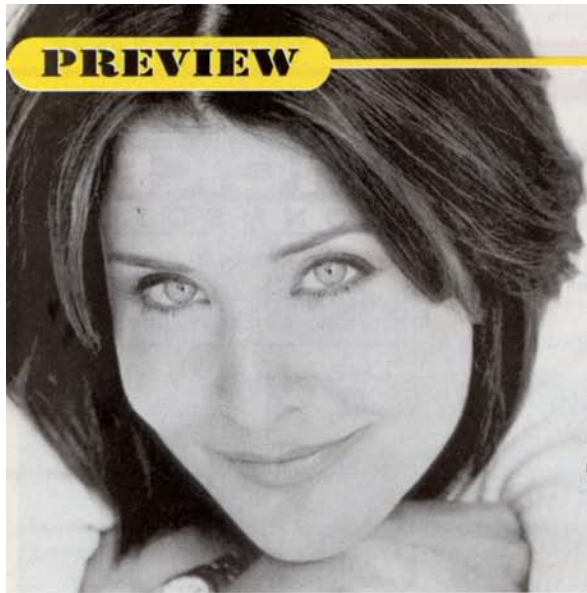


PREVIEW



ALEX McLEOD

GALVESTON GRR! GONE GLOBAL

by Keith McCafferty

“Oh! Look! Look!” she said shortly after we bumped into each other at her agent’s office in Beverly Hills. She reached into her purse and pulled out a rather official-looking letter. She’d just learned she was nominated for an Emmy for that first season of *Trading Spaces* she’s so famous for, in a catch-all category that pits her against the likes of *Judge Judy* and *Pop-Up Video*. Being a fan of her work, I had been wondering what in the world I was going to say to Alex McLeod when I met her, but she didn’t give me the luxury of being uncertain of myself. No sooner had we shaken hands than she had me explaining *InnerLooper Magazine*; what it was, where it would come from, how I would produce it, the whole pitch. Then she had me laughing out loud about the *Judge Judy* thing.

She was on her way somewhere else at that moment, but she told me to come find her on Hollywood boulevard the next day while she did some man-in-the-street interviews for a cable show of her own that she wants to produce. And as for our interview, I would just have to keep myself available until she let me know when and where it would happen.

I think everyone that comes into Alex McLeod’s life will have a similar experience: you’re either scrambling to keep up, or you’re scrambling to get out of her way.

“The Cable Diva,” as she calls herself, is entirely self-made, and she doesn’t settle for second choices. She knows her business, she knows what she wants to do, and she knows how she wants to do it. She even knows why YOU are reading this article. “I get recognized every day of my life,” she says, “and it’s never just ‘We loved you on *Trading Spaces*,’ it’s ‘Why’d you leave the damn show?!” Not only do I have to stop and say hello, I have to explain it to every single person!”

So let’s get that out of the way first. Here it is... Alex McLeod’s official explanation...

“We did 40 episodes, non-stop, over 10 months. We would do three episodes every 10 days, then get on a plane to another city. Even though I didn’t have an exclusive deal with *The Learning Channel*, the show completely monopolized my schedule, so I couldn’t work on anything else. And I had sacrificed my personal life for almost a solid year, living in hotels for over 200 days straight.

“When it came time to renew my contract for the second season, it was an agonizing decision. The network had promoted me so heavily, and I’m so grateful to them for that. But I needed a vacation. I knew what a big hit the show was, and I loved my fellow cast members, but keep in mind that I was the only one who had to live on the road for every episode.

“I was supposed to get three months off, but when it came down to it, I was only going to get three weeks before season two started filming. Mentally and physically, I just wasn’t in great shape. I really needed a stopping point, so I took it. But I never imagined that so many fans would be MAD at me!”

Okay, that’s the short answer, but there’s a lot more to tell. Unfortunately, we’ll all have to wait for issue #4 to hear how Alex dealt with her sudden stardom. She’ll also tell us about growing up on Galveston island, her athletic days at Kinkaid High School, her passion for screwball 70s movies, her brief appearances on *Married with Children*, and her adventures in England as the Hollywood correspondent for *Moviewatch*.

By then we’ll also know how Alex’s Emmy nomination turned out, and we’ll probably know what her next TV show will be. “I could be married and living in France by then!” she said when I told her she’d have to wait till October. I’m pretty sure she was joking...

Alex McLeod’s complete interview will appear in issue #4 of *InnerLooper Magazine*, coming to you in October. Tell your favorite shops and restaurants to carry *InnerLooper* so you won’t miss it!

Meanwhile! Be sure to watch the *Daytime Emmy Awards* on May 17 at 8pm on Channel 11. Go Alex!