

A New Site For \$6,000,000... Or Probably \$48,000,000 By Now

For a few years now, there has been a site dedicated to the **ORIGINAL** [Bionic Woman](#) (not the so called reboot that was a victim of the writer's strike two years ago... that was definitely HORRIBLE). I have been a frequent fan of the site. Last week, a new site dedicated to the father (or should I be bold and say... husband) series, [The Six Million Dollar Man](#), was started. You know... (or maybe you don't know depending on your age and maybe afternoon rerun viewing of the 80s) the one about "Col. Steve Austin, astronaut... a man barely alive." They rebuilt him following a tragic piloting accident making him "better than he was before. Better... Stronger... Faster." The reluctant hero was endowed with a bionic arm, two bionic legs, and a bionic eye (although Lee Major's now pitches an add for a "Bionic ear.") I fondly remember playing in the yard with my brother and friends. Orders were given by "Oscar Goldman" for the mission of the week. Bionic action complete with the awesomely cheesy sound effects battling evil terrorists, fembots, and other evil doers. Although guess who ended up playing Jaime Sommers several times... only because my first name happened to be the same but spelled differently... somehow I think there was a little more to it than that, but I guess if I wanted to play with big brother...

But the site has brought back memories of rushing home from school to atch the reruns (I was only a year old in '74 after all).

Back to the Bronx

After returning from being booed at rehearsal... second time we have read through and I'm already being booed... **I'M LOOOOOVIN' IT!!!!!!** I Returned to see the Yanks down 3-1 in the second and it did not get much better after. I'm pleased to say that they never gave in. That dratted combination of Lee-Utley killed us again. Mr. Utley tied Mr. October (Reggie Jackson... even named a candy bar after him) for the most home runs in a single World Series with five... so far, **NO MORE FOR YOU!!!**

So tomorrow night, we go back to 'da Bronx for the magic game six. I have said for the past week or so that it would be six and **BACK TO THE NEW DIGS!**

Final: Yanks 6... Phillies 8.

Deliciously Evil

Today at our second rehearsal, we got to watch the original 1947 classic film starring Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed, and Lionel Barrymore. I now wonder why *It's A Wonderful Life* has not been a holiday tradition along side the myriad versions of *A Christmas Carol* and other movies. I thought it was extraordinary for the first time. Primarily, Travis wanted us to watch and listen to line inflection and deliveries since many of the lines in the script are taken verbatim from the film, but I think watching Mr. Barrymore's performance will help even more in developing my take on Mr. Potter. Producer Mare asked if I could channel Drew's great-uncle. I thought the performance was stupendous and I can see why many in the cast have congratulated me on getting the role.

I also had time today to highlight my lines with the extremely cool erasable highlighters. Whatever genius at Crayola came up with these deserves millions. I highly recommend them to every actor.

And **ONE MORE WIN TO GO!** but I will not be so bold as to predict a five game series. But I will ask... how many HBPs does it take before it becomes intentional? In his first at bat, A-Rod was hit for the third time in two games. A warning was immediately given to both pitchers. Coincidental? I realize that pitchers like to come inside to him but jeez...

Final score... Evil Empire 7... Defending Champs 4

Happy Post Halloween

Unless of course you are reading from some part of the world which is still living in October 31st. My holiday was EXCELLENT even with the working part. Friday, I got into my vampire costume complete with double-layered cape, full facial makeup, tuxedo, the whole nine yards. I even got to frighten my young nieces. Poor Sydney may not speak to me for a while. As always, I had an awesome time with friends playing games all pretty loud and late, but great times!!!!

Today was another long Saturday at the store. Unfortunately, no costumes allowed... What crazy place is this?! However, I was allowed to sit on the ledge in front of the store to hand out candy... as long as I did not go overboard. Hopefully, a bag of Starburst, Baby Ruth, and an assortment of kisses, Rolo, and Reese's PBCs was not too much. I did get to see the nieces and nephews in their get ups. Shelby was a sorceress of some kind; Joshua was the ULTIMATE NERD; Elizabeth was a dark ninja; Alex was a police officer; Alyssa was a 50s chick

complete with poodle skirt and a “leather” jacket I seem to recall from a show or two in years past; Noah was a skeleton; little Sydney was a cowgirl. All adorable.. here is 5 of the seven.

