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STARBURST

QUANTUM LEAP

The FINAL Season?

STAR TREK
Bartender Quark serves up some comments on **DEEP SPACE NINE**

RED DWARF
Effects secrets for season 5 exposed!



RED DWARF

Director Barry Sonnenfeld digs up some old friends for **ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES**

BABYLON 5
Meet a rogue Ambassador for this new space station series



BABYLON 5



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Leaping ahead of British transmission, we look at *Quantum Leap's* fifth and final Season.

ON 26th March 1989, Dr Sam Beckett (Scott Bakula) stepped into the Quantum Leap Accelerator and began a television adventure which continued for almost five years. Trapped in the past and driven by an unknown force to change history for the better, Sam is constantly plunged into the lives of different individuals, with only the hologram of Admiral Al Calavici (Dean Stockwell) to offer assistance from his own time. It is a journey which has taken Sam through all walks of life — and even into the life of a chimpanzee — within the limits of his own lifetime!

In its first four years, *Quantum Leap* proved a satisfying cult hit, an unusual blend of fantasy, comedy, drama and Science Fiction which gradually developed a loyal audience and a strong fan movement. Upon entering its fifth season, however, the NBC television network insisted that the show's creator, Donald P Bellisario attempted to break new ground and add some sparkle into a tried and trusted formula. Thus, both the show's theme tune and the tone of its stories were changed, and its 'rules' broken. Sadly, this attempt to increase *Quantum Leap's* profile and viewing figures eventually cost the series both its popularity and its very existence.

Assassination

The desire to break new ground in season five was shown immediately by the feature-length opener *Lee Harvey Oswald*, the first instalment to deal directly with a major historical event. Sam finds himself leaping back and forth through Oswald's life between 1957 and 22 November 1963, the fateful day on which Oswald may have — but probably did not — assassinate US President John F Kennedy. While Sam and Al attempt to prevent the assassination, each leap gives Oswald greater control over his own actions, increasingly suggesting that nothing can prevent history from repeating itself.

