

# CABB Celebrity T-Shirt Project

By Linda S. Barth

One of the most important projects that CABB (Classic Alliance of Beauty and the Beast) ever undertook was an annual charity auction held in the dealers' room at the yearly Beauty and the Beast conventions. In keeping with the spirit of the show, we wanted to provide an opportunity for others to give and receive help, and we hoped to make it meaningful and fun for all participants, while raising money for a worthy organization. With the support of many incredible people and a lot of hard work, we were able to run successful charity auctions at three consecutive cons (1995 – 1997), followed by a book drive for the Books for Kids Foundation in 1998.

Our first endeavor was the CABB Celebrity T-Shirt Project which took place at "A Distant Shore," the Los Angeles con in July 1995, to raise money for The Pediatric AIDS Foundation. After much brainstorming and discussion, the original CABB Founding Mothers (Linda S. Barth, Peg McNabb, Terrie Milliman, and Teri Peppe) came up with the idea of creating t-shirts to be autographed by as many of the people involved with BatB as possible. Terrie designed and hand-painted beautiful t-shirts, incorporating entwined roses and a crystal with a phrase or sentence that might have been said by various individuals. All four of us enjoyed coming up with the phrases, which I'll list below. Except for a few special situations, all the inscriptions began with "Catherine Lives!" followed by a sentence or phrase associated with the individual character or person. And since we were celebrating the Classic-oriented belief that Catherine never died, we also "resurrected" a few other characters as well.

Once the t-shirts were ready, we sent them out with a letter of explanation and a request that they be autographed and returned to us. The response was amazing and we were very grateful to all the people who took the time to support our project. The warmth and cooperation really were in keeping with the BatB spirit!

Here are the phrases:

Ron Perlman: Vincent and Catherine...Their love endures.

Linda Hamilton: (Same as above)

Ron and Linda: Catherine and Vincent...We will endure.

Roy Dotrice: Catherine Lives! A truth beyond knowledge. Father

Ellen Geer: Catherine Lives! She's home at last. Mary

Armin Shimerman: Catherine Lives! Pass it on! Pascal

Edward Albert: Catherine Lives! And so do I! Elliot

Tony Jay: Catherine Lives! And so do I! Paracelsus  
David Greenlee: Catherine Lives! We hang out! Mouse  
Ritch Brinkley: Catherine Lives! Now we're cooking! William  
Terry Hanauer: Catherine Lives! I dreamed it true. Jenny  
Jay Acavone: Catherine Lives! Now back to work, kiddo! Joe  
Beah Richards: Catherine Lives! The magic returns. Narcissa  
Jo Anderson: Catherine Lives! And I helped find her. Diana  
Stephen McHattie: Catherine Lives! Damn! Wrong syringe! Gabriel  
Ron Koslow: Vincent and Catherine...Their love endures.  
David Schwartz: Vincent and Catherine...Their love endures.

We also sent shirts to a few others because of the crossover fan interest and/or the individual's expressed fondness for the show. For example, we had heard somewhere that Whoopi Goldberg was a big fan of the show and had even visited the set one night. Those shirts included:

David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson: Catherine Lives! The truth is out there.  
Mulder and Scully

\*Whoopi Goldberg: Catherine Lives!

We had hoped to include other fandoms as well, such as Quantum Leap ("Oh, boy!"), Star Trek ("Make it so!"), and Highlander ("There can be only one."), but we ran out of t-shirts, which were very labor intensive to create.

It seemed as if no sooner had we sent out the shirts, we received them back with many kind notes of support and enthusiasm. The first people to respond included Roy Dotrice, Ellen Geer, Armin Shimerman, Tony Jay, Jo Anderson, Stephen McHattie, and Ron Koslow, with nearly everyone else following not long after. By early June, all the shirts had been signed and returned except for a few, which luckily showed up by the time we arrived in LA – except for three very important ones, those to be signed by Ron P and Linda H. Thankfully, the fantastic David Schwartz stepped right in to help us, and by the time the con and the auction had ended, everything was ready to go. The shirt signed by both Ron and Linda was very special because in addition to her signature after the phrase "Catherine and Vincent...we will endure", Linda added "forever – XOXO".

The t-shirts were displayed at the CABB tables in the dealers' room and were offered via a silent auction throughout the weekend. Through the generosity of all

participants, celebrities and bidders, we raised a little over \$1,000, all of which was donated to The Pediatric AIDS Foundation. In order to send all the money to the foundation and to help provide funds for the some of the bills we had incurred for supplies, postage, etc., we also held a raffle, which featured original fan art, a handmade afghan, and donated zines from fanfic authors including Lynette Combs, Sue Glasgow, and Trish Kehoe.

The resulting funds also helped start us off on next year's auction. Beauty and the Beast fans really are the best! It was a very heart-warming and enjoyable experience for everyone, and it gave us lots of inspiration for the next CABB Charity Auction which was held at "A Kingdom by the Sea" in Norfolk the following year.