

AT HOME IN THE UNIVERSE
SHATNER SCRIPT

Shatner: The narrow margin between reality and imagination, unreality, how close those two things are in my life, maybe I thought I was captain kirk.

Leonard Nimoy: There may be a lot of Bill in Kirk and vice versa but he is not Kirk, nor am I Spock really, Y'know we'd play around with these titles and we joke about it, but the fact is he is an artist.

Daughter: There is definitely um, a huge piece of my dad that I don't know if anybody knows.

Jason Alexander: There's a rumour mill about Shatner a mile and a half long, and it goes from the sublime to the ridiculous, and from the glorious, to the villainous.

Geoff Rovere: It was calculated at a certain point that William Shatner was probably known by one quarter of the people of the planet because his role as James D Kirk in Star Trek.

ON SCREEN TEXT: William Shatner : AT HOME IN THE UNIVERSE

Narrator: William Shatner, it might be true that more a billion people know the face, but not many can claim to know the Man, Shatner has a secret sanctuary north of Hollywood in the **high sea area?** It's a place where few people, and know cameras, have boldly gone before.

Shatner: Welcome, to my home [laughs] I found this place about 20 years ago, I came along a Country Road, I walked into that field of waist high grass, I looked around and that was all, I said er "this is the place", and I went to buy it immediately.

C'mon I want to show you something I've done here. As I cleared some of the Brush near the river, I found holes in the granite where the Indians have mashed the acorns, and then I began to hear about and understand, and that Indians had live to up to 50, no a 100 years ago. I have put into solidity my imagining of what the Indians were like, when they lived on this property.

Here's the twilight time, not the twilight zone. There was a time in my life when I didn't have any money, I had done well, then I was err divorced and I didn't have any money. And I needed to sell this place, and I sat right there, one summer's evening, half crying because I knew I had to sell this place, and on one of those rocks, a lizard came, and the lizard stood on the rock, and as the water hit the rock, it splashed up, and the lizard was grabbing globules of water and that's how the lizard drank it's water, and I sat looking at it with nobody around, I was naked, in the water, alone, naked, watching a lizard drink and I thought, I cannot, I will not, I must never, in my life time, sell this place.

I love the philosophy of me and the earth being one, I love to lie on the grass and listen to

the earth grow, and I love this farm as I I keep trying do it better, planting more trees, find ways of growing things without hurting anything else.

Narrator: While Shatner earned his fame and a modest fortune in the United States, he remains a Canadian Citizen, he was born in montreal in 1931, and returns to his home town for the first time in many years.

Shatner: I was one of the very few Jewish families living in this neighborhood ,and the kids used to jump me, because I was Jewish, and I got into fights everyday with two or three kids jumping me at the same time, and I used to win, most of them, and they-all the kids would stand around yelling “fight fight fight” and I’d have to struggle.

5 mins approx

This first house right here is where I was born and brought up and would play. Im going to go to that house now, and see if there’s anyone there, and ask to go in.

[Shatner Speaks in French briefly to owner of the house.]

House Owner: Are you putting me off or is this true?

Shatner: It’s absolutely true.

House Owner: Absolutely, fantastic.

Shatner: yeah, and I lived in the room just before- is there still a kitchen at the far - at the end?

House Owner: Yes, it’s changed quite a bit.

Shatner: And the first room is it still a bedroom?

House Owner: Why don’t you come in and see:

Shatner: That was my room.

House Owner: Yes.

Shatner: Can I come in?

House Owner: Please do.

Shatner: (To Camera) Is this wild?

House Owner: (laughs)

Shatner: (to owner) We’ve got... (laughs) This should be good.

House Owner: I have a son that's going to be thrilled.

Shatner: Oh well I, this was my living room. This was the living room, this is where I cut, cut up...

House Owner: How many years ago?

Shatner: I was born...

Owner: So that's about 20 some years ago.

Shatner: Right, it was at least a, and in there, in there there was a sofa, right here, and my parents bought the sofa, and this was during the time they were very poor, and they had just bought the sofa and I had a pair of scissors,

Owner: Uh huh.

Shatner: and I cut up, I don't know why, I...

House Owner: Did you?