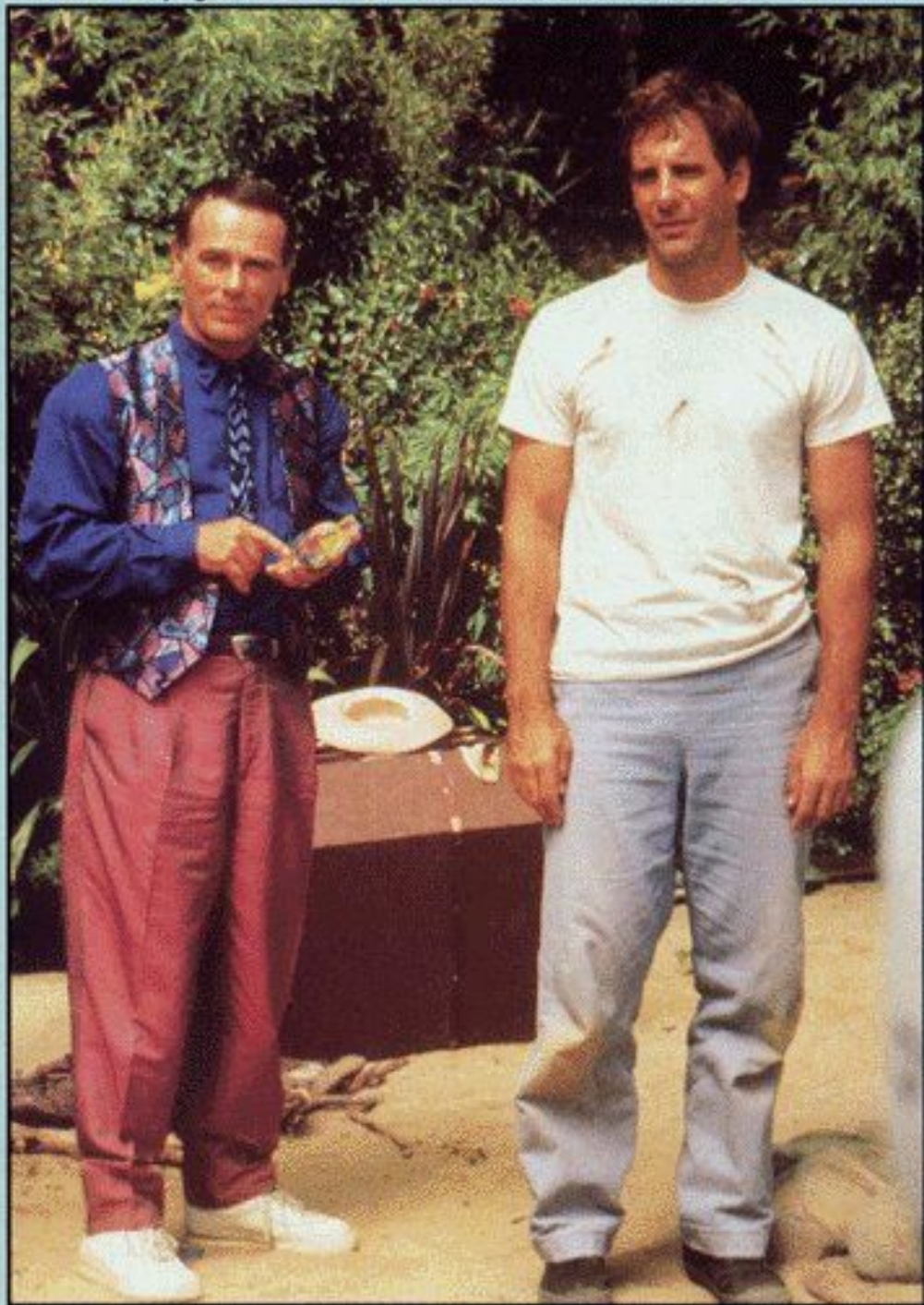
Sadly, what may originally have seemed an excellent idea does not deliver. Aside from some excellent interplay between Sam and Al and good use of actual footage from the period, *Lee Harvey Oswald* remains ill-conceived and features an almost unbelievable cop-out ending which renders Sam's leap into Oswald pointless. The depiction of Oswald as a madman act-

QUANTUM LEAP

A Leap Too Far?

A Starburst feature by David Bassom

Leaping of the Shrew Sam and Al continue their adventures in time



ing alone, meanwhile, may prove very hard to accept after such films as *JFK* which have added a great deal of weight to conspiracy theories linking the CIA and the military (among others) to the assassination. Overall, *Lee Harvey Oswald* was an exceptionally poor start to the fifth season.

Leaping of the Shrew features Brooke Shields, no less, as a beautiful, young, rich woman who, as the title suggests, must be won over by Sam as a Greek sailor in a mildly entertaining if unmemorable spoof of both *Robinson Crusoe* and *The Blue Lagoon*, the highlight of which is the mudfight between Bakula and Shields!

