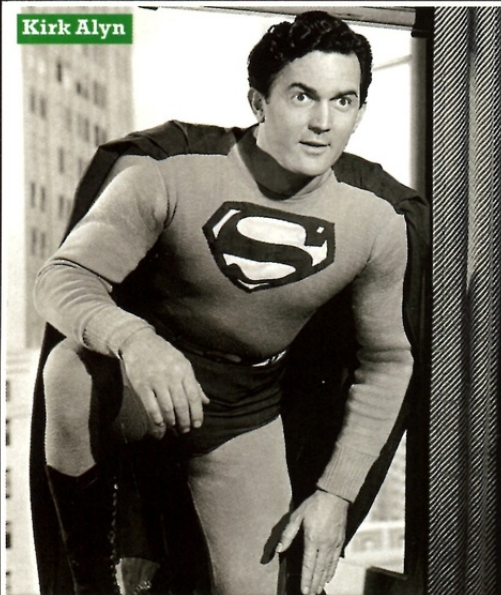
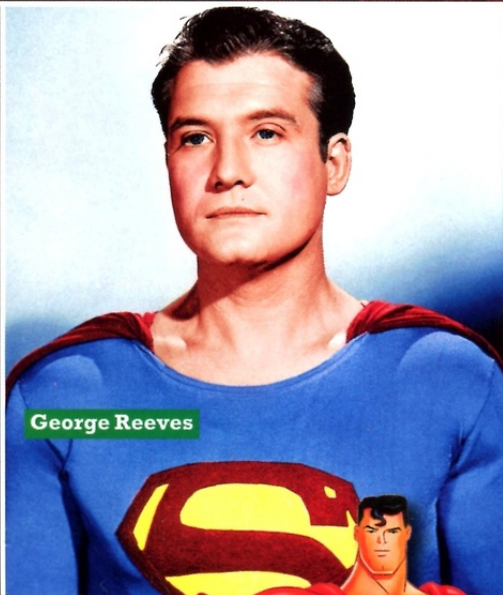


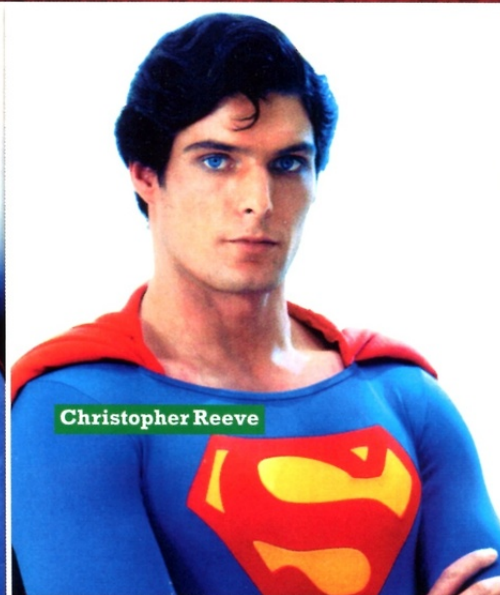
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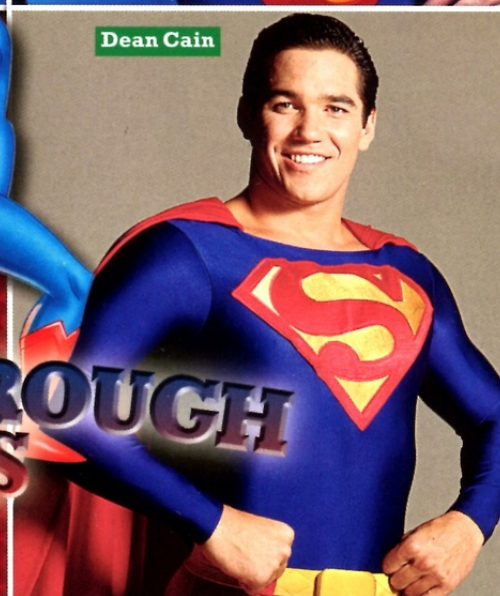
George Reeves