☒ Unfortunately, the 50s chick is not wearing the black jacket. Hope everyone had a spooktacular Halloween. And The YANKS are up 2 games to 1. 2 more wins and they will win their 27th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP! My favorite part of Game three: pitcher Andy Pettite had a hit, RBI, and was nearly passed by Derek Jeter as the two made their way home! Final Score: Yankees 8... Philllies 5.

Now... I can enjoy my extra hour of sleep. Don't forget to fall back!

☒ Not to be outdone here are little Chloe and big sister Kyli all the way rom Alaska.

A Character Of Pure Evil

Tonight, the cast of *It's a Wonderful Life* met to have a mass read-through of the script. I must say that I did not know that there were so many characters of such evil intentions in the literature surrounding what is traditionally known as the “most wonderful time of the year.” First, we have Ebenezer Scrooge (I really want to see the new version coming next weekend). Years later, the Grich very nearly stole Christmas from “every Who down in Whoville.” Now, I have been introduced to a character who has so many unredeemable qualities that he puts both of them to shame. Henry F. Potter is going to be a magnificent role to portray. I have been an evil HENCHMAN before; however, I have never before

been **THE** evil character with his own entourage. Just reading the script, I could tell how delicious this will be.

I will once again be on the glorious Huber stage with a large cast both young and older and some of which I have been fortunate to work with before. Another WCCTer will be making his debut on the stage. He was even taking pictures of the bare stage and marveling at the size. People have asked me where I prefer to perform: anywhere they will have me. How's that for a diplomatic answer?

I did manage to get home by the third inning of Game 2. I had to call my pals and relate my excitement! Sorry I interrupted *The Office*. I could not believe that they were actually able to watch as it was broadcast. And I am extra excited because the series is now tied 1-1 and tomorrow is a travel day to the City of Brotherly Love. **Four Games to go!!!**

The Lee Utley Show

Ok, ok... granted... Game One of the World Series was not C.C.'s finest pitching outing. Cliff Lee pitched his behind off and the defending World Champs definitely came into the Bronx ready to go... but **IT WAS ONLY GAME ONE, FOLKS! Yanks in 6!** Very little to say that went well for a Yankee fan other than we are glad game one is over. A-Rod silenced, Mark "Chris" Teixiera no help either, C.C. down in seven after getting no help from his offense. In fact, very little offensively until the ninth when we finally got a run in. Once again Fox Sports announcing duo managed their typical balanced commentary. I do believe there was a total of two players on the field and neither wore pinstripes.

Final: Phillies 6, Yankees 1

Game 2 Tomorrow night. Have a read-through so I will have to miss half. **GO YANKS!!!** Maybe we will get to see a pie delivered by starter A.J. Burnett (hopefully not since they only come after a from behind victory).

King In Ohio

I have recently started reading novels by Stephen King and I must say that they really are page turners. I have been considering them for a while and ever since I picked up *Carrie* from the library I have been hooked. Great character development, plot, and creepiness throughout. I have been working my way through pretty much in order of publication. I really liked *'Salem's Lot* (a terrific vampire nail-biter). *The Shining* just creeped me out (I have never seen the Jack Nicholson movie... I dunno if I will).

I am now making my way through the 1100+ page uncut, unedited version of *The Stand*. While spending a lot of time backstage in the last play I was in, I was only starting on the post-apocalyptic novel. An apocalypse brought upon by a strain of (now isn't this ironic) a superflu...OH, GREAT! The survivors of the epidemic make their way from various points of the country to Colorado. Some of these make their way via I-80/90 through my neck of the woods. Archbold, Maumee, and even little Columbia are mentioned. I am in the 800s so I am nearing the climax and good thing with the next play starting rehearsals Thursday night.

Intriguingly, one of Mr. King's short stories is no longer to be found on the open market which only increases my desire to hunt down a copy. Following the rash of high school shootings in the late 1990s, the novelist himself made the decision to

pull [Rage](#) from publication. The plot was a little too close to the tragic events.

