

THE BIG ALF QUIZ + ALF DRINKING GAME + NEW ALF MERCHANDISE + MORE

THE NEW

22nd SEPTEMBER 2021

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# EXTRATERRESTRIAL TIMES

35

SPECIAL 35th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



NO PROBLEM!

# ALF<sup>®</sup>

# 35<sup>th</sup>

ANNIVERSARY



THE BIG ALF  
MUSIC QUIZ



PAUL FUSCO  
Q&A

35th  
ANNIVERSARY  
BUMPER  
ISSUE!



**The Official Newsletter of the ALF Websites!**

Welcome to what must be the only once a decade newsletter around! Brought to you by the fans of ALFtv, Bring Back ALF and ALF Wiki we have teamed up to bring you some great Memacian fun.

Hard to believe it's been 35 years since Willie said those immortal words "We have a visitor" ALF has touched our lives in so many ways and continues to give us joy and be an influence around the world today and its such a treat when we see him again.

In this bumper issue you will find an exclusive Q&A with Paul Fusco answering some all important fan questions. We also hear from Linda Fusco about what it was like to be a technical director on the show and we have a great interview with "Alfmeister" Thomas Cannovo who must have the biggest ALF



collection around with a whopping 3100 items!  
 We hope you enjoy this celebration issue.  
 See you in a decade! Ha!  
 Ed

# ALF Drinking Game

ALF fan Jasonh277 on Instagram used to watch ALF when it aired on the Hub back in 2013.

He created this ALF drinking game, handy to play at different times of the year!

The rules are, drink the wine or beer (Non-alcoholic drink is also no problem too!) if:

- ALF says "No problem"
- ALF gets on Willie's nerves
- ALF gives his trademark laugh
- A character on the show says "ALF, go into the kitchen"



## WARNING – FOR EXTREME ALF FANS ONLY!

Yo! Sam Stokes here from the ALFWiki (alf.fandom.com). We have all kinds of information on ALF on the Wiki.

Best part of all – it's all fan made, and you can contribute to it! Today we're going to test your knowledge of ALF music. Get your thinking caps and tuning forks ready, because here we go!

1. Who is the composer of the ALF theme song? (Hint: his first name is the same as the title of the show!)
2. In the episode, "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue?", Lynn's boyfriend Scott renamed his band from "G-men" to what?
3. For Brian's school play "The Nutrition Follies," Brian and his classmate Spencer sing a duo in honor of what vegetable?
4. When ALF plays and sings "Parasite Hotel," what does he claim is missing from the piano, which makes it more difficult to play?
5. Once after a feeding frenzy, ALF sings what Bob Seger classic song into a cucumber?
6. What bouillabaisse-inspired song came on an audio record along with an ALF doll wearing a Melmac Orbiters jersey in a Burger King promotion in the 1980s?
7. In the episode "Looking for Lucky," what college fight song does ALF sing when he is riling up the dogs in the pound before making his escape?
8. When ALF is training to be a minister, he sings "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like..." who?
9. At the Ochmonek Thanksgiving dinner, what is the name of the song that Trevor and Raquel sing from Wagner Strauss's Der Feaster Famine?
10. What 2009 Eminem song references a "pink ALF shirt" in the lyrics?



Check your answers below to see how you measure up...

- 0 – Yo! You need to start streaming the show ASAP!
- 1-3 – Adequate, like a piano without the red keys.
- 4-6 – You're very euphonious, like the key of E flat.
- 7-9 – You're De-Lovely!
- 10 – True Melmacian in every way (if your fur isn't the shade of burnt sienna, it probably will be soon!)



- Answers
1. Alf Clausen
  2. Doors
  3. Asparagus
  4. The red keys
  5. "Old Time Rock and Roll"
  6. "Take Me ALF to the Ballgame"
  7. "On Wisconsin"
  8. Kate
  9. "Das Cornucopia"
  10. "We Made You"





# EXCLUSIVE! PAUL FUSCO Q&A

Once again, we were very lucky to have Paul Fusco answer our fan questions and there were a lot of questions. We have printed the best below. Hope you enjoy reading these.

