
Research Learning Experiences (RLEs)

Student Works

Fall 2023

Fiendish Film Reviews

Annabelle Taff

University of Maine at Farmington

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umf.maine.edu/rle>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Taff, Annabelle, "Fiendish Film Reviews" (2023). *Research Learning Experiences (RLEs)*. 24.
<https://scholarworks.umf.maine.edu/rle/24>

This Popular Culture - Student Projects is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Works at Scholar Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in Research Learning Experiences (RLEs) by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works. For more information, please contact sotley@maine.edu.

**ONLINE
EDITION!**

FIENDISH

FILM

REVIEWS

VOLUME 1: ALAN RICKMAN

ZINE BY ANABELLE TAFF

OUR SUBJECT

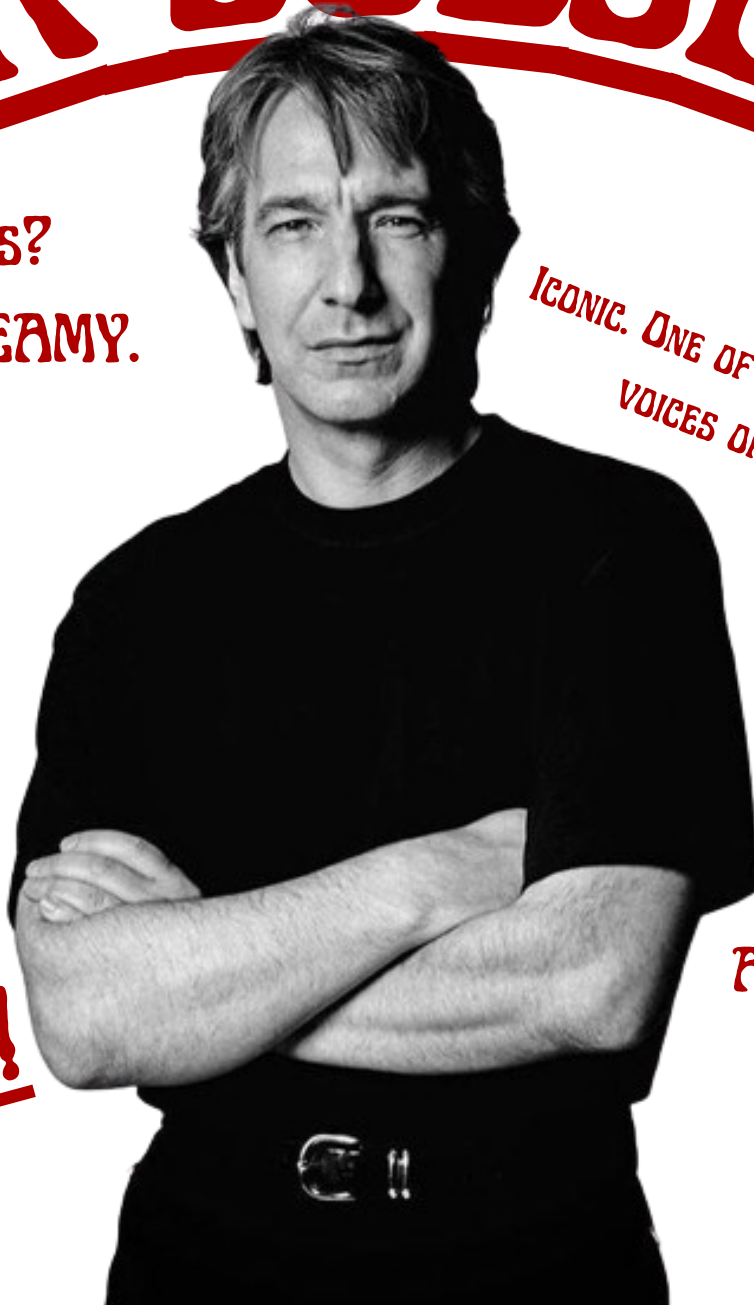
EYES?
DREAMY.

VOICE?
ICONIC. ONE OF THE MOST IMPERSONATED
VOICES OF ALL TIME. ALSO, SEXY.

HEIGHT?
8'1".

OUTFIT?
ALWAYS SLAYED.

ARMS!!!