Suspenseful, page turners all. I have seen a few of the other movies adapted from the books: *Firestarter* and *Christine* years ago; *The Running Man* (starring the Governator); *The Shawshank Redemption* and *The Green Mile*, of course. However, I rarely prefer a movie adaptation to the original novel.

I Have Gas

I know what you are thinking... and no... not that kind. This morning, I set out to complete my Halloween costume (still missing something I would have liked to add, but not essential). Ran into some old friends/former co-workers and chatted a bit and caught up and let them know that I have not completely disappeared from the planet.

I also bought my first Christmas gift for the menagerie of people I choose to buy for. Someone mentioned that they enjoy a certain fantasy book series so I looked for that. Then I realized that a movie was made from the series and luckily enough I found that. One down... several to go.

Just before I hit the city limits on my way home, I glanced at the dashboard. The little needle was in the red zone with very little room to go. I found the first driveway available, headed to the nearest station, and made it just as the little light came on. **PHEW!**

Spooky, Great Fun In The City

Not one, not two, but **THREE** hauntings were on tap in the Windy City Friday night. It was soooooo cool... (so maybe not the hour long wait in the line that never moved that went on and on my friends) but even that did not damper my excitement.

First stop was the Ditka Dome for the [Haunted Mansion and Asylum](#). Our group of six was divided in half and Mare, Derek, and I went in second. This was more focused on the jump out and scare you approach... been there done that, but it was still fun. A 12' man on roller blades was interesting. As we made our way through, I was once again amazed that the inhabitants kept saying my name.

We then made our way to [Eleventh Hour](#) where we had VIP tickets. There were four attractions in one: a corn maze (nothing special), and a three segment haunted house. Even outside the haunted house, we were entertained by actors being pused in wheelchairs and a crazy British woman giving orders who was unwilling or unable to take a photo of another couple who braved the terror. The haunted house was really amazing, full of actual scenes in which the actors stayed in character the entire time. I enjoyed the "Sweeney Todd"esque character who greeted us with a history of the house. The stairs then lifted a la the Munster case without Spot the fire breathing dragon. Also inside was the much mentioned little screaming girl, a walk in freezer, a live rock band, a very disorienting maze, and an elevator of doom.

Our final stop was [Evil Intentions](#). The story line for this one had to do with an old coffin factory (if memory serves that was the actual location... was it not?) This was the spot for the dreaded wait of doom. When we finally got in, we were all placed in separate coffins before being led through the terror. A locker room separation, a crawl through vents (I was half expecting a creep to come at us), and by the middle

of the haunt, 4 of us had been led away leaving Chris and I by ourselves and eventually being required to sing a song to leave the haunt.

If I had to choose, I would say that Eleventh Hour was the scariest house of horrors because the whole thing was so elaborate that we all could tell that so much time had been put into the extravaganza. Evil Intentions minus the wait was very cool, too. And while not as memorable, I'm glad we went through the Haunted Mansion and Asylum. A frightfully good time with ghoulishly cool friends.

Overall, A Series-ly Wonderful Day

Ok... the big item. The Yankees are off to THE WORLD SERIES! After a bit of speculation about the pitching decision (I thought all along that Andy Pettite was the way to go since he as pitched in numerous big games and now has the most post-season wins of any pitcher). Once again, a great game and I was flabbergasted when the combo of Buck and McCarver began to be silenced when the Angels remarkably made two errors in a row. The quartet of players who were flying high in the late '90s (Captain Jeter, Pettite, Jorge Posada, and closer extraordinaire, MARIANO RIVERA) will be joined by second year skipper, Joe Girardi (who was also the catcher in the late 90s and now is the fourth person to play on a World Series Yankee team and later coach another to the series).

NOW, for even better news on a personal level (close but yes even better), I will be playing the role of the eeeeeevil Mr. Potter in the Village Players' production of *It's A Wonderful*

Life. Travis called me earlier and informed me that I need to put on my mean face. I love playing the villain. Can't wait to get started! And it is now projected to run 2 weekends (December 11-13 & 18-20).

GO YANKEES!!!! AND NOW I CAN TRY OUT THOSE ERASABLE HIGHLIGHTERS (I was hoping that it would not be a long wait).
BOOYAH!