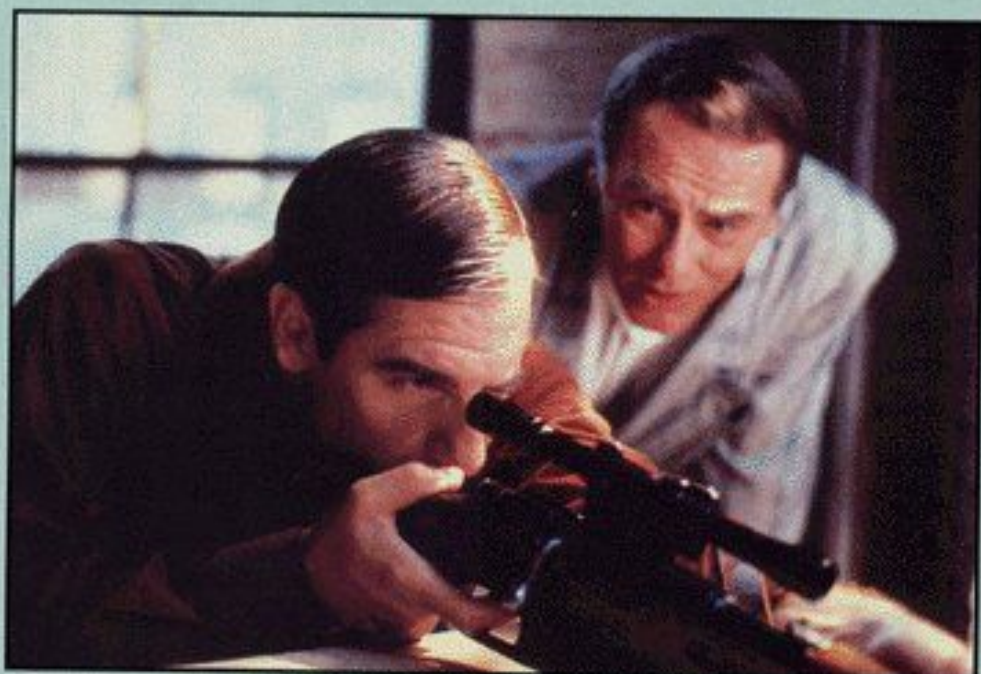
Moving

In *Nowhere to Run* Sam gets another taste of disability when he finds himself in a veterans' hospital as a marine captain whose legs were amputated after an accident in Vietnam. Sam's mission is to prevent the suicide of a fellow patient paralysed from the neck down while convincing his host's wife that they can have a normal life together, in an excellent episode which includes an incredibly moving scene in which Al pleads with Sam's roommate to keep on going — even though Al cannot be seen or heard — and a bizarre moment in which Sam stands up without legs!

As Leon Styles, an infamous mass-murderer, Sam must determine his mission before midnight when a vengeful Sheriff will kill him. However, when Leon escapes from the Project: Quantum Leap Waiting Room, Sam is stranded in the past where he is destined to die, forcing Al to come to the rescue and Gooshie to step in as the holographic assistant in the outstanding *Killin' Time*, a real highlight of season five. Given a substantial role for once, Dean Stockwell is an absolute joy in an episode which shows *Quantum Leap* at its best.

Sam becomes a 79 year-old whose UFO sightings threaten to destroy his family and grandson, and invoke some sinister plans in the military in *Star Light, Star Bright*, an enjoyable episode for UFO fans everywhere, the highlights of which include a great mirror image of Sam playing the electric guitar and an ambiguous ending which viewers will either love or loathe. However, one crucial question remains unanswered: whatever happened to the tape in which a drugged Sam revealed his true identity and some details regarding Project: Quantum Leap to government agents?

In *Deliver Us From Evil*, Sam finds himself as Jimmy LaMotta, the retarded young man from the season two episode *Jimmy*. When history begins to



Lee Harvey Oswald Will Sam kill JFK?

change for the worse without any action from Sam, he learns of the existence of another leaper, Alia (Renee Coleman) and her guide Zoe (Carolyn Seymour) who have their own agenda, including the death of Sam, in a rather uninspired and clichéd episode which features an argument on the duality of good and evil which echoes *Star Trek's The Enemy Within* and merely serves to introduce a recurring foe for Sam and Al. Nice special effects and a neat ending, though.