The late, great Alan Rickman was an English actor, writer, producer, and director. His career began in secondary school theater productions. From a young age, people claimed that he was good, just not meant for the spotlight. Why? His voice. A drama teacher once told him that he sounded like he was speaking out of the back of a drain pipe, and because of that, he'd never make it. That drama teacher was stupid.

DISCLAIMER

Fiendish Film Reviews welcomes you to an unconventional alternative to the world of film reviews. Each issue will focus on one actor and several of their movies. These critiques, commentary and silly inclusions are all deeply unprofessional and unserious- the way reviews should be. Stoic and boring reviews are things of the past. Embrace your opinions, no matter how shitty or controversial.



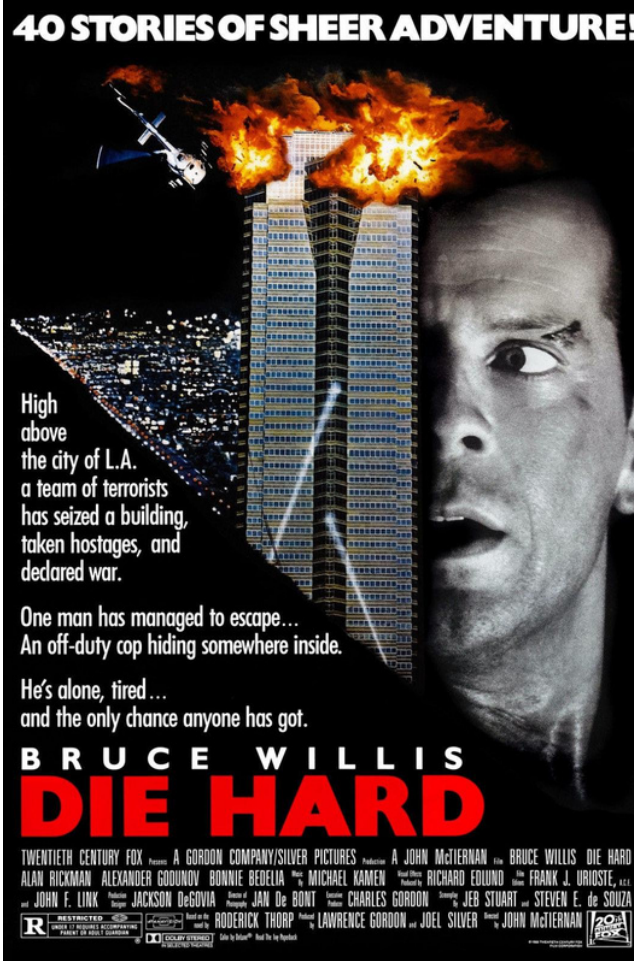
ENJOY!



*My opinions are not shitty. Just saying. That statement does not apply to me because some people were just born into this world with the greatest perspectives, ever.

! ALL REVIEWS CONTAIN SPOILERS !

#DIEHARDISANXMASMOVIE



DIE HARD. 1988. JOHN McTIERNAN.

5/5 ROLEXES

I ❤️ HANS GRUBER

ALAN RICKMAN PORTRAYS A SEXY ASS VILLAIN NAMED HANS GRUBER IN *DIE HARD*. He is the leader of a criminal organization based out of Germany. He's cold, calculating and suave. Dressed in an expensive, tailored suit with styled, fancy hair and a clipped beard, he owns every scene that he's in; from his grand entrance with his swarm of lackeys to his dramatic falling death. His goal in this movie is to obtain the 630 million dollars in negotiable bearer bonds that are locked inside of the vault at Nakatomi Plaza in Los Angeles, California. *Die Hard* is Rickman's first production that did not take place on a stage. At age 42, he went from being a master of theater to a dream movie villain by breathing a life to Hans Gruber that no other actor could do. Even with an ever-wavering, not great but not dogshit British-German accent, he portrays a snobby German rich boy incredibly well. My favorite scene is another accent bending feat for Alan, and he fucking slays it: Hans has his first run in with his protagonist opposition, John McClane, and he manages to save himself by breaking into a Southern-American accent to convince McClane that he's just a hostage and not one of the terrorists. It blew my mind the first time I watched it because 1. Alan's talent. 2. Alan smokes a cigarette in the scene and IT IS SO FUCKING AHHHHHHH (hot).

"WHAT WAS IT, YOU SAID? OH YES. YIPPEE KI-YAY MOTHERFUCKER."