Christopher Reeve



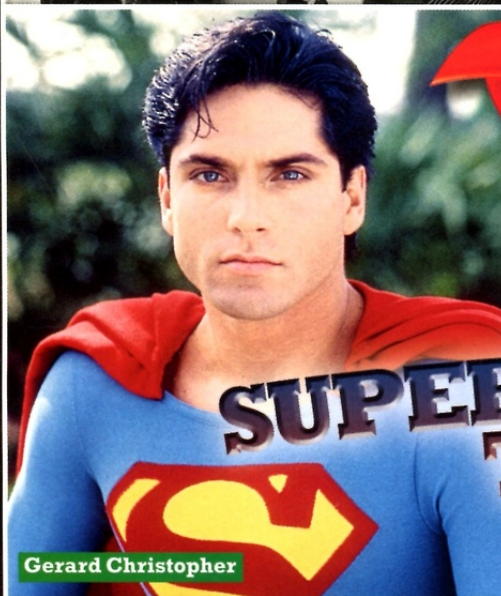
Dean Cain



Superman: The Animated Series

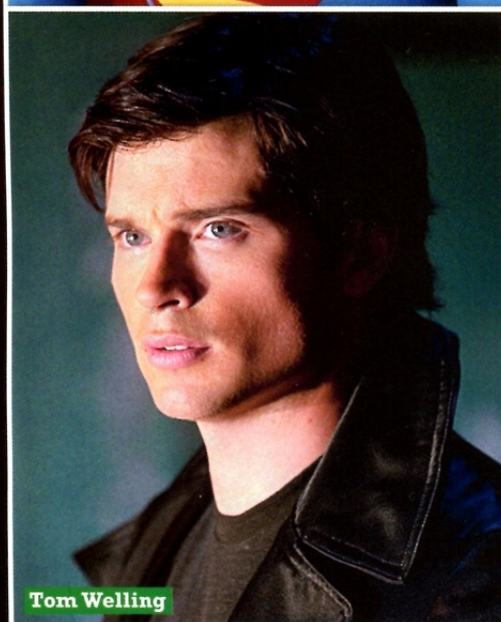


Gerard Christopher

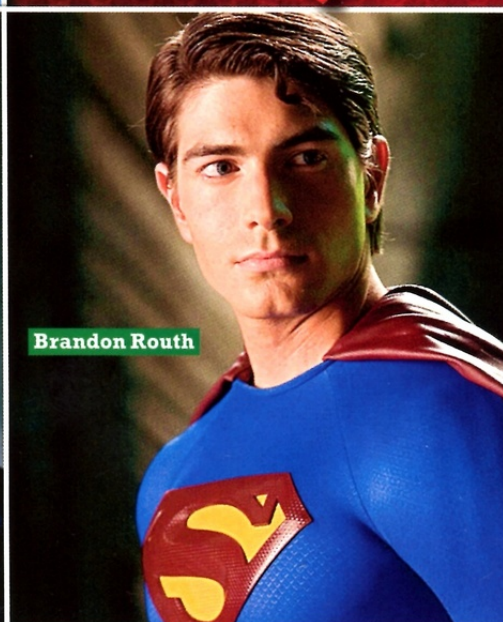


# SUPERMAN THROUGH THE YEARS

Tom Welling



Brandon Routh



Henry Cavill





# THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY

100 episodes of this syndicated television series chronicled the adventures of Superman when he was still a teen

**NAME:** *The Adventures Of Superboy*

**MEDIUM:** Television

**AIRDATES:** 1988-1992

**CAST:** Superboy/Clark Kent (John Haymes Newton, Season One; Gerard Christopher, Seasons Two-Four), Lana Lang (Stacy Haiduk), Lex Luthor (Scott Wells, Season One; Sherman Howard, Seasons 2-4)

**HISTORY:** Airing in syndication, the series (which was produced by Ilya Sal-kind, who produced the first three Christopher Reeve Superman films) originally starred John Haymes Newton in the dual roles of Superboy and Clark Kent, though with season two he was replaced by Gerard Christopher. The show had the Boy Of Steel interacting with Lana Lang as they worked for the school paper at Shuster University. Beginning in season three they would switch over to The Bureau For Extra-Normal Matters, a government agency investigating paranormal events. While the first half of the show's first season was decidedly real world-based in terms of storylines and settings, beginning with the second half and carrying through the end of its run was much more of an embracing of the character's comic book mythology.