Shatner: I cut up the sofa, and hid it behind pillows.

(House Owner tuts disapprovingly/jokingly)

Shatner: Then, over here....

House Owner: That's why the pillows were so comfortable.

Shatner: Over here was, this, this was my parents room,

Owner: Meet my wife.

Shatner: How do you do? excuse the...

I was born here, I used to live here, I used to play with my dog, and I used to play in there, I used to jump over that fence.

Owner's Wife: You were born here?

Shatner: I was born in this house yes.

Wife: But you are so young it is impossible!

Shatner: It is impossible.

Wife: Yes! because we, we're...

Owner: My wife Elizabeth.

Shatner: I want you to get a close up of his wife Elizebeth's head (laughs)

Owner's Wife: (mumbles) Stained glass....

Shatner: What a beautiful, look how beautiful your work is!

Owners Wife: (giggles) 'I'm sorry!

Shatner: (French) Una artist!

Owner's Wife: Artist, That's true (Indecipherable few words...)

Shatner: Absolutely! Yes this was my bedroom right here. This was my bedroom. Come here...

Owner's Wife off camera: That's why... (Indecipherable few words...)

Shatner: Come here, this was my bedroom, I had a bed right here, and that was the window I jumped out off, into the laneway down below. I would get out of the house, and I, I lived with my sister Joy, and erm sometime later my sister Farla came along. Err so Joy and Farla, and me, and my parents, and my dog.

This was, thank you so much, I'm sorry for the disturbance.

Owner: Not at all...

Wife: Noo!...

Owner: ... It's a, it's a surprise

Wife: ... (Indecipherable)... Perfect day!

Shatner: Thank you same to you!

My parents also bought a new dining room set, and they also at some point at some time later bought me a tool set, i took the saw, and I sawed all the legs off the table, leaving it standing on the table, sat down for dinner, and the table collapsed...

Son: That's pretty bad

Shatner: And so did my father.

Son: I like it...

Shatner: I was terrible.

Owner: Don't give all these ideas to my son.

Shatner (laughs) Thank you mr. McBigger!

Owner's Wife: Nice to meet you! Thank you...

Owner: It's a pleasure.

Owner's Wife: ... so much.

Shatner: Bonjour Madame!

Owner: (Something Indecipherable)

Shatner: Thank you.

Wife Off Camera: ... Anytime.

Shatner: That was, that was wild! I enjoyed that.

Tobias: And you saw...

Shatner: Yeah, y'see how small that house is?

The Theater has gone. Oh my god! It's the Club Medical Sportif. Yeah the Monklin theater was a movie theater I spent my life in this mo- movie theater, I, I saw all the movies that came out in those years at the Monklin Theatre. And it's gone.

I first read science fiction right in there, which is now a restaurant, was a book store.

Narrator: The book store is gone, so to the movie theatre, but not the child in William Shatner. From the very start he was a shooting Star. Quick, energetic, confident, and not just a little a brash.

Shatner: The greatest city in the world. And now I get back into my Limo, makes it even a better city (laughs). I had a grand time in the Monklin movie theatre, then there was a drugstore right next door, I grew up in that drug store, going from sodas, asking for a soda, to trying to get the courage up to ask for a condom. (laughs) This is where I went to children's drama school. That house over there, was a studio of Dorothy Davis and Violette Walters. I was a natural, and I was like one of the only boys as well, so I was playing all the hero roles, I was Prince Charming in Snow White, and I had to kiss the 6 year old girl, even then, my blood was stirring. I remember the first day I was there, and Violette Walters, who was very **grandamn? was talking like that. She was a diva, and I thought well, that's the way actors move, like that, so I tried, to be a diva. This was, Violette Walters. Six.**

Seven.

10:10 min approx

Tobias: And you walked like that?

Shatner: Well, that's the way you walked! When you were- then I learnt to do, the walk.

Narrator: And it's also when little William Shatner got his first inkling of the sheer power of performing.