HANS GRUBER

THE DILFIEST VILLAIN
YOU'VE EVER SEEN!

"I'M AN EXCEPTIONAL THIEF, MRS. McCLANE, AND SINCE I'M MOVING UP TO KIDNAPPING, YOU SHOULD BE MORE POLITE."

EDITS!



"MR. TAKAGI WON'T BE JOINING US FOR THE REST OF... HIS LIFE."

"IT'S CHRISTMAS, THEO! IT'S THE TIME FOR MIRACLES. SO BE OF GOOD CHEER AND CALL ME WHEN YOU HIT THE LAST LOCK."



"Inventive, dryly hilarious — the thinking person's 'Ghost'. A real find, absolutely not to be missed!" - Sheila Berzon, Los Angeles Times

TRULY,

MADLY,

DEEPLY

THE SAMUEL GOLDWYN COMPANY PRESENTS A BBC FILMS PRODUCTION "TRULY, MADLY, DEEPLY"
WRITTEN BY ANTHONY MINGHELLA WITH JULIET STEVENSON ALAN RICKMAN BILL PATERSON AND
MICHAEL MALONEY MUSIC BY BARRINGTON PHELDOING EDITOR JOHN STOTHART
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BARBARA GOSNOLD PRODUCED BY REMI ADEFARASIN PRODUCED BY MARK SHIVAS
DIRECTED BY ANTHONY MINGHELLA
PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED
COARSE LANGUAGE
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

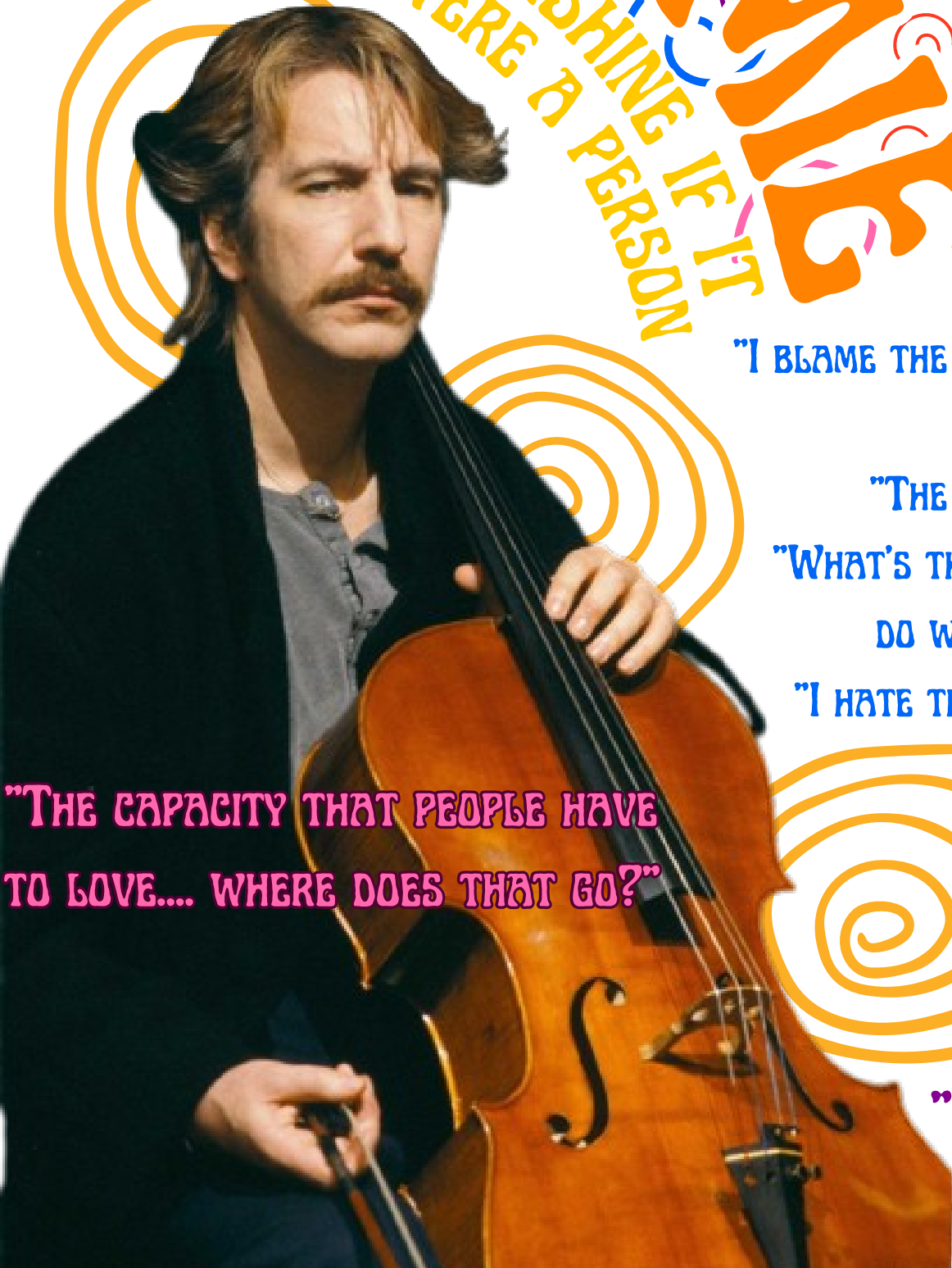
TRULY, MADLY, DEEPLY. 1990. ANTHONY MINGHELLA.

