

celebrity q&a

BY JAY BOBBIN

Robert Hays

OF 'FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT' ON A&E NETWORK



Your movie role as substitute pilot Ted Striker in the classic comedy "Airplane!" would seem to make you a natural to tell air passengers' true stories as the host of "Fasten Your Seatbelt." How did you get the job?

(The producers) came to me about it, and as I thought about it, two of the dearest people I've met were ("Airplane!" co-stars) Peter Graves and Robert Stack. And both had hosted (reality) things; Peter did "Biography," which I used to love, and Bob did "Unsolved Mysteries." So, I thought this would be kind of like carrying on the tradition, and what better way to do it than with something that has to do with airplanes?

You're the son of a fighter pilot. Do you feel that connects to your "Airplane!" legacy?

Ah, my hero! He was the greatest guy. My parents were the most wonderful couple. My dad was a Marine who was in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, highly

decorated. He was 6'3", and my mom was a little 5'2" elf, and everybody loved her. That was like me and Donna (Pescow) on (the sitcom) "Angie," the height difference.

I grew up around air bases, seeing all the jet demonstration teams like the Blue Angels and the Thunderbirds. And Dad was a really great pilot, so I had it in my blood.

How have airline crew members been with you if they've recognized you aboard their flights?

It happened all the time in the years following the first showings (of "Airplane!"). I used to get invited up into the cockpit on international flights – you can't go in on U.S. flights, so as soon as we'd take off or land, they'd want me to come up and take pictures with them – but on the international flights, they'd have me come up and sit there for hours, just asking me things and showing me all this stuff. It was great fun.



triviaquiz BY JOHN CROOK

Secret identity

Questions:

- 1) In a popular 1976-79 TV series, Lynda Carter starred as Diana Prince, the secret identity of what formidable superheroine?
- 2) What Emmy-winning star of stage and TV once played Carter Nash, a mild-mannered police department chemist who could secretly transform himself into a crime fighter known as "Captain Nice"?
- 3) In a popular British adventure series called "Robin of Sherwood," Michael Praed starred as young Robin of Locksley, the alter ego of what medieval adventurer?
- 4) In "The Greatest American Hero," Ralph Hinkley concealed his secret identity as a superhero by working in what occupation?

- Answers:**
- 1) "Wonder Woman"
 - 2) William Daniels ("St. Elsewhere")
 - 3) Robin Hood
 - 4) High school teacher

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