Shanter: Well I was six, we put on a camp play involving Germans taking away Jewish Kids, and the lights went on in the auditorium, and we took our bows. I saw an audience full of parents weeping, I remember the feeling of awe, at which I saw myself manipulate an audience. And then I remember my father having picked me up, a feeling of love, the strokes I got, as a result of, "wasn't billy wonderful". Those two elements never changed for the rest of my life and I knew what I wanted to be from that moment on. My time at McGill, was mostly putting on plays, doing the college musical for three years, producing, directing, and my whole time at McGill, was spent in the student Union and the surrounding buildings, I rarely went to lectures, I therefore, barely graduated, with a-a terrible, I mean barely passing grade, and I failed every one of my economics requisites to get my economic degree. But I really enjoyed the musical courses, the english courses, the psychology courses, I was, I was in the wrong School.

McGill Staff Member: How long has it been since you've er been here?

Shatner: I don't think, I don't think umm I've been back, since I graduated.

McGill Staff Member: Well we can go on in and see it anytime.

McGill Staff Member, Male: Here is a picture of Mr. Shatner with the red and white **re-bru?**

Shatner: The red and white **re-bru?**

M McGill Staff Member: Do you remember that one?

Shatner: Oh Sure. This is, this is what I spent my-

M Staff Member: That is how you got your-

Shatner: How I spent my life

M Staff Member: And if you look underneath that you might find the one where you were graduating in

Shatner: Let me see.

M Staff Member: There's William Shatner look, little closer

Shatner: That's wild, I haven't seen that picture in a lifetime, who's that?

M Staff Member: It's- (Laughs) Well shall we go on in?

Shatner: Yeah

Narrator: Today, Shatner beams back to McGill University and to the early episodes of William Shatner: Stage Actor.

Shatner: So this is the way we'd spring out! (Laughs) On stage and try err, with err, maximum energy, and lack of talent.

I learnt the joy of acting and entertaining, I learned the mechanics of producing, err, I learnt umm, to err be, empathetic to fear, err and err, I learnt to appreciate talent, and the courage it takes to come out and erm and entertain. So much time, so long ago, and so quickly I mean, I mean it could be that the, I remember the black floor, this could be the same floor, that was here, years ago. That's really wild, I'm back to the beginning, so yeah.

This is great. (Points to sign reading: WILLIAM SHATNER UNIVERSITY CENTRE [-] CENTRE UNIVERSITAIRE WILLIAM SHATNER)

Shatner: Centre, Universitaire, William Shatner!

Journalist: Mr. Shatner I'm from the [Can't make out] reporter-

Shatner: Hi

Journalist: - my name is Leslie Stone-

Shatner: How are you Leslie?

Journalist: - It's lovely to meet you.

Shatner: Thank you.

Journalist: And do you have any one found memory that sticks out, or a play perhaps that -

Shatner: Ummm no-

Journalist: - meant the most to you?

Shatner: Mostly it was girls.

Journalist: Okay! That works, that works nicely!

Narrator: Shatner wasn't a serious student, and he certainly wasn't grooming himself for a role in his parent's successful clothing business.

Shatner: Ok great.

Student Union Member: Alright.

Shatner: I in-effect ran away from Montreal, after err college to the distress of my parents, who had another future for me in mind. And I starved in Canada. I was coming to Toronto to make my fortune as an actor. I was very fearful and I had a limited amount of resources and I had a limited amount time, and, and I had been **abolished/embelleshed?** many times there was no way you could make a living in Canada by being an actor.

15 min in approx.

Narrator: In a re-run of his greatest escape from Montreal, Shatner returns to Toronto in the company of his third wife Nerrine Kid.

Shatner: Emm Umm.

Nerinne: They made a phone call for you, they knew you were coming, or-

Shatner: No, nobody, nobody made a phone call. I didn't have any money, I didn't have any friends, and er, I started looking for a place to stay, and I, I felt that I had to get the place as cheap as possible. So I was walking around here, fairly near the CBC when it was, existed on Jarvis St down here, so I found a place, and one day I came back early, and there were rats, mice playing, they didn't expect me back so early, so, so they were, it was really awful. Can you imagine the size of the rats in here, it's left a mark on my soul. I'll never be hungry again (laughs).

The performers in Toronto were Jealously guarding their position and it was difficult to get in, once you were in, you could make a good living as a radio actor, but to get in to the radio acting clique, err, was very difficult.