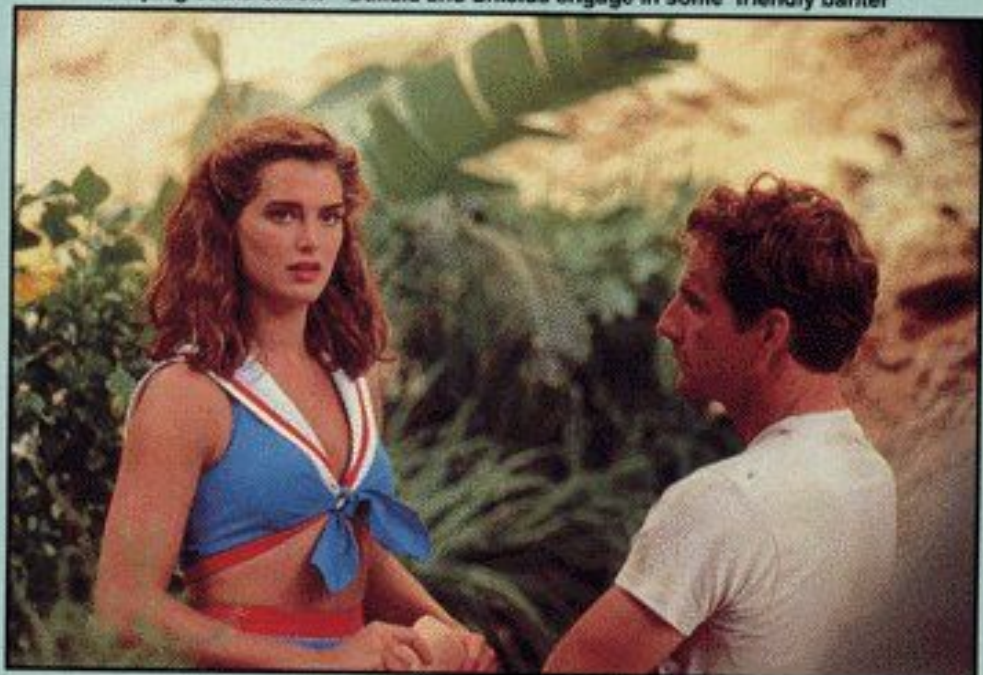
Trilogy

The following three episodes formed a *Trilogy* which focus on an unresolved murder case spanning 23 years in a small Louisiana town. In Part I, *One Little Heart*, Sam becomes the Sheriff investigating the murder of a man

whose daughter mysteriously vanished a few years earlier. In both cases, the Sheriff's daughter Abigail was the last person to see the victim alive, pointing the finger of suspicion at her. Sam learns that she will die in a fire started by the victim's vengeful wife, and thus attempts to save her. In Part II, *For Your Love*, Sam finds himself in 1966 as 21 year-old Abigail's fiancé and very much in love with her. When a young neighbourhood boy disappears, Sam must save Abigail again, this time from a suspicious lynch mob. Then, in Part III, *The Last Door*, Sam becomes an ageing lawyer called upon to defend the 33 year-old Abigail against the charge of the murder of Leta Ada, the woman whose daughter vanished some 23 years before.

Trilogy received a mixed reception from viewers. Critics suggested that

Leaping of the Shrew Bakula and Shields engage in some 'friendly banter'







Al witnesses America's most famous assassination in *Lee Harvey Oswald*

the same characters and setting became tiresome and tedious over three episodes, while fans pointed out that unlike many previous leaps, *Trilogy* boasted slow, careful and exceedingly strong character development as well as a good story. Certainly *Twin Peaks* fans will love it! The romance between Sam and Abigail is beautifully dealt with, and the revelation about her daughter is a pleasant surprise, although it is a shame that we do not hear of Sammy Jo again.

Leaping Home

Sam finds himself in the middle of a bank robbery in his hometown, Elk Ridge, Indiana, where he must save the Walters Boys from foreclosure and a greedy banker who has been buying up all the farms in the area to build a mall and will eventually buy the Beckett Farm in the delightful *Promised Land*, the show's Christmas episode. Directed with customary skill by Bakula, the episode includes confirmation that Sam's brother Tom did indeed return from Vietnam after *The Leap Home Part II* and a wonderful conclusion in which Sam gives his father John a big hug before leaping.

As a travelling salesman, Sam must choose between two wives and two families, a choice Ziggy cannot offer any assistance with, while avoiding the attention of a pair of bookies with whom his host has incurred a great debt in *A Tale of Two Sweeties*, a rather uninspired and forgettable episode, in which Sam's solution and the final revelation are rather naïve and unsatisfying to say the least.

