

Those who know me well know that I'm an extreme "Little House on the Prairie" fan. I adore the books, I love the TV series (up until season five) and I belong to an exclusive online group of "Little House" fans on the Internet.

We call ourselves The Jezebels.

The Jezebels were born from a group of extremely funny and sometimes very naughty "prairie people" on the site televisionwithoutpity.

com. The posters on the forum wrote songs about the show, often parodies of popular songs. One day was devoted to rewriting commercial jingles and replacing the product name with one-time "Little House" guest star Ernest Borgnine (Sample:"It's Shake n'Borgnine and we haylped!").

Of course, there are also discussions about the show itself.

Posters like to point out the many episodes that are devoted to characters that are never seen or heard from again, such as stuttering Anna, limping Olga, dumb Elmer, fat Elmer, dumb Abel and future Jesse James assassin Robert Ford.

Eventually, one member of TWoP founded a separate site called "The Stagecoach to Hell." The members are called Jezebels in honor of Mary Ingalls, who was damned to hell by a religious zealot for rebuffing the advances of a besotted would-be suitor.

"Jezebel!" the woman cried.

"Flaunting your flesh in temptation's raiment! You will burn!" Not too long ago once of my "Prairie" pals posted that Alison Arngrim, who played the iconic "Little House" villainess Nellie Oleson with such great aplomb, would be making an appearance at the Laurie Beechman Theatre in New York City. This past Saturday night, I had the privilege of being in Times Square with three other Jezebels in a packed house of fans to take in Arngrim's one-woman show, which is based on her 2010 memoir, "Confessions of a Prairie Bitch." Before the show, index cards were handed out to the patrons. Arngrim answers fan questions during her shows.

When one of my fellow Jezebels was too shy to ask Arngrim anything, she let me ask something for her.

Arngrim's show began at 7:30 p.m. and for nearly three hours she kept the packed house entertained with her hilarious take on her days on the "Little House" set. Often her commentary was interrupted or enhanced by clips from the show. She nearly brought the audience to its feet when she appeared in an old-fashioned wheelchair, white flannel nightgown and nightcap. Nellie Oleson pretended to be paralyzed after Laura's horse threw her and the crowd erupted in cheers when she recreated her faux-crippled character on stage.

She spoke at length about Michael Landon, who was the executive producer and often director of "Little House." He would appear on the set at 5 a.m., wearing shirts to expose his manly chest. Landon was often drunk or at least drinking when he was in the director's chair.

Arngrim and Laura Ingalls portrayer Melissa Gilbert were good friends, but she was not friends with Melissa Sue Anderson, who played Mary. She talked about how the Greenbush twins - Lindsay and Sidney - talked gibberish playing Carrie Ingalls. And Arngrim showed many clips illustrating the Greenbush girls' lack of finesse with the English language.

She was happy to report that they eventually learned how to talk.

Growing up I had many issues with Nellie Oleson. I hated that she was so mean and I often wanted to slap

her for the evil things she said and did.

No more so than when she and her brother Willie made fun of Mary Ingalls when she got glasses.

The episode is called "Four Eyes." Mary's grades are suffering because she can't see the blackboard. Pa takes her to Mankato for an eye exam.

She's given a pair of granny glasses in about an hour (Who knew Lens Crafters existed on the Prairie in the 1870s?). Although Mary loves being able to see again, she blinks back tears at the taunts of her classmates and hides her glasses in a hollowed-out tree trunk. She lies to her Pa and says they must have slipped out of her pocket and she lost them. It's going to be a while before Pa will be able to make enough money to buy her another pair of glasses.

Eventually Mary catches spec-wearing schoolmarm Miss Beadle in the clutches of a handsome big city dandy and realizes that men do make passes at girls who wear glasses. When Alison Arnglim slipped on a pair of darkrimmed glasses to read the questions from the audience, I decided to get back at "Nellie" for being such a bully. I shouted, "Four eyes! Four eyes!" That got a huge laugh from the audience. Arnglim pointed at me and smiled.

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