Honourable men, whom I to speak at Caesar's funeral, he was my friend. Faithful, and just, to me. But Brutus said he was ambitious, and Brutus is an honorable man.

I did what I could in Canada as an actor and writer, I sold some scripts to the CBC, I was at Stratford for 3 years, by that time I had cracked the Clique and was a performer. I never really got to know the guys for some reason, me or them or both, I never really had any friends in the acting community. I felt different I guess.

You know the Canadian view is very much what an actor's life is like I think-

Nerine: Uhum

Shatner: Y'know long moments of wilderness untouched and then pow you suddenly -

Nerine: A lot of stops-

Shatner: A lot of stops (laughs) A lot of noise and, and yet those moments

Narrator: In the midst of this, Shatner traded the Canadian acting wilderness for the noisiest stage of all New York. He played for 2 years in the Broadway hit "The World of Suzie Wong".

Shatner: The day I left Canada was the day I got married, to a Toronto girl, and err, we got in a car, and we drove down to New York. Where I had been performing with the Stratford players, and I'd gotten good notices and agents said, come back. In those years people came to see the fun comedies that were popular at the time. And I was the light comedian, I was funny.

Geoff: William Shatner apprenticeship in the theatre and on television was distinctly Canadian, I mean he spent some time doing repertory theatre in Ottawa, he did some work for the CBC, he worked for Stratford at the same time that both Lauren Green and Christopher Plummer were there. So if you go back through the resume and then his movement into live TV well this is the same kind of pathway that a number of famous Canadians at the time who were performers followed.

Narrator: Hollywood, the mid- 60s. Shatner had a young family to support when he was offered a television deal: the lead role in an untried and unconventional series, it was called Star Trek.

Shatner:... Star Trek, and I had to make a choice as to whether to take it or not, and I thought, gee that's so different, and it looks exciting and it might possibly be successful, both in terms of security and in popularity, and I thought well I'll take a chance and do it.

[As Kirk] Doctor McCoy is right. In pointing out the enormous danger potential in any contact with life and intelligence as fantastically advanced as this but I must point out that the possibilities, the potential, for knowledge and advancement, is equally great!

Nimoy: The energy and the courage in the character came with Bill. Bill brought that. Particularly the energetic attack of the character. It didn't say, in the script he says energetically, or he walks through the door energetically, Or he approaches people energetically though Bill always did so... And Bill does, that's Bill.

Jason Alexander: Acting to me was, Captain Kirk, y'know umm so I tended to do a lot of things with that sort of larger than life, commitment, that Bill had and I, I played Oscar Maddison's Bill Shatner, I played Fagon as Bill Shatner, Bill's had a wonderful career through me he just isn't aware.

20 mins approx.

Geoff: You could really see the connection between James D Kirk and the old west, I mean umm Gene Rodberry's original conception of Star Trek for example, 'wagon train in outer space' was very much apparent in the way that that's kind of swaggering way that Shatner carried himself. He was definitely kind of a tightly coiled man of action, he was a thoughtful man but he was a man who re-acted first and if it was necessary to shoot first and talk later he was going to do that.

Alexander: Y'know he had all this ability and all this responsibility, but the job is larger than any one person and there's sort of a humane acknowledgement of that in his performance and almost a cockiness to it. I'm going, I-I can't do this! (laughs) But I'm gonna have to, or shoot them from the hip, I'm up against people who can vapourize us with a thought, and I gotta take 'em out, so here we go.

Nimoy: I never thought it would work until Bill came on-board and brought that energy. (Clears throat.) Then there was room for a character like mine to take it up another kind of space.

Alexander: (laughs) I don't remember the episode name and I'm embarrassed that I don't remember the episode name but it's the one with sargon, there's these 3 glowing balls and there aliens, and Shatner has one of his great Shatnerian monologues where he's talking about risk, "risk is our business that's what the Star Ship's all about, that's why we're aboard her" and I just went "who is this guy? this is the most exciting thing, now I didn't know anything about the show, I didn't know what they were talking about, it was the first episode I'd ever seen.