As a housewife and mother, Sam must prevent the death of his daughter in a sit-in while convincing his hus-

band that their marriage can survive the growth of equality in *Liberation*, an incredibly mundane instalment, the only two highlights of which are Sam burning a bra and Sam leaping out just before being kissed by his husband!

Sex Therapist

Sam becomes the famous sex therapist Ruth Westheimer to help a young woman who is being sexually harassed by her boss in *Dr Ruth*, another show featuring a celebrity guest star and a high profile concept. Fortunately, unlike *Lee Harvey Oswald*, *Dr Ruth* works as a light-hearted, comedic episode in which the laughs come when Sam attempts to run the doctor's radio show while the real *Dr Ruth* (in the Waiting Room) counsels Al on his feelings for his five wives and current girlfriend, Tina! Also, watch out for the brief appearance by Anita Hill, who overhears Sam's advice on sexual harassment: Hill recently won a famous American court case on the very same subject!

In *Blood Moon*, Sam finds himself as an eccentric artist living just outside London, who may be a vampire. He must prevent the death of his young wife while dealing with Al's superstitions in an episode notable for an excellent ambiguous atmosphere which is maintained right until the appalling and incredibly frustrating ending. Al's first appearance and subsequent mood throughout the episode is delightful, though!

The next two episodes were broadcast in feature-length format in America. While Sam attempts to prevent the death of his host, Arnold Watkins, he comes across Alia, the evil leaper in *Return*. In an effort to please Lothos, their equivalent of Ziggy, both Zoe and

Al watches Monroe and Gable in *Goodbye Norma Jean*



The Leap Between the States Sam is captured by a future relative

Alia plot once again to kill Sam. Sam, however, becomes determined to take Alia with him on his next leap...

Having simo-leaped, Sam and Alia find themselves as inmates in a women's prison in 1987, where they must unmask a killer, while hiding from Zoe, Alia's former observer and now herself a leaper with her own guide, Thames (a crude caricature of Al), in *Revenge*. Both *Return* and *Revenge* prove to be surprisingly satisfying episodes which almost justify the mediocrity of *Deliver Us From Evil*, while the conclusion of *Revenge* is superb.

As chauffeur to Marilyn Monroe no less, Sam must prevent the star's suicide in *Goodbye Norma Jean*. While the episode has its strong points, such as its depiction of Monroe as a real person rather than a star, the cameo appearances by lookalikes of such celebrities as Clark Gable, and Al once again becoming star struck (he looks like he's going to collapse when he sees Monroe go for a nude swim!), ultimately, like *Lee Harvey Oswald*, it is let down by its concept: we know Monroe did not die; we know she made *The Misfits*.

As Henry Adams, a famous veteran of Vietnam, Sam must save the life of a friend, Roy, and a young boy, Daniel, in *The Beast Within*, a moderately satisfying instalment which boasts solid character development, an enjoyable — if clichéd — plot and a delightful cameo appearance by Bigfoot!

Final Leaps

The Leap Between the States proved controversial with fans as it breaks another of the show's golden rules, taking Sam beyond the parameters of his own lifetime, to 1862, during the American



Sam and Al break new time frontiers in *The Leap Between the States*

Civil War. Leaping into a descendant, Captain John Beckett, Sam must avoid being hanged as a traitor and make sure that he does not jeopardise his ancestor's romance with his future bride as he waits for Ziggy to determine his mission. If you can accept that Sam can now travel to any time period via a relative, *The Leap Between the States* makes an excellent episode, if somewhat reminiscent of *Back To The Future Part III*, the highlights of which include Sam's old-fashioned waltz with Olivia and a 'kiss with history' provided by one of Martin Luther King's ancestors.

Sam becomes Elvis Presley two days before his big break and must save a local singer, Sue Anne, from a doomed marriage while making sure that Elvis does indeed become the King in *Memphis Melody*, a very traditional and hugely enjoyable leap which concentrates on people rather than Elvis and, as such, is very reminiscent of Season One's *Camikazi Kid*. Sam sings, Al swivels his hips, and saxophonist and future President Bill Clinton makes a very brief cameo!