Thank you Paul, it's much appreciated by us Melmecian fans.

**1) Does Alien Productions have a master list of all authorized merchandise? (Tom Cannavo)**

The closest thing would be a master list of all the official licensees who manufactured merchandise authorized by Alien productions. Unfortunately, over the years there were illegal bootlegged infringements of various products that would not be included.

**2) How much ad libbing was done on set?**

Much of the ad libbing was done in rehearsal and then incorporated into the final script—although when it came time to be on camera, ALF was very unpredictable. There were many times he would go off the page and it stayed in the show.

**3) Outside of your professional career, what other interests do you have?**

I enjoy photography and have taken up golf (much to my frustration).

**4) Do you still have frequent contact with anyone from the show?**

I spoke to Max about a year before he passed. There are a few crew and production staff people I still correspond with.

**5) What's your favorite ALF line/quote?**

Hard to pick just one. Although ALF's simple quote for success comes to mind: "Find out what you don't do well—then DON'T do it". Words to live by in my opinion.

**6) What are ALF's future plans? Any plans in the works? (Dann Dare)**  
There continue to be talks of making a comeback. ALF still has much to say. Will keep u posted..

**7) What was the original inspiration for ALF? (Connor\_trollope2004)**

The character was intended to be part of an outer space TV special I was once trying to sell to SHOWTIME.

**8) Did ALF have any redesigns before the final design or ALF? (Officialericcrooks)**

There were some changes to his eyes, hair and fur type.

**9) Did Jim Henson watch the show? (Officialericcrooks)**

YES! And he was a big fan. I was fortunate to get to know Jim a few years before he died. He always gave me credit for being the first to bring a puppet star character to network prime time.

**10) How would you best define ALF's personality? (Matt Joss)**

Sassy yet innocent. A bit of a con artist and a know-it-all. Observations (although sometimes not always the most appropriate) were usually based in truth and from the simple fact that he didn't know better. (He's an ALIEN! Cut him some slack) It could be described as a childlike innocence... or maybe someone with Tourette syndrome.

**11) What is the most satisfying thing about creating ALF? (Emil Dameff)**

To witness and experience the joy and pleasure he has given to millions of fans across the globe. It has been rewarding and humbling.

**12) Are there other Melmec survivors besides ALF, Skip and Rhonda? (Sarah Swendsen)**

Seems there are a number of surviving Melmecians. Many were vacationing or for some reason away from their homes when the planet went Ka-blooy. Don't know where or when they might show up.

**13) Were any other actors approached to become the Tanner family before the ones we are familiar with? (Wooky Wonga)**

Many had read for the parts of Kate, Brian and Lynn — but Max Wright was always first choice. Tom Patchett worked with him on another show and knew from the start that he would be perfect.

**14) Is there an ALF museum? With props and stuff? (Chinamiguez)**

Not yet.

**15) If ALF had been renewed for a fifth season, what storylines would you have liked to explore and how would you structure both seasons? (Jasonh277)**

Season 5 and beyond would have seen ALF in a military environment under government protection. It would have opened up a whole new cast of characters for him to play off of. The Tanners would still have been involved in his life. The ABC TV movie "Project ALF" was a template for what the new show would have been.

**16) Were any scripts produced for a Season 5 of ALF and do you still have them? (Mrgustavomcxh)**

No scripts produced.

**17) Was it ever considered to have the Tanners in Project ALF? (Pazdinho)**

They were initially included but eventually decided that ALF should fly solo without the family for this new adventure. We wanted to expose him

to various characters in a variety of different settings.

**18) Whose idea was it to incorporate some of the production team's names into the show. Like the blood-sucking "Jaffees"? (Sam Martin)**

It might be something I instigated. I was also responsible that the title of each episode was named after a song.

**19) How do you remember the great Max Wright? (Fernandoevelazco)**

A complex and intelligent man and a gifted, talented actor. I miss working with him.