Shatner [as Kirk]: Risk! Risk is our business! That's what the Star Ship is all about! That's why we're aboard her!

Alexander: Bill had kind of, almost Svengali like power, umm in that role,, and particularly in that episode, and I was, I was hooked into the guy like he was Houdini.

Narrator: But not everyone was hooked, at least not at first. In 1969 after 3 seasons of less than stellar ratings the original Star Trek series was cancelled.

Shatner: It was a tough time, when we made Star Trek there was no residual laws, err, so I think that if they played it five times, then the residuals would, there were no residuals, the actors didn't get paid. So there was a great deal of bitterness, still is I think among some members of the cast that Star Trek made the studio and a lot of people very rich and not the cast members.

Geoff: I mean lets not forget that after the programme went off the air, things were very difficult for William Shatner, very difficult indeed. In fact there was a point in his career when he was apparently y'know driving around doing dinner theatre, doing his own driving.

Narrator: After Star Trek, Shatner appeared more than 90 dramas, but his trademark bravado, took a beating.

Shatner: I was filled with doubts all the time, I was ready to chuck it all, I didn't know quite what to do. I had a family to support, err there were times when I couldn't get above a certain level of income, like a sort of level of savings in a bank account, it just went on and on for years, and I just hung in there.

I don't remember anyone offering me a hand up, I never, no, I never had a mentor or or, or somebody who I-I never got anything for nothing. And that I think has shaped my way of thinking about people needing to survive on their own to the best of their abilities.

Alexander: He has faced something that I think for any actor would be devastating. It killed Orson Welles, umm and it killed a lot, a lot of others, and that is that you reach what could be considered the pinnacle of your career, at a fairly early age, and it's a huge impression and people do not want to separate you from it, and yet, the job is done, and you want to continue your career, and you want to strive for other great things and different things, and you have to do it with the knowledge that it's very unlikely that lightning will strike like that twice.

Narrator: But lightning did strike twice for Shatner, and in the same place, on the Star Ship Enterprise. It was the 1980s, there were TV re-runs, and Shatner had a new and more lucrative deal to do Star Trek movies. To build a new legion of fans, there were trekkie conventions. Star Trek was back in orbit.

Geoff: We're talking about a popcultural phenomenon which is unprecedented in the history of popculture, because it began at a time in itself where television itself was very different, when the choice on television was far more restricted than it is now, and it was much easier for a programme to stand out in those days as being different, as being to boldly go where no television programme was going.

25:07 time approx

Narrator: But the Star Trek enterprise hit it's share of turbulence, there was persistent rumours of power struggles among the cast.

Nimoy: During the making of the series we were quite competitive, and I would say more like siblings vying for position. (Clears Throat) and umm, there was a strong sense of competition.

Alexander: Some people said he a very difficult man, a tremendous ego, you can't talk to him, umm some people have said no he's an incredibly generous guy, and wonderful fun and a practical joker and umm, and, and, I guess for some reason I've always been able to distinguish between, as I got a little older, between actors' personas, and what they might be like in real life.

Nimoy: I think it was later, and not even perhaps until we were making Star Trek umm 3, 4, 5 that we we really began to find a new way of relating to each other and trusting each other in a new way. Trusting that what we were both trying to do was the same thing.

Nimoy (as Spock). Er Captain, I do not think you realise the gravity of your situation.

Shatner (as Kirk) Oof! On the contrary, gravity is foremost on my mind.

Nimoy (as Spock) Concentration is vital, you must be one with the rock.

Shatner (as Kirk) Spock I appreciate your concern but if you don't stop distracting me i might well be one Dea...aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaarrrrr!

Lisbeth: I remember standing on one of the Star Trek sets once (luaghs) and he standing with Leonard in the outfit, in the captain's outfit and he would had a toy gun, and he and Leonard were kind of fooling around with the toy guns and I looked to him and said 'Dad you're just a big kid'! And he kind of snapped the gun together and he looks at Leonard and goes 'my kids have found me out' (laughs).

Nimoy: He is as you probably know is a perpetual punster, it's always puns and bad puns, they're very bad puns, he's not a good punster but he'll try anything (laughs).

Shatner: Like a seal, seal of approval!

