

INSIDE HOLLYWOOD: SEX AND MONEY

SUMMER
MOVIE PREVIEW

JUNE 1998

Tribute



**DUCHOVNY
& ANDERSON**
ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD IN
THE X-FILES

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X

character
X-amination

Mulder and Scully are revealed for what they truly are — just a couple of working stiffs

FILES

David DUCHOVNY

Date of Birth: August 7, 1960 (oldest of two children)

Place of Birth: New York City

Astrological Sign: Leo

Marital Status: Married to actress Tea Leoni
(*The Naked Truth*)

Past Relationships: Actress Maggie Wheeler (who played Chandler's girlfriend on *Friends*), actress Perrey Reeves (who played a vampire on *The X-Files*), actress Kristin Davis (*Melrose Place*)

Income: \$110,000 per episode

"DAVID DUCHOVNY IS BANNED. GO HOME." THAT was the sign posted outside a Vancouver strip club when the actor was quoted as saying he wanted to move filming *The X-Files* to L.A. so he could be closer to his wife, Tea Leoni. Some Vancouverites didn't take kindly to his remarks, while others took it in stride. Ultimately, his wish was granted and much of the cast and crew have packed up and moved to California. Ironically, Leoni's own L.A.-based sitcom *The Naked Truth*, was recently cancelled, and it's possible she may have to relocate elsewhere if she finds another show. (Rumor has it that an updated *I Love Lucy* sitcom is in the works starring Leoni, who has often been compared to Lucille Ball.)

Marriage has been the saving grace for this 37-year-old. Until a year ago, Duchovny drifted from relationship to relationship. He recently told *US* magazine: "I'm sure I was searching for something, but it wasn't sexual. I was mistakenly trying to find something to make me feel better. And that wasn't it."

Duchovny's childhood, by his recollection, was quite normal until his parents' divorce. "I think it must have broken my heart ... it turned me into somebody who needs to figure things out or express something," he admits now.

Born of Russian-Jewish and Scottish parents (dad was a writer, mom was a teacher), Duchovny was extremely quiet as a child, but it wasn't for lack of smarts. After he won a scholarship at a prestigious prep school, he graduated from Princeton University and earned a master's degree in English Lit from Yale. (He later put his knowledge to good use when he finished second to Stephen King on *Celebrity Jeopardy*). It was at Yale that Duchovny discovered

Gillian ANDERSON

Date of Birth: August 9, 1968 (oldest of three children)

Place of Birth: Chicago

Astrological Sign: Leo

Family: Daughter Piper

Companion: Actor Rodney Rowland

Income: \$100,000 per episode

GILLIAN ANDERSON COULD NEVER HAVE GUESSED she would end up like this. In the span of a decade, she went from mohawk-wearing punker with safety pins through her cheek to an Emmy-winning actress with so many fans that she now has more than 200 websites dedicated to her. Once voted Most Bizarre Girl in high school, Anderson was a true rebel without a cause, aimless in her unhappiness.

As a child, she lived in such disparate places as Puerto Rico and London, England. When she finally moved back to the U.S. (Grand Rapids, Mich.), the kids teased her mercilessly about her British accent. Her only solace was acting, and within a few years she was working in off-Broadway productions in New York. Like most aspiring actresses, she also made ends meet by waitressing.

She resisted working in TV until her agent got her an audition for a new paranormal sci-fi show for the Fox network. And in an omen of good luck to come, Anderson found out that she had the part the day before her last unemployment cheque arrived in the mail. *The X-Files* was not given much of a chance by critics, but something clicked with fans. For some, it is the deeply paranoid belief that the government is the true enemy of the people. For others, it was the strange but noticeable sexual tension between Agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully. (Strange because the two have barely exchanged knowing glances in their five years together.)

Casting Anderson in the role of Agent Dana Scully has already become the stuff of legend. The Fox network wanted ... well, a fox. "I recall the network kept asking me to wear something smaller and more form-fitting, and higher heels," Anderson told *Rolling Stone* two years ago. Creator Chris Carter wanted someone whose beauty was as much in her character than in her figure. Fox relented and Carter was vindicated. Anderson's unusual brand of

b y t o m j o k i c

that acting provided an outlet for emotions that he would normally have had to keep contained. Although he probably didn't have this in mind, his first chance to express himself was in a commercial for Lowenbrau beer. After a bit part in the Melanie Griffith hit *Working Girl* in 1988, he played a bad guy in the family flick *Beethoven* and had small roles in *Don't Tell Mom The Babysitter's Dead* and *Chaplin*. Starring roles began appearing, most notably *The Rapture* with Mimi Rogers, *Kalifornia* with Brad Pitt and on TV's oddball-fest *Twin Peaks*, in which he played a transvestite who worked for — you guessed it — the FBI.

