

30th Anniversary Special Interview

Victoria Fan

1) When did you become a B&B fan?

In 1987 my mother saw advertising for a new television show called, "Beauty and the Beast". She told me that there was a series coming on that I might like. I watched the first episode and I was hooked. At the time I was 31 years old and worked at the local newspaper, The Daily Press, as a graphics coordinator. My coworker, Sylvia saw information about a "Beauty and the Beast" convention to be held in San Jose, California. Wow! Great! Let's go! On Saturday, August 19, 1989 off we went. It was held at a nice hotel in a large room. Quite a few fans, not sure how many, maybe over 100. Some fans were drawing and some carving Vincent. It was great! People spoke, asked questions and so on.

After, actor Roy Dotrice, who played the role of Father came out, talked and answered some questions, we fans all lined up to sit with him for a photo opportunity and he signed autographs. Mr. Dotrice was a nice and polite man and bless his heart for signing all those autographs and smiling at all those cameras flashing at him.

My coworker, Sylvia took a picture of myself and Roy Dotrice. It was published in our local newspaper on Friday, August 25, 1989. My coworker, Sylvia told me you could make a Vincent doll or draw him. Well, I took up the challenge in 1989 and drew two pencil drawings of Vincent using pictures I collected. Drawing was a natural thing for me since I was little and I loved it. Self taught, no classes. I think it was a gift from my parents, as they both could draw and my dad really did some nice work which I still have from the mid 1940s. My mother could also carve and I still have her clay items she did in high school. I never carved anything, so making the doll was a challenge, a place I never ventured. The head, hands and feet I made from a clay like material called Fimo. It had to be baked at 100 degrees for 25 minutes to harden. After it cooled I painted the features. The clothes were machine and hand sewn. I tried to find material to match the clothes Vincent wore. I like to pay attention to as much detail as possible. The doll cost about \$13.00 to make in 1990 and took me 28 hours to complete. He's body is soft and he stands about 13" tall. Yes, I was and still am a fan.

2) What attracted you to the series?

My attraction to "Beauty and the Beast" was how different the show was with all it's

underground tunnels and caverns with a waterfall too! A community of different people making up one big family that watched out for each other with love and compassion. It wasn't the same old cops and robbers, hospital or law and order show that is just about put out every season.

3) What changes have occurred in B&B fandom over the years?

I don't know what has changed as far as fans of the show, but I think those that remember this series will always be a fan, even as we have aged. Perhaps fans will play the DVDs of the show to the next generations, so they can enjoy what we did.

4) What do you enjoy most about the series?

The connection between Vincent and Catherine was amazing. Who wouldn't want a connection like that between the one you love. She saw past the Beast and saw through to his heart. They fought for what was right and had the courage to stand up against evil.

5) What do you wish B&B fans would do?

I would hope that fans of this unique series will pass it on to the next generations, as it showed love, courage and strength, something we all need to get through life.

6) How much time do you devote to B&B in an average month (including social media time)?

Now that I am 30 years older from when I first watched "Beauty and the Beast" things in my life have changed a lot. I just recently decided to watch the series again, as I have the DVDs of the three seasons. It was great to see it again as I'm not really into what is on television these days. It's so changed and I get tired of all the reality, killing and hate stuff, not enough heartwarming and love stories anymore. Yes, there was killing on this show too, but the underlining and main story was about love, courage and strength.

7) How many B&B fans have you met?

I haven't really met fans of the show except at the convention I had gone to and some people I know do remember seeing the show. It 's just been a long time.

8) What is your favourite memory as a fan?

My favorite memories of the show is when Vincent and Catherine would have time together, enjoy the concerts, read to each other and oh my goodness, all those hugs! They really hugged a lot on that show. Vincent and Catherine, Vincent and Father, Vincent and other character guests.

9) How has B&B changed your life?

I can't say if "Beauty and the Beast" changed my life, but it gave me an escape from reality, to venture with Catherine and Vincent into a different world. There was a calmness, a joy and a fascination for something different to watch on television. As fairy tales go, the story of "Beauty and the Beast" was one of my favorites growing up. If you watch closely to the series, there are elements similar to the original fairy tale, except of course the Beast here

doesn't change into a handsome prince, but he was close enough to being one.

10) If you could have one B&B wish granted, what would it be?

If I could have one "Beauty and the Beast" wish, I guess it would be to have a one on one conversation with Ron Perlman, who just made Vincent come alive in a modern day world, out of the realm of a fairy tale story. I have his audio book "Easy Street" (The Hard Way) and it was interesting to hear what an actor has to go through to make it and the trials and tribulations are not so different from what we have to go through in our everyday lives. Oh yes, getting a Vincent/Perlman hug wouldn't be bad either, after all they say hugging is good for ones health.

I am so happy to be a small part of this wonderful and beautifully done website devoted to "Beauty and the Beast" fans. I thank the creator of this site for allowing me to share the picture of myself with actor Roy Dotrice, my drawings of Vincent and my handmade Vincent doll so other fans can enjoy and maybe new fans can be inspired to see what possibilities they too can achieve.