5/5 CELLOS

OH BOY IS THIS MOVIE SAD! Deeply, deeply romantic, but horribly sad. Alan portrays the concept of selflessness in such a raw manner that cannot help but make you love him. He embodies sunshine in his role as Jamie. Jamie is the former boyfriend to the goofy and loving Nina, played by icon Juliet Stevenson. I say former because Jamie is **DEAD**. The film starts with her processing her grief around his death, but around 20 minutes in, Jamie comes back by an unexplained force (I #love the magic of movies). He's technically a ghost that she can touch, kiss, and so on. They basically go back to how they had been before he died. When Jamie was gone, Nina had met a man named Peter, a man who definitely had the hots for her. She sort of felt the same way, but she was overridden with guilt by just being around him. We later learn that Jamie only returned to help her move on, and he does this by essentially fucking up the perception she had of him before he died. Despite how perfect he was, he knows that she won't move on with the memory that she had of him, so instead of keeping her love forever, he increasingly becomes annoying and a pest. When doing this, he acts like that was how he was when he was alive, and that makes Nina question everything. Jamie's selflessness makes me physically ill. Aside from the heart wrenching plot, there are silly moments too, like Nina and Jamie's performance of the song, *The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore*. This gives the audience another thing about Alan to swoon over: his gorgeous fucking singing voice. This film is a golden, underrated and under-appreciated masterpiece that took Alan to another level of acting by showing that he could portray a romantic lead just as well as he could portray a villainous role. Also, Jamie's mustache made me tolerate facial hair on men!



EDITS!



JAMIE
SUNSHINE IF IT
WERE A PERSON

"I TRULY, MADLY,
DEEPLY LOVE YOU."

"I BLAME THE GOVERNMENT." - JAMIE

"WHAT?" - NINA

"THE GOVERNMENT." - JAMIE

"WHAT'S THE GOVERNMENT GOT TO
DO WITH ANYTHING?" - NINA

"I HATE THE BASTARDS." - JAMIE

"THE CAPACITY THAT PEOPLE HAVE
TO LOVE... WHERE DOES THAT GO?"

"THANK YOU FOR
MISSING ME."



ROBIN HOOD PRICE OF THIEVES. 1991. KEVIN REYNOLDS.

2/5 SPOONS

JESUS CHRIST, THIS MOVIE IS SO BAD. Aside from Alan's iconic performance of The Sheriff of Nottingham, *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves* is unsalvageable. Another villainous role for the actor, except far less serious and collected than Hans Gruber. He's wild, insane, and greedy. He has mommy issues, dabbles with witchcraft, and he has an odd way of getting what he wants. Alan's performance is literally the film's only redeeming quality because he can actually act, and his personal scenes were rather entertaining palate cleansers in comparison to the other scenes that had loads of sexist and racist dialogue between bad actors. I don't have much to say in regards to this dumpster fire apart from the fact that Alan continues to SERVE LOOKS, especially with a beard and the weird little medieval clothing he wore. Again, another movie in which he dies.
#stopkillingsexymen #Icanfixhim #ifbadwhyhot

**"LOCKSLEY!!!! I'M GONNA CUT YOUR
HEART OUT WITH A SPOON!"**

**THE SHERIFF OF
NOTTINGHAM**

CLINICALLY FUCKING INSANE BUT SEXY!

