (laughs)

**They haven't shot it yet?** No, they did all of this past summer when I was on vacation and they

asked me if I would come in on a Saturday and shoot – I said, no, I'll be in Africa – and I couldn't very well fly in just for the day and fly back. So, if they ever want to shoot it, you know, they'll have to shoot it.

**How has the writers' strike affected the schedule?** It hasn't at all.

**Erika, since the club newsletters are now online, have you gotten more fan mail, and has the fan mail been positive about Brian Kerwin?** I haven't read anything negative. People are enjoying the story, they are enjoying Charlie – and he's in this terrible, awkward, situation. So it is difficult for him – not Brian, but the character of Charlie.

**I hope he stays for quite some time.** I think he will. (laughs)

**Other daytime shows are slashing budgets and laying off cameramen, boom operators and many behind the scenes people and shooting more outside scenes with digital cameras. Are there any plans to do that with OLTL?** Apparently one of the shows is doing that. I don't know which one – maybe Guiding Light? No, I haven't heard that for OLTL.

**Do you know of any plans to start broadcasting OLTL in high definition?** You are asking the wrong person. (laughs) I have NO idea!

**Your commute from your new home to the studio – how is that?** It is fine. I come in very early in the morning and I'm sort of ahead of the traffic – and it is fine!

**Will we be seeing some Viki/Starr scenes - the two actresses interact so very well.** I hope so – I love working with Kristen – she's so interesting. I've not had too much with her though. I kind of wish I'd have more – hopefully in the future.

**Will Viki help Charlie and his son really reunite as father and son?** I can't answer – I have no idea.

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**One Life To Live should have promoted Ron Carilvati as Head Writer years ago. The show has been excellent; it is perfection. A good part of the reason is putting Erika front and center where she belongs. She is an extraordinary actress, marvelous, one of the best in the entire entertainment industry, all genres included. I am totally in the moment when she is on screen. The writing and intertwining of characters are other reasons the show is in such good shape. The acting is always superb. The show is about relationships now, the way it should be. My hope is that the temporary writers keep it on the current track.**

**Given all of this, I know that the audience is shrinking in all day parts for various reasons (too many channel choices being among them). I never thought any of the shows would sink as low as they have. How much further can the ratings go before we have to be alarmed about losing our show? Would other options be available if the ratings go even lower? The move to Direct TV did not work for Passions.** That's true – but if there is an audience – and if the networks can afford to keep them on – they'll stay on.

**What is your favorite thing about Viki and Charlie?**

The simplicity of it – the fact that they came together, in a totally uncomplicated way. She knew nothing about him but what she sensed by instinct – that he was basically a really nice guy, very straightforward. And that he felt the very same about her – he knew nothing about her. And his uncomplicated nature is what I think she likes so much about him.

**You guys look wonderful on the screen together.** Thank you.

**Were you surprised at how well their**



**relationship was received?** No, I was hoping it would be – I'm pleased and delighted it is. He's such a good actor and I was not surprised. I knew that he would be very attractive to the fans.



**Could Erika share some memories of Shepherd Strudwick. He was Thee Victor Lord, the one I remember circa 1975.** Oh,

God, that's a long time ago. Shepherd was – (laughs) was sort of the quintessential elegant gentleman. He was very talented – you know, very famous – and we were lucky to get him on the show. And he was a wonderful Victor Lord. It was like he born to that. And that was who he was. And he was a LOVELY man.

**You probably can't comment on this – but rumors are circulating that Mitch Lawrence and Victor Lord may be coming back to the show. Do you know if this is true?** (BIG LAUGH) I have NO idea. (laughs) How many times can Victor Lord die? I don't know. (laughs) I haven't heard anything about that.

**Nothing about Mitch Lawrence?** Mitch Lawrence is dead, isn't he??

**Well, I guess so, but we don't know if he actually died.** No I have not heard anything like that. But I don't hear a lot – things happen without me knowing about them, so anything is possible.