John Haymes Newton's one season as Superboy was marred by subpar scripts and fairly atrocious production values. Added to that, he also simply did not want to play the dual role of Clark Kent in the way that Christopher Reeve had, which the producers wanted him to do.

## PRODUCTION NOTES:

In an interview with the Superman Homepage.com, John Haymes Newton said of being cast, "I was visiting the film studios in Wilmington, NC on vacation with my family and [casting director] Lynn Stalmaster happened to be in town auditioning locals for small parts in *Weekend At Bernie's*. Having just completed my two-year acting program in NYC, I was allowed to return the next day and audition. After my reading he asked me if I was interested in doing a TV series. I was flown to Florida to screentest the following weekend. [Upon being cast] it all felt like some dream. I remember being disappointed that they weren't calling it *The Adventures Of Young Superman* or something instead of *Superboy*, which seemed to have less credence somehow."

In terms of his approach to the character, he most definitely wanted to stay away from Christopher Reeve's type of portrayal. "I had my own anti-Chris Reeve thing going on," he explained, "which, looking back on it all, I feel like I overdid it. I wish I had made Clark more 'insecure' instead of 'not-nerdy.' I also realized about halfway through that one of the things that makes Superman powerful isn't acting power-



ful as much as how everyone around him reacts to his presence. I mean, I would fly in to a scene and the extras would have absolutely no reaction sometimes."

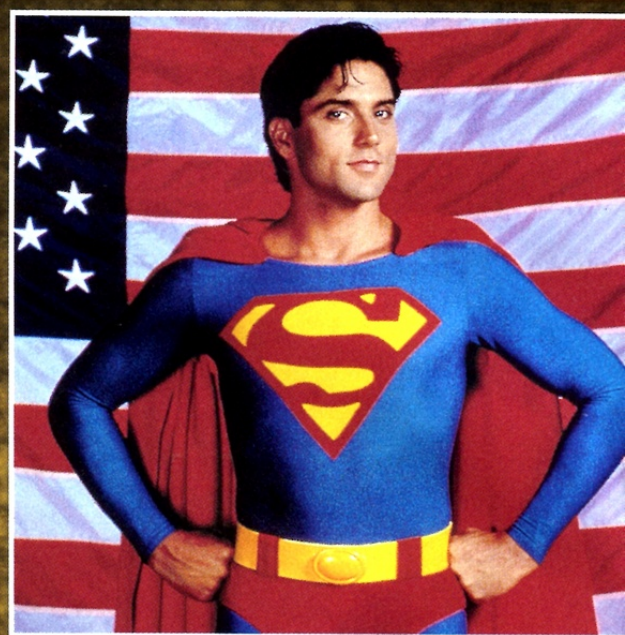
As noted above, Newton left the show after the first season, which, he said, was his decision. "The producers asked me back repeatedly," he said. "I asked for a small raise (20%) due to the amount of dangerous stunts I was performing as well as two serious accidents that happened. The raise offer was retracted because they claimed an illegally issued traffic citation I received while on private property made the character look bad, etc. To make a long story short, if I could, I would go back and do things differently. I can't."

In season two, Newton was replaced by Gerard Christopher, who not only looked more the part, but fully embraced the significance of playing an incarnation of Superman.

"I grew up with Superman and he's a real slice of American culture," Christopher enthuses. "When I was a child, George Reeves was the Superman I saw first. My upbringing was similar to most people; my mother told me I used to put a towel around my neck and jump off the roof of the garage when I was kid. When I got the role of Superboy, I was pretty numbed by it. It's not like doing any other characters. Roles come and go, but Superman is something that will always linger with me.