EDITS!



**"CANCEL THE KITCHEN SCRAPS
FOR LEPERS AND ORPHANS. NO
MORE MERCIFUL BEHEADINGS.
AND CALL OFF
CHRISTMAS."**

**"I NEVER KNEW MY PARENTS.
IT'S AMAZING I'M SANE."
(HE'S NOT SANE)**



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY. 1995. ANG LEE.

4/5 HORSES

ARGUABLY ALAN RICKMAN'S MOST ATTRACTIVE FILM ROLE EVER. That point comes first because it's crucial to me. Alan plays Colonel Christopher Brandon, a silent, noble and older gentlemen who is interested in courting Marianne Dashwood (aka public enemy #1), the middle daughter of an estranged family who recently moved in nearby the Colonel. He is rich, and according to Mrs. Jennings, one of his family friends, a deeply sad and troubled man with a broken heart. We later learn more of his backstory, but what's important is HOW MUCH I FUCKING HATE THE FACT THAT HE WAS A SECOND CHOICE FOR MARIANNE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE FUCKING MOVIE. My boy does **NOT** deserve that treatment because, uh, to be frank, well, her first choice is UGLY and a PIECE OF SHIT. Willoughby is greedy, needy and cheaty. AND THEN, when Marianne comes to her fucking senses, she's suddenly like... "oh hey Colonel, why don't you read me some poetry...?" BE SERIOUS RIGHT NOW. STAND UP. The film rating loses 1 point because of how irritating I found the sheer audacity of Marianne Dashwood to be. Aside from that, it is a gorgeous period piece that once again shows Alan in the light of a protagonist and romantic character. At this point in his career, these types of softer, more loving roles have begun to rival that of his skill as a villainy actor. I LOVE YOU COLONEL BRANDON. YOU'RE MY #1 BOY !

"MARIANNE DASHWOOD WOULD NO MORE
THINK OF ME THAN SHE WOULD OF YOU.

JOHN." -BRANDON

"BRANDON, MY BOY, DON'T THINK OF
YOURSELF SO MEANLY." -JOHN

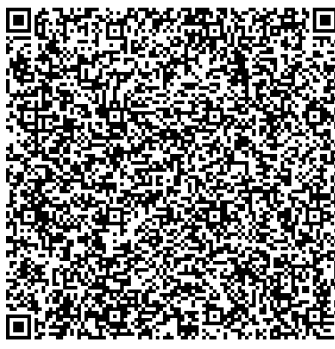
"AND ALL THE BETTER FOR HER." -BRANDON

COLONEL BRANDON

THE ACTUAL LOVE OF MY LIFE

"GIVE ME AN OCCUPATION,
MISS DASHWOOD,
OR I SHALL RUN MAD."

"YOUR SISTER SEEMS VERY
HAPPY."



EDITS!

"QUELLEK, BY GRABTHAR'S HAMMER, BY THE
SUNS OF WARVAN, YOU SHALL BE AVENGED."

SIR ALEXANDER DAVE

THE BADDEST BITCH ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

"COULD THEY BE THE MINERS?" - ALEX
"SURE, THEY'RE LIKE THREE YEARS
OLD." - FRED
"MINERS NOT MINORS." - ALEX

"YOU BROKE THE
SHIP. YOU BROKE
THE BLOODY SHIP."



EDITS!



alanrickman sigourneyweaver carrie-annemoss



SNOWCAKE



“★★★★! A film for discerning audiences who still believe the cinema can illuminate the human condition.”
— Bruce Kirkland, Toronto Sun



SNOWCAKE. 2006. MARC EVANS.