He didn't expect much from *The X-Files*. Like most critics, Duchovny thought the show would have a rather short life-span. But the series' ratings grew from a small, cult-like following into a very large (and still cult-like) following. It is now the most-watched program since the Fox Network started 11 years ago. In fact, over the first few years of the series alone, applications to the FBI rose dramatically even though the government maintains that *The X-Files* is not based on reality.

The off-screen chemistry between Duchovny and Anderson is somewhat of an enigma. Both have referred to their relationship as "frosty," but they also show signs of admiration for each other. Things came to a head last year when Anderson complained loudly about the pay inequity of their salaries. She was making about half his income. The situation was soon rectified. He now earns \$110,000 per episode and she makes \$100,000.

In one area the two are virtually identical — their love of privacy. With success came many tabloid smears, and Duchovny was particularly hurt by rumors that he was a sex addict. He admits that his dating calendar was rather full, but he was far from an addict, and the accusations hurt his family. He does not, however, fault tabloid journalism. "It's not the fault of the paparazzi, because the paparazzi are paid by magazine publishers. And magazine publishers are paid by the people and these people are the same people who watch these shows and make us stars. So you can't point the finger at them."

On other matters, Duchovny is quite mischievous. When George Clooney asked *People* magazine not to nominate him for their Sexiest Man Alive award, Duchovny told *Mr. Showbiz*, "I think I could've kicked his ass, anyway." ★



sexiness is based not just on her beautiful face, but on her braininess. "People generally treat me like I'm very intelligent and really, I'm much less intelligent than she is. Scully is insanely intelligent," she says.

So enamored are her fans that they actually send mail to Anderson at FBI headquarters and the Feds make sure it is forwarded to her on *The X-Files*' set. Recently in Australia, 10,000 of her faithful virtually set off a stampede at a shopping mall where she was signing autographs.

Yet, while Gillian Anderson may be immensely popular, she is also intensely private. She is fiercely protective of her three-year-old daughter, Piper. Although Anderson is divorced from Piper's father, former *X-Files* assistant art director Clyde Klotz, the two share custody of the girl. While Anderson admits that she found married life difficult, she won't say the same about being a mother. "Since I've had Piper I've been a much happier person. She is the most important thing. That's what I think of first." Her tastes have changed too. Gone are the punk songs (which she says now drive her nuts). Instead, she meditates and runs daily.

Moving the series from Vancouver to L.A. is proving more difficult for Anderson than Duchovny. "I will never forget the personalities of the crew," she says, "and the things we have endured together over the past five years." She'll keep her house in West Vancouver but has already purchased one in L.A. ★

"HE SAID, SHE SAID"

On their early years ...

DAVID: A good athlete, a good student, a pretty good kid. I didn't feel a need to blow up any buildings.

GILLIAN: In high school, my grades were bad — I was daydreaming, pulling pranks. I got into a heavy punk scene. I had a nose ring and my hair was purple and black and blue. I dressed in black. I was very confused, and a loner.

On their relationship with each other ...

DAVID: We have a relationship that is completely odd and fabricated. We've been thrown together, two people who don't know each other, and we've been forced to spend more time together than married people do. So you can't describe our relationship as 'like' or 'dislike.'

GILLIAN: It's one that has changed and shifted and grown over five years. I don't even know how to describe it. There's a lot of care there, I think.

On acting parts outside *The X-Files* ...

DAVID: After you've been playing the same character for three or four years, it's not so much fun anymore. [Acting in *Playing God*] was really rejuvenating ... and it really made [returning to] *The X-Files* better afterward. It was like I'd rediscovered something.

GILLIAN: People can't tell right now that I can do other things. I'd like to do a comedy. I'd like to play a vixen. I'd like to do everything you don't see in Scully.

On Vancouver ...

DAVID: (Part 1) Part of what's nice about Vancouver is that it's not America and people give you a bit more space up here. (Part 2) Vancouver is a nice place if you like 400 in. of rainfall a year. It's kind of like a tropical rainforest without the tropics.

GILLIAN: It's a beautiful, beautiful city. I'm just so grateful to have had have had this experience. I will always have a very, very close connection and very fond memories of this place.

On whether they believe in the unexplained ...

DAVID: I'm not the character I play. And even if I did believe, I wouldn't want to discuss it with every stranger.

GILLIAN: It would shock the hell out of me if the government had never been involved in a UFO coverup and if there was not life on other planets.

On *The X-Files* movie ...

DAVID: It's kind of a nice balancing act between the TV show and a film in that if you're a fan of the TV show, you won't be disappointed that it goes further and tells more and shows more.

GILLIAN: My fear is that what works well on TV might come across as vapid in a movie. There's a chance that the cryptic, cultic dialogue we use could prove confusing to people. I hope not.