Mirror Image is *Quantum Leap*'s 95th and probably final episode. For the first time, Sam travels physically through time and finds himself at Al's Place, a bar in a Pennsylvanian coal mining town, on the very moment of his birth, where he learns who has been leaping him around in time and why. Given the power to control his own leaps, will Sam seize the opportunity to go home, or is there one last wrong to put right?

Bizarre, unique and thoroughly perplexing, *Mirror Image* is an absolutely

excellent finale to a classic series, reminiscent of *The Prisoner*'s final episode, *Fall Out*. It presents a surprising, noble and poignant conclusion which is guaranteed to make you think, and will disappoint viewers looking for easy answers and a happy ending.

Final Verdict

Season five received a great deal of criticism from both fans and viewers as the season which killed *Quantum Leap*. In retrospect, however, much of the criticism seems unfounded, as once again *Quantum Leap* provided a diverse range of drama, comedy and action. Bakula and Stockwell were first class throughout, maintaining the high standard of acting for which the show is famed and making even the worst episodes at the very least watchable, while such instalments as *Killin' Time*, *Nowhere to Run*, *The Leap Between the States* and *Mirror Image* stand alongside the show's finest instalments. What really let the season down was the high-profile, high-concept episodes, the most obvious example of which is *Lee Harvey Oswald*, which in general not only failed to gain new viewers, but merely alienated the show's loyal fans and betrayed its concept.

With increasing talk of a revival, perhaps by a series of films, the final question must be is *Quantum Leap* finished, never to return? Well, as the show's creator Donald P Bellisario pointed out, never is not a word in *Quantum Leap*'s vocabulary. Anything can be changed. ★

(With special thanks to Beth Hlabie and Terri Librande)

QUANTUM LEAP EPISODE LISTING

Season 1 (1989)

US Air Date	Title	Leap Date
26 Mar 89	Quantum Leap (pilot)	13 Sep 56
13 Sep 89	Genesis (90 Min Recut Of Pilot)	13 Sep 56
31 Mar 89	Star Crossed	15 Jun 72
07 Apr 89	The Right Hand of God	24 Oct 74
14 Apr 89	How the Teas Was Won	05 Aug 50
21 Apr 89	Double Identity	08 Nov 55
03 May 89	The Color of Truth	08 Aug 55
10 May 89	Camikazi Kid	06 Jun 61
17 May 89	Play It Again, Seymour	14 Apr 53

Season 2 (1989-90)

20 Sep 89	Honeymoon Express	27 Apr 60
27 Sep 89	Disco Inferno	01 Apr 76
11 Oct 89	The Americanization of Machiko	04 Aug 53
25 Oct 89	What Price Gloria	16 Oct 61
01 Nov 89	Blind Faith	06 Feb 64
08 Nov 89	Good Morning, Peoria	09 Sep 59
15 Nov 89	Thou Shalt Not...	02 Feb 74
22 Nov 89	Jimmy	14 Oct 64
29 Nov 89	So Help Me God	29 Jul 57
06 Dec 89	Catch a Falling Star	21 May 79
13 Dec 89	A Portrait For Trolan	07 Feb 71
03 Jan 90	Animal Frat	19 Oct 67
10 Jan 90	Another Mother	30 Sep 81
17 Jan 90	All Americans	06 Nov 62
14 Feb 90	Her Charm	26 Sep 73
21 Feb 90	Freedom	22 Nov 70
07 Mar 90	Good Night, Dear Heart	09 Nov 57
14 Mar 90	Pool Hall Blues	04 Sep 54
28 Mar 90	Leaping in Without a Net	18 Nov 58
04 Apr 90	Maybe Baby	11 Mar 63
02 May 90	Sea Bride	03 Jun 54
09 May 90	M.I.A.	01 Apr 69

Season 3 (1990-91)