Nimoy: And he was very much involved with umm weekend off-road motorcycling at that time, and he would come in bruised and scratched, and black and blue and aching and I would laugh at him (laughs). And I'd say wow what happened Bill "well I was on the road, and I reved up the bike and (mumbles excitedly) there was a little left turn and then there suddenly was a thing in the road, and I had to make a right turn and in the bushes (laughs) so I got this scratch here and then I landed on this shoulder and I can't move this arm and (laughs).

Shatner: I think that my sense and adventure, the new things I get into all the time, almost by intuition, are part of a sense of wildness that I try to get into, things involving nature.

I'm in my element right now.

Tobias (off camera): That's great.

Leslie: Dad is quite the outdoorsman, and um, the adventurer and we had a lot of adventures, and we had an amazing vacation in Africa, and we didn't do just your normal like little tourist trip, Dad wanted to do it like out of Africa kind of style like...

Narrator: Which for Shatner meant trying to get closer to wild animals than is considered altogether prudent.

Shater: I was challenging myself physically in a lot of ways and people who loved me were saying what are you doing why are you taking those risks, and I didn't really have an answer until later on it began to occur that maybe I was challenging my disappearing youthfulness to show myself that I was still there.

Narrator: And vital enough to perform his own stunts, even mountaineering in the Himalayas while starring in a 1990s mini-series. In that drama, Shatner was cast as an ecologist, which he considers himself to be off-camera as well.

Shatner: Most of mankind in the city, have lost contact with nature. Once we loose that contact we're dead. Because then nature becomes a servant to man, and it is not that, it is the exact opposite, we are in the service of nature.

Melanie: He will not rest until everything is fixed, y'know like every animal is in it's safe little place, and the planet is cleaned up, and y'know he's he's y'know done the last job that, that he could possibly think of doing.

30:07 time

Shatner: I have a house full of dogs and a farm full of horses, but that is only a link to the other animals, the deer, the elk and the bobcat and the raccoon at night, running along the road, so the horse is only a representative of all of nature.

Narrator: Shatner joins a group of fellow ecologists on a trip to Santa Cruz island on the California coast. Wildlife protection is one of several environmental and charitable causes Shatner champions through his celebrity. Today he has come to draw attention to the plight of wild horses, targeted for removal by the national park service.

Shatner: Hi everybody I'm William Shatner and I've just come back from Santa Cruz Island. I want to warn you, you people in this area you're about to loose a national treasure. There are wild horses there on Santa Cruz unique to this area, unique to the Western United States, there about to be taken off the island...

Narrator: In this instance, not even Captain Kirk can vanquish the National Park Service. The campaign to keep the horses on the Island ultimately fails.

Shatner: I have taken a baby horse out of it's mother's womb. I've been moved to tears, of I don't know what it is, I don't know why would cry at the Birth, perhaps the very thing I talk about, about the sadness and joy of life, that life is both tragic and joyful at the same time, and at any given moment you're riding the wave of one or the other, and even at this moment I'm torn between tears and laughter, because, because.

Narrator: There's a sentimental side to Shatner which is barely concealed, and it seems to have it's roots in a nagging fear of failure, an action hero, but a sensitive one.

Shatner: I, I've never felt that I made it like the phrase, made it. I've always felt that the next thing that comes up, will be making it, umm the next endeavour. The endeavors just keep getting larger y'know.

Welcome to the 8th Annual Hollywood Charity show.

The things I contribute my time and my money to are children and the environment, and animals.

Narrator: Since 1991, Shatner's annual Hollywood charity horse show has raised close to 1 Million dollars for children with disabilities. Recently, the horse show has also provided assistance to Native American causes.

Shatner: Thanks everybody. Thank you.

Commentator: The Annual Hollywood Charity Horse Show would like to welcome you all to a fantastic evening show...