4/5 SCRABBLE PIECES

SNOWCAKE IS A BRUTAL WATCH. It's an indie film that two big names, Alan Rickman and Sigourney Weaver, did. Alan plays the tragic Alex Hughes, a single man who is grieving the death of a son he had only found out about a month or two before his untimely death. Alex is traveling to meet with his deceased son's mother in order to give her his condolences. On the way, he stops at a gas station restaurant to take a rest before finishing the long drive. There, he runs into a young, eccentric woman named Vivienne. She tries to convince him to give her a ride to her mother's house since it's on the way to his actual destination, and despite his unfriendly facade, Alex agrees. Over the course of the drive, they become friends, only for that to be cut short by a **FUCKING 18 WHEELER CRASHING INTO THEM AND KILLING VIVIENNE.** Guilt-ridden Alex must seek out the girl's mother, Linda (Sigourney Weaver #queen). When they meet, Alex quickly learns that Linda is a high functioning autistic woman, which worsens his guilt because it becomes evident that Vivienne was taking care of her. He decides that he'll stay in town to see the funeral proceedings through, but this takes **weeks.** Over his time there, Alex enters into an intimate relationship with Linda's annoying ass neighbor, Maggie, who consistently tries pressuring him into trauma dumping and telling her about his life. This does eventually clear his mind a little bit (so does the **SEX**), and it encourages him to try and live a happier life. I love this film because of Alan's capability of bringing raw emotion to his role as Alex. He's bluntly funny, gut sparring, and an absolute sweetheart in this film. He brings an honesty to grief through Alex that I genuinely have not seen as well done in most other movies. I'll likely watch it again in 5 years because the emotional toll it had on me 2 years ago is still there. In addition to his great acting, there are 2 scenes in which he embodies the word: **SEXY.** Thanks for this masterpiece, Alan.

"HAVE YOU EVER HAD AN ORGASM, ALEX?" -LINDA

"IT HAS BEEN KNOWN." -ALEX

"IT SOUNDS LIKE AN INFERIOR VERSION OF WHAT I FEEL WHEN I HAVE A MOUTHFUL OF SNOW." -LINDA

ALEX HUGHES

LET ME TURN THAT FROWN UPSIDE DOWN!

"I DON'T HAVE BAGGAGE. I HAVE HAULAGE."

EDITS!



"WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO BE HEALED? SET FREE YOUR DEMONS." -MAGGIE

"THEY KEEP ME COMPANY." -ALEX





SEVERUS TOBIAS SNAPE, AS I LIVE AND BREATHE! I would've classified Snape as Alan's magnum opus if he didn't severely hate how famous he got for playing him, and if he wasn't written by J.K R*wling. Throughout all 8 films, Snape is a cruel, mysterious and let's be perfectly honest, **sexy** professor at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. He is a brilliant, BRILLIANT wizard, considered to be the 5th most powerful one of ALL TIME. From a young age, he understood all facets of harnessing magic, and took to creating spells, crafting new potions, and discovering unheard of aspects of wizardry. He trained himself in Occlumency and Legilimency, the acts of both withstanding mindreading and performing mindreading. Due to a difficult upbringing, he joined the death eaters, a horrendous crew of Voldemort's followers. But, due to the deep regret and love he had for his childhood best friend, turned spy against them in order to protect her son, Harry Potter. He

THE HARRY POTTER FRANCHISE. 2001-2011.
CHRIS COLUMBUS, ALFONSO CUARÓN, MIKE NEWELL,
DAVID YATES. 5/5 POTIONS

deceived Voldemort for 17 years and is one of two direct reasons as to why the Dark Lord met his downfall. I could talk about this all day, but I won't. This is about Alan. Alan was 55-65 throughout the filming of all of the movies, playing a 31-38 year old Snape. He brought the character from page to screen with ease. Donning a black wig and heavy black clothing, he captured the sneering, brooding and enigmatic presence that was Professor Snape perfectly. His older age only added to this, because no person who withstood the trauma and exhaustion of Snape's double-agency would look their age. His deep, drawling voice added to his coldness and mask of villainy, which threw people off for 10 whole years. Alan's secrecy of Snape's true intentions made the reveal of his backstory *groundbreaking*. Millions of people went from LOATHING Snape to LOVING him. That was all Alan. His anguish in a particularly revealing scene was so gut wrenching that the director demanded that it be silenced by music because it was too overwhelming. As great as Snape was, Alan hated the attention. But, as someone who deeply relates to Severus, I will forever be grateful that he portrayed him in the manner that he did. It brought life to my favorite character of all time, and I'm deeply thankful. Also, Severus Snape's death scene genuinely made me sob for *at least* an hour straight. #LETSEXYMENLIVE #SNAPEDESERVEDBETTER #SNADDY

"YOU AND BLACK, YOU'RE TWO OF A KIND, SENTIMENTAL CHILDREN,
FOREVER WHINING ABOUT HOW BITTERLY UNFAIR YOUR LIVES HAVE BEEN.
WELL, IT MAY HAVE ESCAPED YOUR NOTICE, BUT LIFE ISN'T FAIR."