**20) What's your favorite episode of ALF? How do you think the show holds up today? (stevencleeposts)**

I have favorite "bits" and scenes from the various episodes but not one single favorite. Generally I think the shows hold up pretty well. We did a Donald Trump joke in one show that is still current today.

**21) If ALF is part of the Marvel universe, how do you feel about a cameo in one of their films like Guardians of the Galaxy part 3? (Mark Witherspoon)**

He'd be perfect for it. Certainly better than a raccoon.

**22) Will Space Cats get a DVD release? (Steve Raineault)**

No plans as of yet. Thanks for asking.

**23) I really want to know is when ALF going to get a Funko pop figure? I mean those are his eyes! He'd be perfect! HA!!!**

Funko did a few ALF related products including an ALF Bobble-head.



**Q:** What's the toughest part of becoming 230 years old?

**ALF:** 46 years of puberty.

**ALF**  
alien productions  
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# An Interview with Thomas Cannavo ("Alfmeister")

By: Jeremiah Eis

If you travel to the east coast, the first stop for any "ALFanatic" should be to visit the collection of Thomas Cannavo. A retired prosecutor from New Jersey, and current attorney, Tom began his collection career when he was 8-years-old. It began with simple baseball card & coin collecting, developed into Homer Simpson and Star Trek memorabilia, and ultimately evolved from a hobby into a lifestyle.

At the age of 26, Tom discovered a new sitcom that would quickly make his list of favorites, ALF. It wasn't long before his work friends were gifting him merchandise, and a new collection was born. Collecting from places such as eBay, flea markets, and toy shows, Tom currently owns over 3100 different items; many being rare (or even one-of-a-kind). He also considers himself a "completist," as he likes to own entire sets.

When questioned on which collectibles were his favorite, Tom referenced his Alan Iverson plush doll with the number "3" on the jersey. These seven-inch plushes were a promotion at the Philadelphia 76ers game in 2002 with the number "1" on them. This special one with Iverson's real number was made to sell for charity, and he obtained it. He also has the six Coleco figures unpainted, known as "first shots," obtained from the artist who sculpted them. Two rare press kits also accompany his collection; one being a 3D pop-up press kit, and the second a large plastic large spaceship sent to TV stations



from Warner Brothers (approximately four known to exist). Lastly, a Spanish-speaking Wisecracking ALF that was sent to a U.S. store by mistake.

Tom owns collectibles from over 25 countries, and is particularly fond of German collectibles. When asked which items he does not own, Tom mentioned the wading pool made by Coleco, and two rare ALF board games. In regards to new memorabilia, he would like to see a Pez dispenser, Hallmark ornament, and LEGO playset. Perhaps his biggest regret as a collector was passing on a wax sculpture of ALF that was being sold by a museum (yielding a hefty \$2000 price tag).

Tom estimates having spent in the ballpark of \$150,000 on his collection, which takes up two large rooms (without everything being on full display). A family man, Tom mentioned that his family may think he is "crazy," but that they might secretly be "closet ALFmeisters!" On a positive note, Tom's collecting has become less expensive over the years, as there is little left he does not own.



After the sitcom ended, it is important to note Tom's involvement in the ALFmeisters Fan Club, and producing the four newsletters from 1995-97. He coined the name and has been Alfmeister on eBay since 1998. His partners included Scott Brodnax, Val Bendel, and Darlene Klueg. Ron Holmes assisted with artwork, and others also contributed. Darlene, who has since passed away, once appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show to talk about her collection, and Scott was once on a show called Super Collectors. Tom eventually purchased Scott's collection.

On Tom's bucket list of things he would like to see going forward include an ALF convention including remaining cast members, and having Paul & Linda Fusco visit his collection... along with the little furry alien! If you get to the New Jersey area, make time to visit what we believe to be the largest and most comprehensive ALF collection on planet Earth. Tom's knowledge of ALF memorabilia is unmatched! Contact Tom Email: [tntvg@aol.com](mailto:tntvg@aol.com)





# Linda Fusco Q&A



# Catch him if you can!



Don't you love it when ALF turns up in one of your favourite shows?