Shatner: Everybody watching the programme, should write out a cheque, make it out to a charity of their choice, to give something, whether it's 50% of what you earn, 10%, or 1\$ to some cause that benefits somebody else other than yourself. My cheque would be to the children because the young of any species moves me. I've seen a child with no arms, and one leg, and she manipulated her environment with her toes, she held the reigns of a horse, while being balanced by two people, she drew me, I said draw me - she was an artist, said draw me a picture of the horse and what you think, she drew me a picture of the sun shining and everything was smiling, happiest child. I have the picture hanging on my wall. At my lowest moments I cry for the sadness of the world, I-I sometimes weeping at how sad, life and death can be, and then try to forget that, in living these moments, as fully as possible.

What do you want?

Child: Could you autograph this please?

Shatner: Of course I can. Would you give me your back to-to.

I have so many ideas and projects, I just want to keep evolving, moving them, I want to explore my life and loves, as fully and deeply as I can.

Nerine: (Indecipherable sentence)

(laughs) well I don't know about that.

35:00 Time

Narrator: Shatner married Nerine Kidd in the Autumn of 1997.

Shatner: I saw this beautiful woman across the room, one of those stories, and I was ending an unhappy marriage, and I saw this girl which really appealed to me, and umm i'd call her from time to time, and we gradually got better acquainted, and finally...

Nerine: through laughter, we never laughed so hard at anything, we always got each others humour.

Shatner: And we fell in love and it's been, the most remarkable experience, and the most remarkable relationship of my life, and umm I'm totally enthralled then, and more enthralled now.

Lisbeth: My Dad seems to have such a love of people and animals and his family, and so everything that he does, I feel like he wants to include everybody.

Narrator: Shatner remains close to his 3 daughters all from his first marriage, dinner with family and friends is a weekly fixture.

Nimoy: And he came out with a smirk on his face...

Shatner: Captain Smirk!

Off camera voice: Captain smirk!

Nimoy: That's right, Captain Smirk!

Shatner: (laughs)

Nimoy: There's that phrase that the press use, which is best known for, (laughs). Best known for his work in this, best known for her work in that, or best known as such and such a character, and that's going to happen to us there's no question about it. There's no changing that. We have both done an awful lot of work since Star Trek but I don't think Bill Shatner's going to be recorded as TJ Hooker, although the series went 5 years or something like that, it was very successful. I don't think he's going to be recalled as the theatrical, legitimate theatre person that he always has been, err, I don't think he's going to be recalled for the commercials that he done, or for the 911 or any of those things, he will always be best known as y'know, as I will be and I identify with that I think that's going to be the case. I think we have both come to accept it and understand it creates opportunities, it opens doors, and we walk through those doors and try to do other interesting work.

Narrator: Shatner has never slowed down, one of the founders of Toronto based C.O.R.E, a large Canadian special effects company, he supports talent and new ventures. Shatner has also collaborated on more than 20 books.

Geoff: He has managed to create a kind of mini-industry which he is the centre which includes books, television series, personal appearances, and a number of different things, and I think it's probably a sign of the way cult tv celebrity works. You can make a career out of just kind of being yourself and playing yourself for the rest of your life.

Shatner: I'm finishing up a book on which I've done an enormous amount of research on Star Trek conventions. Traditionally I've come in, I've done my hour on stage, a kind of spontaneous question and answer period and get out. And so I'm in and I'm out. And then the idea of doing a book occurred, and I began to examine the audience more closely, and in the process of examining the audience, I began to fall in love with the people who were

coming to the convention.

Klingon M fan: Yes as, as Klingons to deal with the earthlings it's very hard to do because they're not as honourable as we are.

Convention woman: Are you having a good time?

(off camera voice): Yes are you?

Convention woman: I'm having a wonderful time.

(off camera voice): What do you like about the...

Klingon Woman: I said as far as sexiness Kirk has got it, I'm sorry.

Shatner look alike: Oh he get's all the women. There's no question about it.

Narrator: There was a time where Shatner was less than enthralled with Trekkies, but his ambivalence about being a cult figure has softened over the years.

Shatner: There is so much love, and there is so much interest, and so much affection, so much history in these people that are coming to the convention, That I went from someone who was casually performing a job, to someone who is vitally interested, and really very conscious of the emotions involved in the convention.

Shatner: Okay. Here we are.

Narrator: This is the largest Star Trek convention of the year, it's the world cup for trekkies. It's called the Grand Slam, because for the first time ever, 4 captains from the Starship enterprise will appear in one place.