SEVERUS SNAPE

PROFESSOR SNAPE? MORE LIKE PROFESSOR SEXY!



"AFTER ALL THIS TIME?"
-DUMBLEDORE
"ALWAYS." -SNAPE

"YOU DARE USE MY OWN SPELLS
AGAINST ME, POTTER? YES, I'M
THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE."

EDITS!



"I JUST KNOW." -HARRY

"YOU JUST... KNOW? ONCE AGAIN, YOU ASTONISH ME WITH YOUR GIFTS, POTTER.
GIFTS MERE MORTALS COULD ONLY DREAM OF POSSESSING. HOW GRAND IT MUST
BE TO BE THE CHOSEN ONE." -SNAPE

FUN FACTS



DIE HARD: ALAN DROPPED 40 FEET AS AN ACTUAL STUNT FOR HANS' DEATH SCENE. THEY SHOT 3 DIFFERENT TAKES AND THE 3RD TAKE IS THE ONE THAT THEY CHOSE FOR THE FILM! ALAN WAS ALSO THE PERSON TO SUGGEST THAT HANS DRESS FASHIONABLY IN ORDER TO STAND OUT FROM HIS LACKEYS.



ROBIN HOOD: ALAN WON THE ONLY AWARD THAT THIS FILM WAS NOMINATED FOR: A BAFTA FOR BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR!



HARRY POTTER: ALAN REFUSED TO PLAY SNAPE UNTIL J.K. R*WLING ADMITTED HOW HIS CHARACTER ARC WOULD END. DURING THE YULE BALL SCENES IN GOBLET OF FIRE, ALAN WAS PISSED OFF THAT HE HAD TO EVEN BE THERE, BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THAT SNAPE WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN ATTENDED A SCHOOL EVENT LIKE THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE (HE WAS 10000% PERCENT CORRECT).

FILMS THAT DIDN'T MAKE THE CUT BUT ARE WORTH THE WATCH

LOVE
ACTUALLY



SWEENEY
TODD



ALICE IN
WONDERLAND



DOGMA



THE
BUTLER



JUDAS
KISS



BOTTLE
SHOCK



BLOW
DRY



MICHAEL
COLLINS



SOMETHING
THE LORD
MADE

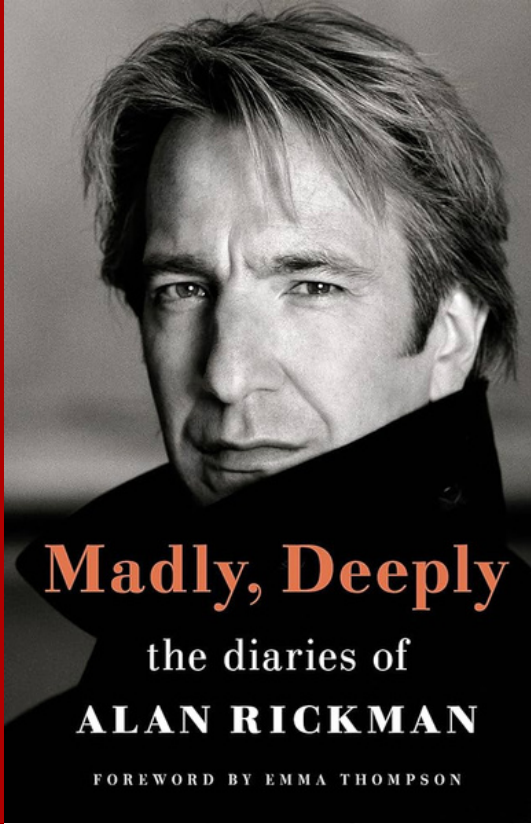


**SPECIAL FEATURE:
MADLY, DEEPLY THE
DIARIES OF ALAN
RICKMAN.**

**IN OCTOBER OF 2022,
ALAN RICKMAN'S WIFE,
RIMA HORTON, RELEASED
A PUBLISHED VERSION OF
HER HUSBAND'S DIARIES
THAT HE HAD BEEN
WRITING FROM THE 90s
UNTIL HIS DEATH IN
2016.**