There has been a surprising amount of cameo appearances by our favourite alien over the last few years. Even Paul Fusco said "You never know where he is going to show up!"

Below are just some of them, did you catch them?

**Do Paul and ALF have any traits in common? (HA!) Does ALF bother you at home?**

*Oh boy, do they. I think Paul has more of ALF's traits. So many times during the day I find Paul commenting on things in the news that are definitely coming from the perspective of a Melmacian.*

**Being the Technical Director of the show, what did that all entail?**

*My job was to watch all the rehearsals and then plan movement spaces (also known as trenches) where ALF would be placed or moving. I worked with the construction crew on this. Also, during taping days, I worked with the video crew to place viewing monitors for Paul so he could see the camera angles and also see the line cut. That is, the way the director was cutting between cameras. This was important for Paul. It helped him be in the right position with ALF for the best possible camera angle. After all, the star does need to look his best. My job also entailed watching all four camera feeds on the day of taping. I would look for arm extensions or heads.*

**What did an average day and week look like when the show was in production?**

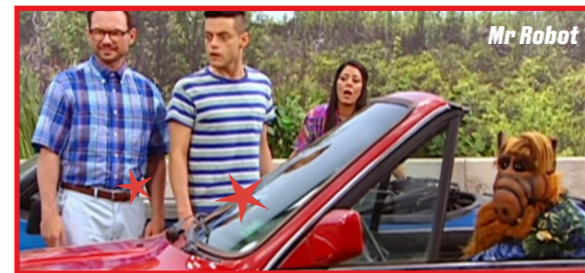
*We arrived each morning at 8am, Monday through Friday and worked until the day was done. Wednesday was a long day for me because after the final rehearsal I planned out the trenches with the construction crew. That usually lasted a few more hours. Thursday and Friday were shooting days and they were long for ALF. There were many times we didn't get done until after 11pm.*

**What's your favorite item of ALF merchandise?**

*My favorite item is ALL OF IT. I think the authorized merchandise is great, but if I had to pick one, it would be the Burger King Chef hand puppet.*

**What have you been up to since the show wrapped up?**

*I have worked on almost every project that Paul has done since ALF. Since we had our son I have been happily busy being a mother. I also enjoy writing poetry and short stories. I love doing artwork with our son and have attempted some of my own.*





# Speedrunning A.L.F. on the S.M.S.

By Samuel Stokes

35 years after the premiere of the TV show and nearly 31 years since the release of the video game for the Sega Master System, ALF has shown a renewed interest in a somewhat unexpected place – the speedrunning community.

Speedrunning is a type of competitive video gaming, in which the goal is to complete a game as quickly as possible. Sometimes this includes exploiting glitches, or taking certain actions that affect the RNG (random number generator), which therefore make the run more predictable, but the rules on what glitches and RNG manipulations are allowed varies from game to game.

I have personally always been fascinated with speedrunning, and when I was a kid, I used to try to impress my friends by speedrunning Super Mario Bros. 3. I was able to beat the game in under 17 minutes and I was pretty impressed with myself, until I saw the record boards on speedrun.com. The current record for beating SMB3 without the “wrong warp” glitch is 10 minutes 44.066 seconds.

About a year ago, the thought occurred to me to finally try to beat ALF on the Sega Master System. The main problem, however, is that it’s hard. I mean REALLY hard! For those that aren’t familiar with the game, let me take a moment to summarize. You play ALF, and the first objective is to take a



stick of salami out of the refrigerator. You proceed into the Tanner’s basement, which is inexplicably attached to a vast underground cave system. You then use the salami to beat down numerous bats (hard to believe, I know – maybe this is a really common thing to do on Melmac?). ALF must collect certain items from the cave and also from swimming in the lake in the Tanner’s backyard (perhaps an extension of the lagoon ALF tried to build on the show) to fix his space scooter and fly to the moon in order to repair his spaceship. There are many dangers along the way, such as alien task force agents with grabby hands, catfish (like actual mutant cat/fish hybrids), scuba divers with harpoons, jet planes, meteors, UFOs, and really discourteous boys riding bikes.

