



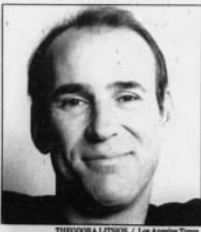
**F2** SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1989 \* LOS ANGELES TIMES



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**Faces...**

**An Unharried Harry**

I don't know what comeback means," says Deborah Harry, who next week makes her first local appearances since her band, Blondie, one of the most successful groups from the punk/new wave revolution of the late '70s, broke up in 1982.

"I'm't a comeback when somebody has retired and comes back?" the New York-based singer said. "I guess you could say that this is sort of like Groundhog Day—a re-emergence. The hibernation is over. I'm shedding my skin."

Cool, with a slightly self-mocking sense of street-wise irony, the tough yet vulnerable Harry was an instant pop archetype: the bottle-blonde bridge between Monroe and Madonna.

Harry's sporadic solo career has included two albums of little impact, as well as some acting endeavors. Now she has returned with "Def, Dumb and Blonde," an album that captures the strengths of prime Blondie while placing them in a modern context.

"It's hard for me to say what the difference is between me and Blondie," said Harry, who plays the Country Club on Monday, the Roxy on Tuesday through Thursday and the Coach House on Oct. 29. "I'm Blondie, Blondie is me... I think that girlish character that Blondie was, the kind of spirit she had, and the kind of time period that she was representative of, is still a part of me. That's why I'm happy to perform old songs."

"And now I think there's a re-emergence of that blond tradition, which is definitely a part of me. I think that perhaps I can go further. I can do a lot more. I'm older, I look at things differently. I'm not forced to curtail certain feminine aspects of my personality because I represent four or five guys. I have women in the band now. That's great. It's more of a balance, it's like music now, it's not so much an attitude situation." —CRAIG LEE

**A Son's 'Mission' Too**

Phil Morris says he did not spend his boyhood days dreaming of following in his father's acting footsteps. But Morris, who plays the new "Mission Impossible" Grant Collier (son of original "Mission Impossible" character Barney Collier, who was played by Morris' dad, Greg Morris), now calls it "an honor... to resurrect this mark that my father has left." (The show began its second season on ABC Thursday.)

"I feel like I've been doing homework for 15 to 20 years," said the younger Morris, who was 7 when his father began work on the original series, which ran from 1966-73. "My character's a lot more intelligent than I ever hoped to be, but, really, I feel that I'm just imitating true life."

Although Morris grew up accompanying his father on the set and even made a boyhood appearance on the original "Star Trek" series, he said he rebelled against the expectation that he, too, would become an actor. He was more interested in athletics and art and studied automotive design. But the acting bug finally hit him when he was about 17.

"My father was doing a film... called 'Com-Tac 303.'" Morris said. "I had a glorified extra role. Then one day my father fell down a flight of stairs and they couldn't hold up the [movie's] production, so they asked me to undertake the role."

Now 30, Morris calls his "Mission Impossible" role (he plays the Impossible Missions Force's computer and laser expert) "an ultimate adventure."

"There's so much that I want to do as Grant Collier," said Morris, shortly before leaving for Australia to begin filming. "I want to cause audience members to think again, (teach us) to use our minds instead of just being couch potatoes."

Morris hopes to do this, he said, by focusing on the international aspects of the show and using the public's interest in covert operations, peaked by the Iran-Contra scandal, to make them think about what affects the world today.

—SHAUNA SNOW

**Playing the Bad Guy**

John M. Jackson plays a lot of bad guys. In "The Voice of the Prairie" (Back Alley, 1989), he savagely beat his blind daughter. In the just-wrapped Disney TV-movie "Parent Trap Vacation," he is a shady real estate agent. In the recent film "Ginger Ale Afternoon," he was a grouchy, philandering father-to-be. In last season's "Wiseguy," he was a whacked-out OCB agent who—caught making obscene phone calls on government lines—exacted revenge on Ken Wahl, tapping into a computer file and having him committed to a psycho ward.

"But I've also played a lot of cops and detectives," says the actor, 38. In his current role, Jackson walks the good-bad line, playing an FBI agent working a sting operation in Matthew Witten's "The Deal" (at the Back Alley to Oct. 29).

"I enjoy bad guys, because writers seem to enjoy writing them. But this guy means well. He's pushed himself into a situation he can't control, a trap he sets for himself. I think you could apply the same story to any business—take it out of the context of the FBI and into the human condition."

The Louisiana-born, Texas-raised actor is also proud of a stage role he originated last year at the Cast in Gina Wenskoski's "Ginger Ale Afternoon," playing opposite a then-very-pregnant Dana Andersen.

"Personally I thought it was better as a play," he says of the well-received film version. "But actors always prefer stage. It's just the nature of the beast. You get to go all the way through. There's a whole rhythm and movement to it." Granted, "Ginger Ale" was not a typical movie shoot. "It was a crazy situation," says Jackson, who is now appearing in "Cold Sassy Tree" on TNT cable. "I think we actually shot on Dana's due-date. I never knew if we were going to finish the film."

—JANICE ARKATOV