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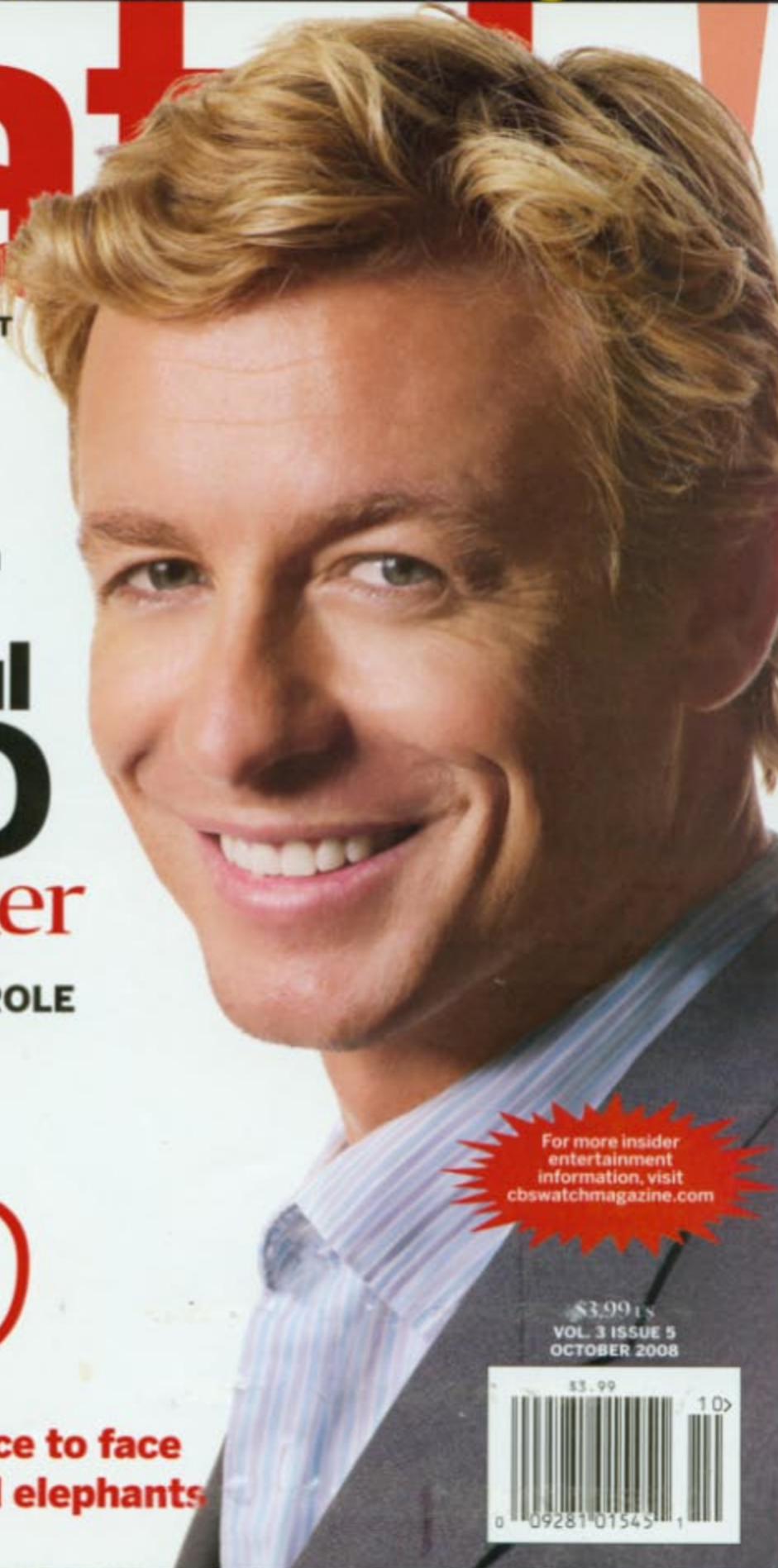
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# Fancy Seeing You Here

Some of your favorite stars have shown up in the unlikeliest places, creating magical TV moments

**W**hen Britney Spears made two guest appearances on *How I Met Your Mother* late last season, the ratings were *legendary*. Her first episode, which aired on March 24, scored the show's highest viewership of the year, and its highest numbers ever among key adult demographics. Her character, the naïve medical receptionist Abby, returned in mid-May, lifting the gang at Maclaren's bar to No. 1 in their time period among adults 18 to 34.

With all the Britney buzz, more than 7 million more fans had caught her *Mother* clips on the Web by season's end, providing the perfect mutual boost for both the singer and the show. But Britney is hardly the first megastar to squeeze into an appearance on the small screen.