**What are your opinions of Nathaniel Marston's departure from OLTL?** Oh, dear, Nathaniel is a very talented young man who has a lot of straightening out to do in his own life. And we, the entire company, are incredibly supportive of him. It was time for him to get his head straight. I'm delighted that Chris Stack was available and that they hired him – I think he is wonderful. Yes, we miss Nathaniel, however, it was the straw that broke the camel's back as far as he was concerned. He really needed to hit bottom before he could fix himself – and I think he is doing that. People have

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been in touch with him and they say he is doing well. He's getting his act together – which is wonderful! He's a very talented boy – with, you know, a troubled life. But he has his wife and he has her support – we wish him nothing, but the best – TRULY. I think Chris Stack is just adorable and wonderful.

**He's done a good job – I mean, coming into a role at that point.** Oh my God – having to take over at such a key point. I think he did a brilliant job! And is still doing so and I think he is just as cute as the day is long.

**I have seen you doing a medic ID alert commercial. How did that come about? You look great in the commercial.** Oh, thank you. They just asked me to do it, because the character of Viki wears a medic alert bracelet.

**Does that air across the country?** I have no idea. I know that somebody called me, someone we used to know in Long Island called and said, “Oh, I saw you on the medic alert commercial.” I don't know when it airs – I have no idea but people have seen it. I'm glad that it is airing – you know, it is a very good thing, these little bracelets. In fact, the friend who called me has worn one for 25 years. It's a very good thing!

**Do you know if Dorian will play a big part in the V/Charlie relationship?** Oh, (big sigh), I can only assume. (laughs) I'm sure she will. I don't know, because there is a writers' strike, I don't know where they are going with anything. I'm not privy to future plot lines, but one of the great long relationships on this show is Viki and Dorian. If Viki and Charlie are happy, boy is she going to mix into it. I'm sure, that she will somehow worm her way in – of course she will.

**It's all moving forward – this thing with you and Charlie, obviously.** Um, yes – I'm hoping!

**Do you like your passport photo?** Do I LIKE my passport photo? Does ANYONE like his/her passport photo?

**(laughs) This is true – they don't I don't think.** No. I don't like ANY photos of myself – why

would I like my passport photo. (laughs)

**Do you ever wonder where we come up with some of our Ask Erika questions?** No, because for the most part, they are incredibly good and intelligent questions. So, no I don't ever wonder where you come up with them.

**What do you do that always makes your husband, Brian, laugh?** I think just get up in the morning – I don't know. (laughs) You'd have to ask HIM!

**What is your guilty pleasure?** Oh my God – potato chips! I don't buy them anymore, because if I buy them I'll eat them. I LOVE potato chips.

**How is it working with Bree Williamson?** Oh, Bree is WONDERFUL!! I love her. I've loved her from the day she started – she's very talented, she's very beautiful and I love her like a daughter. You know, we have a VERY good time – both of my girls. Melissa and Bree – so different as girls, as people, and so sweet as sisters on the screen. And we have a lovely relationship because I'm genuinely very, very fond of both of them. They are completely different, but I love them both. And I love working with them – they are terrific!

**How far in advance does the show tape now?** Oh, God – let me look! It changes every week. What we're taping today is scheduled to air March 14th. So, six weeks?

**What have you found most challenging about the writers' strike, and do you expect the strike to affect OLTL?** No, I don't expect it to affect the show because we have had very good writing, I don't know who has been writing, but whoever has been doing it, has been doing a grand job. I know that Gary Tomlin has been the head writer, and thank God for that because Gary has been connected with this show over the years in many different ways. He was a director, he was an executive producer, and he knows the show. And so, he has been incredibly true to the characters. And I think we were very lucky to have him, and whoever is

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writing the scripts has done a wonderful job.

**I think so too. I haven't really seen any thing different.** No, I haven't really seen problems – no big problems at all. And the scripts have come in perfectly written – they've been wonderful.

**Hello Erika, my name is Bianca and I was just wondering what your feelings were about the fact that they made a joke of Todd's DID story and of Todd and Viki's relationship.** That was a while ago – Todd was faking, and the only person who would make jokes about it would be Todd, because he doesn't take anything seriously – just to protect himself inside. I mean it is all a front. As far as I know he's the only one who would make jokes about it and it certainly isn't a subject to joke about.