Stewart: It was during the early evening television hour that I first encountered Star Trek, and first saw this gentleman. Now I had a black and white television set because I couldn't afford a colour, Shakespearean actors, they don't get paid much.

Shatner: They don't, don't get paid.

Why did you go to the sea of cortez?

Mulgrew: Because the Barhar fascinates me, I wanted to see the whales and the sea, the sea lions and the sharks. The eared grebes, and the blue-footed boobys most importantly.

Shatner: The blue footed boobys, I mean those boobys are just the, when there,

Mulgrew: Blue-footed boobys ladies and gentlemen.

(Sounds of applause)

40:00 min

Fan: Thank you! (gasps)

Narrator: Shatner seems reluctant to relinquish centre stage to his Star Trek successors.

Shatner: Just trying to make things easy!

Stewart: Oh sure sure yes.

Shatner: Just trying to put things out right.

Stewart: You want to talk to me! You're over there... Hello. What's your name?

Female Fan: My name's (inaudible)

Stewart: Here we go.

Shatner: (inaudible) - I'm going to get a hug too! Come here sweetheart! Okay darling, ask me the question.

Alexander: Star Trek Fans are, there's there's an energy to them, that's a little frightening sometimes. And they are dramatic, and y'know some people think of Star Trek literally as a religious basis, that-that the principles that were, that were, being prophet in Star Trek are stuff to base a society on. And here's Jesus Christ for lack of a better analogy.

Young Female Fan: I-I haven't seen him very often at conventions and the opportunity to get his autograph is really exciting for me and to kind of meet him in person. I like his character.

Shatner: It's like the years have not gone by.

Male Fan: Thank you Mr. Shatner.

Shatner: Thank you, thank you you too,

I'm waiting for success and my ship to come down, I feel as though it's yet to happen. Don't you?

Mulgrew: What do you mean?

Shatner: I mean I don't feel as though, as though the important things have happened yet.

Mulgrew: Oh I think a very seminal and incredibly important thing has happened to you.

Shatner: What?

Mulgrew: You changed the course of the history of primetime television.

Shatner: Not really, I mean that's good for you to say and lovely of you to say but it's not really true.

Mulgrew: But it is true, isn't it true?

Off camera voice: Oh yes yes Maam it is.

Shatner: Well there's the authority, I'm wrong. (laughs)

Mulgrew: I understand what you mean as an actor.

Shatner: As a, as a per- human being.

Mulgrew: Certainly.

Shatner: And yet I look in the mirror and think something important is going to happen soon as it's not going to last that much longer.

Nimoy: He's perpetually in motion. There's always some place that he has to be. And-and if not he'll create a place that he has to go to. (mumbles) He fills time with energy and activity and erm, productivity.

Lisbeth: People ask me what he doing, I-how how can you possibly answer that question? (laughs). It is an impossible question to answer. Like he so y'know he's directing this and he's writing that and he's saving this, and he's y'know fixing that and y'know I mean building this house, that thing, I mean y'know he's involved in a million different things.

Shatner: I'm not leaving - consciously leaving a legacy, so much as I'm into absolute joy, orgasmic sometimes, joy of creativity.

Shatner: If it's something that I've experienced, it has to do with wanting to leave a mark. Wanting to- wanting to build up a body of work so that you can look back and say I used my life.

Musee Staff: ... roses are giving us the sense of growth with the rich colours that he's using to depict the leaves and the response of pink and red throughout... You see how he's simplifying the form, what's amazing here is the influence of Japanese art, Japanese prints, this one....

Shatner: the whole idea that Monet had, how exacting he was is about his palm and the cultivation of his flowers, in clearing the riverside, that I did, I did something of the same kind, I tried in my own simplistic way to make that area that was Indian and spiritual with a kind of reflect upon that was totally natural.

Well now I'm going down to the river and wash up, an ice cold run off from those snows up there, then err, grab a cup of coffee and err admire the er blade of grass, and then em, I'll er contemplate my big toe. It's going to be a very difficult morning.

45:13

On screen text:

**In Memory of
Nerine Kidd Shatner
(1959-1999)**