## SIRENS OF THE SILVER SCREEN

### Bette Davis on *Gunsmoke* (Oct. 1, 1966)

As Ma Stone, the film legend plans to avenge her husband's death by kidnapping Miss Kitty and hanging Marshal Matt Dillon—but not before chewing more Western scenery than Trigger.

### Tallulah Bankhead on *Batman* (March 15, 1967)

When the twice-weekly *Batman* took the '60s by storm, a friend of Bankhead's urged her to make this rare TV appearance—which turned out to be her final role—saying it would be "camp." "Don't tell me about camp, dahling," Bankhead reportedly replied. "I invented it!"

### Mae West on *Mister Ed* (March 22, 1964)

When Wilbur is commissioned to design a new stable for her estate, the vamping star meets the talking horse. (Say, is that a carrot in Mister Ed's feed bag, or is he just happy to see her?)



## HEAVENLY CAMEOS

### Dolly Parton on *Designing Women* (Jan. 1, 1990)

In a gauzy-white dream, nervous expectant mother Charlene receives a reassuring angelic visitation from Dolly, her "guardian movie star," on the eve of the "First Day of the Last Decade of the Entire Twentieth Century."

### Cher on *Will & Grace* (May 16, 2002)

God appears to Jack McFarland in the form of the Oscar-winning icon. A season earlier, Jack had a "moment," impersonating Cher in front of what he thought was a particularly spot-on drag queen. Now, thanks to the magic of DVD, we "can turn back TA-own" and enjoy both divine appearances again and again.

### George Burns on *Alice* (Jan. 1, 1978)

Oh, God! When dingbat waitress Vera meets the at-this-point-octogenarian comedy legend at Mel's Diner, she confuses him for the deity he famously played on film.



## UNLIKELIEST CASTING

### Harpo Marx on *I Love Lucy* (May 9, 1955)

A sitcom might not seem to be the best medium for a legend like Harpo, whose whole shtick is to be silent. But when he steps out from behind a hotel room divider—and into a classic bit of mirror-image pantomime opposite Lucille Ball—it's instant TV magic.

### Andy Warhol on *The Love Boat* (Oct. 12, 1985)

In possibly the trippiest mismatch of performer to series, pop art legend Warhol takes time away from The Factory to appear on TV's cheesiest hour. But wait, there's more: Paired with costar Marion Ross, as a former superstar among Warhol's coterie who is forced to hide her past from conservative husband Tom Bosley, the outré artiste risks driving a rift between *Happy Days*' wholesome Cunninghams.

### Quentin Tarantino on *The Golden Girls* (Nov. 19, 1988)

Sophia's wedding day has arrived, but Rose has mixed up the invite list with the roster for the "Hunk-a-Hunk-a-Burnin' Love" Elvis fan club. Amid the resulting laughs, keep an eye on the Elvis impersonator back row, center: That's future super-cool film auteur Tarantino making an extremely improbable (and uncredited) appearance on the geriatric sitcom.



## THAT VOICE SURE SOUNDS FAMILIAR

### Johnny Carson on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* (May 5, 1977)

Mary Richards' parties are legendarily awful. So for this one, she's recruited a surprise guest of honor. But when the apartment is darkened by a power outage, no one can actually see Johnny Carson, making this by far Mary's most hilariously disappointing soiree.

### Woody Allen on *Just Shoot Me* (Nov. 11, 1997)

Magazine reporter Maya's fantasy piece about a dinner with Woody seems to be coming true when she begins to date a disturbed man she realizes is merely a Woody impersonator. In the end, she gets a call from the publicity-shy director himself, who literally phoned in his rare cameo appearance.



### Michael Jackson on *The Simpsons* (Sept. 19, 1991)

In one of the classic animated show's earliest and biggest cameos, the Gloved One guest stars as Leon, a chubby, white, mental-patient friend of Homer's who thinks he's ... Michael Jackson.

## GET THE MESSAGE

### Sammy Davis Jr. on *All in the Family* (Feb. 19, 1972)

When Sammy forgets his briefcase in Archie's cab, the stage is set for the famous black entertainer to stop by the Queens, N.Y., homestead of TV's favorite racist boor. And as the newspaper photographer's flash pops, the Candy Man famously plants some sugar right on Archie's cheek.

### John Wayne on *Maude* (Sept. 9, 1974)

When the famously conservative star stops by Tuckahoe on a publicity tour, ultraliberal Maude plans to give him a piece of her mind. Instead, in a classic turnaround, the Duke melts Maude's heart, and the intended verbal shootout turns into a friendly dance.

### Connie Chung on *Murphy Brown* (Oct. 16, 1989)

After Murphy makes a disastrous cameo on a sitcom inspired by her news show *FYI*, colleague Connie shows up to scold her. "I think it's wrong for a journalist of your stature to appear in a sitcom," Connie chides, with a wink to *Murphy*'s audience.