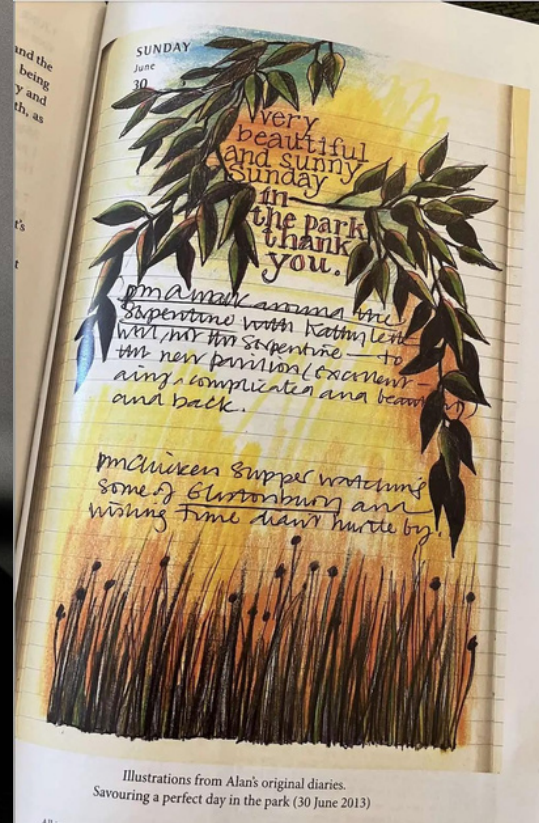
**THESE DIARIES INCLUDED
SMALL ENTRIES ABOUT
HIS PERSONAL LIFE, FILM
WORK, AND DRAWINGS HE
MADE.**

**THESE DIARIES WERE A
SURPRISE AND A GIFT TO
FANS WHO LOVED THE
ACTOR DEARLY.**



Madly, Deeply
the diaries of
ALAN RICKMAN

FOREWORD BY EMMA THOMPSON

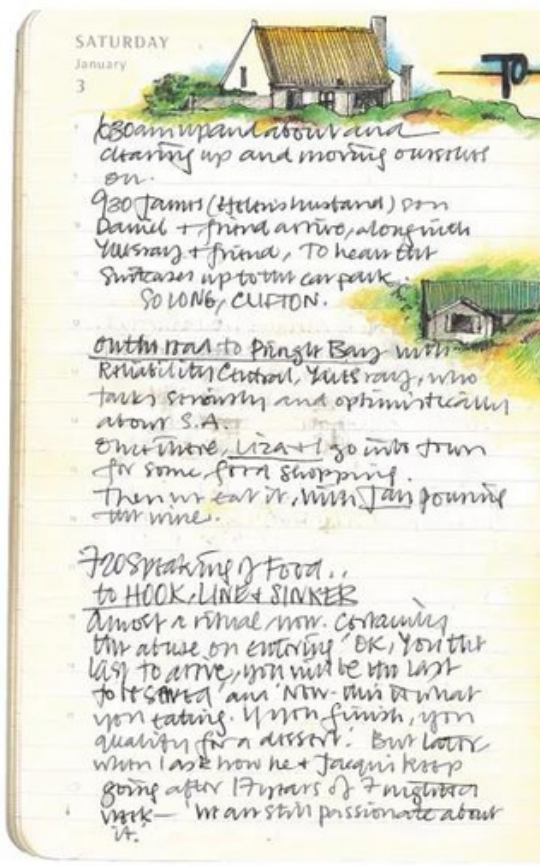


20 June

Patrick Caulfield [English painter] who says he hates painting but it's how he earns a living. 'The horror of walking into this small room. Important to do something. Doesn't matter what. Just something.'

21 June

Arrive home, switch on BBC2 - Pina Bausch.¹ The Real Thing. (After reading another article in *The Face* about Hot Young Things.) She has such a graceful determined truthfulness. And Robert Lepage² pays homage. Of course.



R.I.P ALAN RICKMAN

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU GAVE TO THE
WORLD. YOU ARE MISSED EVERY SINGLE DAY.



1946 - 2016