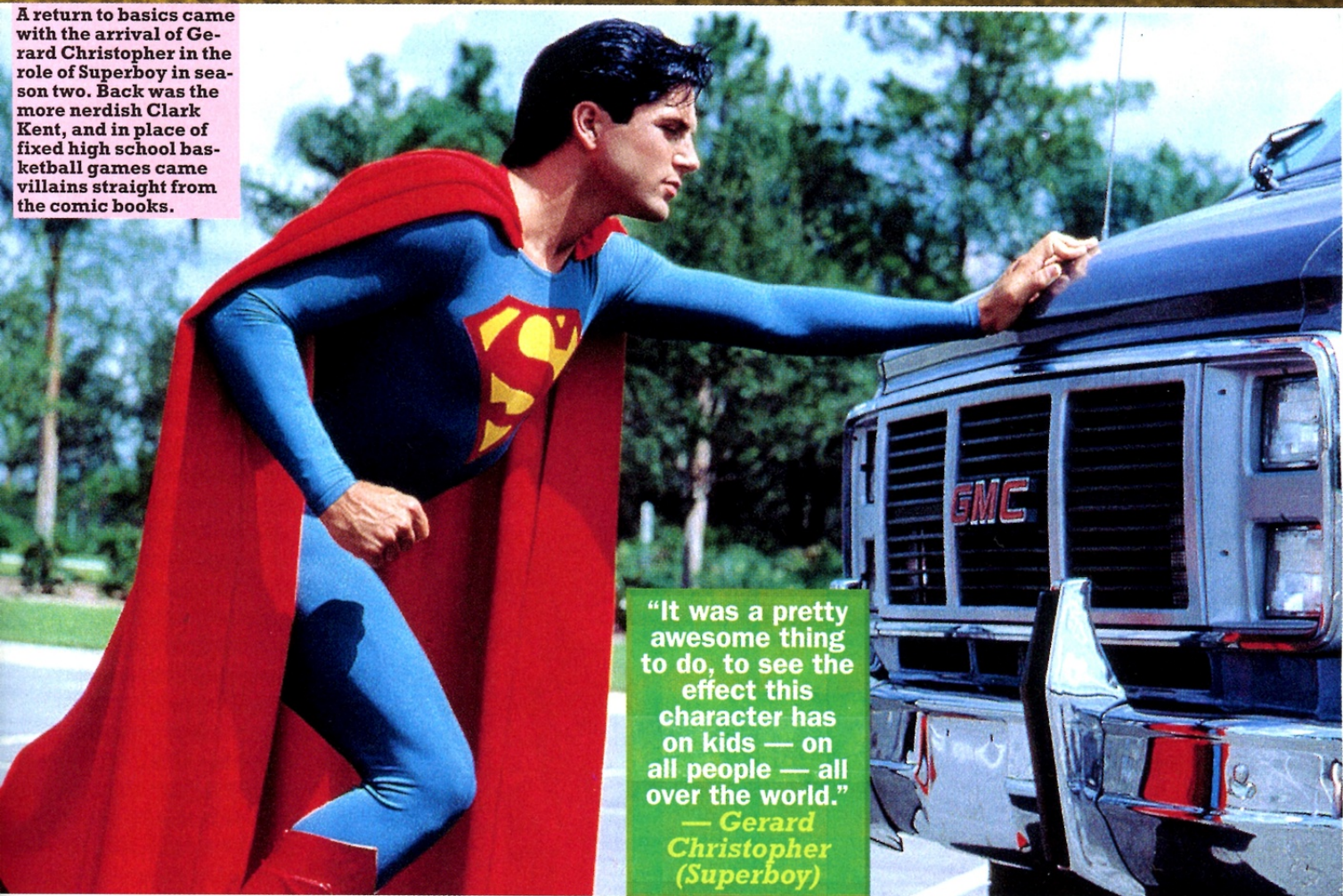
"It was a pretty awesome

thing to do," he continues, "to see the effect this character has on kids — on all people — all over the world. It was a little bit scary, but a lot of fun. I got a lot of participation from fans who sent me the most unbelievable letters and were incredibly knowledgeable about the history of Superman. They told me some of the most obscure things that were just amazing. And it turned into a great experience; one that I couldn't have imagined when I started out. It was pretty



daunting, just to fit in some way into the whole mold of what's been created in the Superman legend. It was amazing — a fantastic experience." **LS**

A return to basics came with the arrival of Gerard Christopher in the role of Superboy in season two. Back was the more nerdy Clark Kent, and in place of fixed high school basketball games came villains straight from the comic books.



"It was a pretty awesome thing to do, to see the effect this character has on kids — on all people — all over the world."

— Gerard Christopher (Superboy)