28 Sep 90	The Leap Home	25 Nov 69
05 Oct 90	The Leap Home Part II — Vietnam	07 Apr 70
12 Oct 90	Leap of Faith	19 Aug 63
19 Oct 90	One Stroke Over the Line	15 Jun 65
26 Oct 90	The Boogiemani	31 Oct 64
02 Nov 90	Miss Deep South	07 Jun 58
09 Nov 90	Black and White on Fire	11 Aug 65
16 Nov 90	The Great Spontini	09 May 74
30 Nov 90	Rebel Without a Cue	01 Sep 58
21 Dec 90	A Little Miracle	24 Dec 62
04 Jan 91	Runaway	04 Jul 64
06 Mar 91	8 1/2 Months	15 Nov 55
13 Mar 91	Future Boy	06 Oct 57
20 Mar 91	Private Dancer	06 Oct 79
27 Mar 91	Piano Man	10 Nov 85
03 Apr 91	Southern Comforts	04 Aug 61
10 Apr 91	Glitter Rock	12 Apr 74
17 Apr 91	A Hunting We Will Go	18 Jun 76
01 May 91	Last Dance Before an Execution	12 May 71
08 May 91	Heart of a Champion	23 Jul 55
15 May 91	Nuclear Family	26 Oct 62
22 May 91	Shock Theater	03 Oct 54

Season 4 (1991-92)

16 Sep 91	The Leap Back	15 Jun 45
23 Sep 91	Play Ball	06 Aug 61
02 Oct 91	Hurricane	17 Aug 69
09 Oct 91	Justice	11 May 65
16 Oct 91	Permanent Wave	02 Jun 83
30 Oct 91	Raped	20 Jun 90
06 Nov 91	The Wrong Stuff	24 Jan 61
13 Nov 91	Dreams	28 Feb 79
20 Nov 91	A Single Drop of Rain	07 Sep 53
27 Nov 91	Unchained	02 Nov 56
06 Jan 92	The Play's The Thing	09 Sep 69
15 Jan 92	Running For Honor	11 Jun 64
22 Jan 92	Temptation Eyes	01 Feb 85
05 Feb 92	The Last Gunfighter	28 Nov 57
26 Feb 92	A Song for the Soul	07 Apr 63
04 Mar 92	Ghost Ship	13 Aug 56
11 Mar 92	Roberto!	27 Jan 82
01 Apr 92	It's a Wonderful Leap	10 May 58
08 Apr 92	Moments To Live	04 May 85
22 Apr 92	The Curse Of Peah Hoteap	02 Mar 57
13 May 92	Stand Up!	30 Apr 59
20 May 92	A Leap For Lisa	25 Jun 57

Season 5 (1992-93)

22 Sep 92	Lee Harvey Oswald (Features length episode)	05 Oct 57
29 Sep 92	Leaping Of The Shrew	22 Nov 63
06 Oct 92	Nowhere to Run	27 Sep 56
20 Oct 92	Killin' Time	10 Aug 68
27 Oct 92	Star Light, Star Bright	18 Jun 58
10 Nov 92	Deliver Us From Evil	21 May 66
17 Nov 92	Trilogy, Part I: One Little Heart	19 Mar 66
24 Nov 92	Trilogy, Part II: For Your Love	08 Aug 56
01 Dec 92	Trilogy, Part III: The Last Door	14 Jun 60
15 Dec 92	Promised Land	28 Jul 78
05 Jan 93	A Tale of Two Sweeties	22 Dec 71
12 Jan 93	Liberation	25 Feb 58
19 Jan 93	Dr Ruth	16 Oct 68
09 Feb 93	Blood Moon	25 Apr 65
23 Feb 93	Return	10 Mar 75
23 Feb 93	Revenge	08 Oct 56
02 Mar 93	Goodbye Norma Jean	16 Dec 87
16 Mar 93	The Beast Within	04 Apr 60
30 Mar 93	The Leap Between The States	06 Nov 72
20 Apr 93	Memphis Melody	20 Sep 62
05 May 93	Mirror Image	03 Jul 54
		08 Aug 53

(TVZine will be contributing to episode guides to QL, with Seasons 4 & 5 in the new year)