It’s a rather odd game, really. It has little to do with the story of ALF from the TV show, and the controls are counterintuitive and therefore difficult. But this makes little difference to the speedrunning community. Being able to work around all of the inherent difficulties and record a winning time is what speedrunners live for. Personally, I was just thrilled to finally beat the game for the first time! I completed the game in 9 minutes and 54 seconds. The record: darbian in less than half that time with 4 minutes and 50 seconds.

The speedrunner “darbian,” from Virginia, is a popular and successful runner, who has 1st place records for Air Fortress, Dennis the Menace, and ALF, has many 2nd and 3rd place records, and is high up on the very competitive leader boards for Super Mario Bros. 1, 2, and 3. Darbian originally achieved the 1st place record on ALF on June 27, 2020 with a time of 5 minutes and 2 seconds in the Any% category, where the only rule is to beat the game as quickly as possible. He improved that record four more times until he reached the current record of 4 minutes and 50 seconds on August 3, 2021.

For anyone out there that would like to get into speedrunning, I would recommend starting with the Book%, where you simply go for the alternate ending in which ALF buys a book from the store where it tells the story of ALF and how he sold his story to Sega (one of the only examples of truly ALF-like humor in the game), and then the game abruptly ends. It’s a short speedrun and not too difficult to learn. I personally scored 1 minute and 45.167 seconds for 3rd place, whereas first place is TascoDLX with 1 minute 44.354 seconds. If you are, on the other hand, a very serious speedrunner, try the Any% Deathless category. In the Any% record, players used “death warps” to complete the game considerably faster.

This involves intentionally dying after retrieving a necessary item, in order to transport directly back to the beginning of the stage at the beginning of the next life, eliminating a lot of tedious backtracking. To complete the game without any death warps is longer and much more difficult.

Proceed with caution, and don’t forget to arm yourself with a salami wherever you go. It’s a great weapon against bats, and if you get hungry, it’s a really handy snack! Ha!





# New ALF Merchandise, Coming Soon!



Just in time for ALF's 35th anniversary comes some new merchandise and it's out of this world!

Big Bad Toy Store has pre orders for the following:

ALF HugMe Plush Hand Puppet \$34.99

ALF Phunny 8inch Plush \$12.99

ALF HugMe 16inch Plush \$34.99

and lets not forget the adorable ALF Chia Pet \$19.99



**BIGBADTOYSTORE**  
Action Figures, Statues, Collectibles, and More!



# ALF News

## ALF FUNKO?

In a recent poll on Instagram's Bring Back ALF page the No.1 most wanted ALF merchandise item was an ALF Funk Pop! Love them or hate them these little wonders have produced so many pop culture characters over the years.

Can ALF be next?

Here is a mock up produced by the talented guys at Cinema Pop of what that could look like.



## THE ALL NEW ALF WORDSEARCH!



- FUSCO
- KATE
- KITCHEN
- SHUMWAY
- BRIAN
- GILLIGAN
- GORDON
- LUCKY
- LARRY
- MELMAC
- LYNN
- ERIC
- ALIEN
- LIFE
- RALPH
- SKIP
- WILLIE
- JODY
- RHONDA





Some of the amazing team that brought ALF to life. See if you can spot Paul Fusco, ALF and the Tanners!

**For more information on ALF, check out these great sites**

**alftv.com**

**alf.fandom.com**

**Instagram: BringBackALF**

**Facebook: Gordon "ALF" Shumway**



This Extraterrestrial Times Issue has been brought to you by ALF fans for ALF fans.

This would not have been possible without the generous help of Jeremiah Eis and Sam Stokes and very special thanks to Paul Fusco.

Designed by Mark Witherspoon.

# ALF

**Gordon Shumway will return...**

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