**From Alyssa: If I were your daughter and we were home on a weekday and you had errands to run during OLTL, would you suggest I go with you or stay home and watch the show?** I can't answer that question because I don't know Alyssa, and I don't know her family and I don't know what her situation is. It would depend entirely on how old she is, and whether the material was suitable for her to watch. And whether she was comfortable and safe in being home alone. Obviously. If there was any danger, any question that she might be in anyway put in danger or compromised, then no I would never leave her alone. I can't answer the

question because I don't know any of the people.

**What do you think of my opinion that I hate to go to work on the days that Viki is on T.V. then on the days I stay home, no Viki. I think it's not fair and I don't like to go to work. I want to stay home to watch the show because I am afraid that the VCR will accidentally shut off. I'd like your opinion: Would you suggest I get a job and never mind worrying about the soap opera?** I would suggest that you get a job because it is a very independent and a very self-sufficient thing to do. I think it is good for everybody to have that kind of independence, to have money coming in that is your own – that you can be self sufficient and successful on your own and you can watch television at night. You can watch the show on SoapNet at night or you can tape it on your VCR. Just make sure that it is recording properly and if you miss a day or two it's not a tragedy. But I think having a job is a wonderful thing for everybody. It gives you a freedom and a confidence that you can't get any other way.

**I know it is time for you to go – thank you for your time and candor – as always.** You are so very welcome, Walter.

## pre-emmy nominations

Congratulations to the OLTL actors who have been **pre-nominated** by the cast and crew of OLTL. This pool of actors will be competing against other pre-nominees from the rest of the daytime community for consideration of a Day-time Emmy nomination.

Nominations will be announced: **April 20, 2008.**

The 35th Annual Daytime Entertainment Emmy Awards will air live from The Kodak Theatre in Hollywood on Friday, **June 20, 2008** on ABC.

## clothes off our back

Erika has donated a dress to a charity organization. Go make a BID!

Go to [www.clothesoffourback.org](http://www.clothesoffourback.org) to find out more!

### Lead Actress:

- Kassie DePaiva
- Erika Slezak
- Robin Strasser

### Supporting Actress:

- Kathy Brier
- Catherine Hickland
- Bree Williamson

### Younger Actress:

- Kristen Alderson
- Farah Fath
- Brittany Underwood

### Lead Actor:

- Michael Easton
- Jerry verDorn
- Robert S. Woods

### Supporting Actor:

- Brian Kerwin
- John-Paul Lavoisier
- Tuc Watkins

### Younger Actor:

- Edward Alderson
- Brandon Buddy
- Jason Tam



lee patterson (1929-2007)

**Date of Birth**

31 March 1929, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



**Date of Death**

14 February 2007, Galveston Island, Texas, USA (cancer)

**Mini Biography**

Manly actor Lee Patterson will always be remembered by American audiences as the hunky detective alongside equally hunky detectives Van Williams and Troy Donahue on "Surfside 6" (1960) from the early 1960s. But, prior to that, he had a solid second-string career in British films playing Americanized parts.

Born in British Columbia, he went to a college in Ontario before crossing the ocean and settling in England. A former stage manager and theatre publicist in his salad days, he was a rock-solid presence in such "B" films as 36 Hours (1953) (aka Terror Street), The Good Die Young (1954), Reach for the Sky (1956), The Flying Scot (1957) (aka The Mailbag Robbery) and Jack the Ripper (1959). The monumental success of the private eye series "77 Sunset Strip" (1958) and the hair-combing Edd Byrnes "Kookie" craze instigated a number of imitations with "Surfside 6" (1960) being just one of them. It lasted a rather short two seasons but it did establish Lee here in America. As good looking as the exotic locales behind him on the show, his own good looks carried him much further, going on to star in a number of guest spots and earning a slew of soap opera roles along the way, most notably on "One Life to Live" (1968) as Erika Slezak's one-time husband. He grew into a reliable character actor and was also seen on the stage in later years.

Out of the limelight for quite some time, Lee remained quite private, and his death on Valentine's Day in 2007 at a Galveston Island, Texas hospital of congestive heart failure (complicated by lung cancer and emphysema) was not reported until nearly a year later. A sizable portion of his estate went to charitable organizations such as the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which was founded by his good friend Danny Thomas.

**IMDB Mini Biography By:**

[Gary Brumburgh / gr-home@pacbell.net](mailto:gr-home@pacbell.net)

