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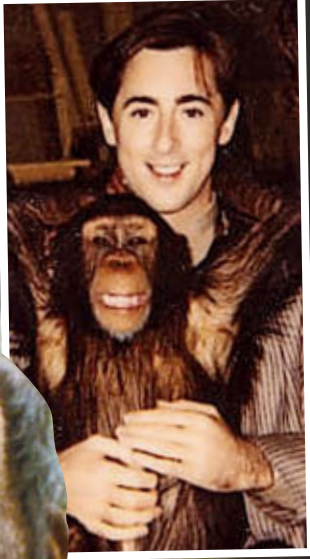
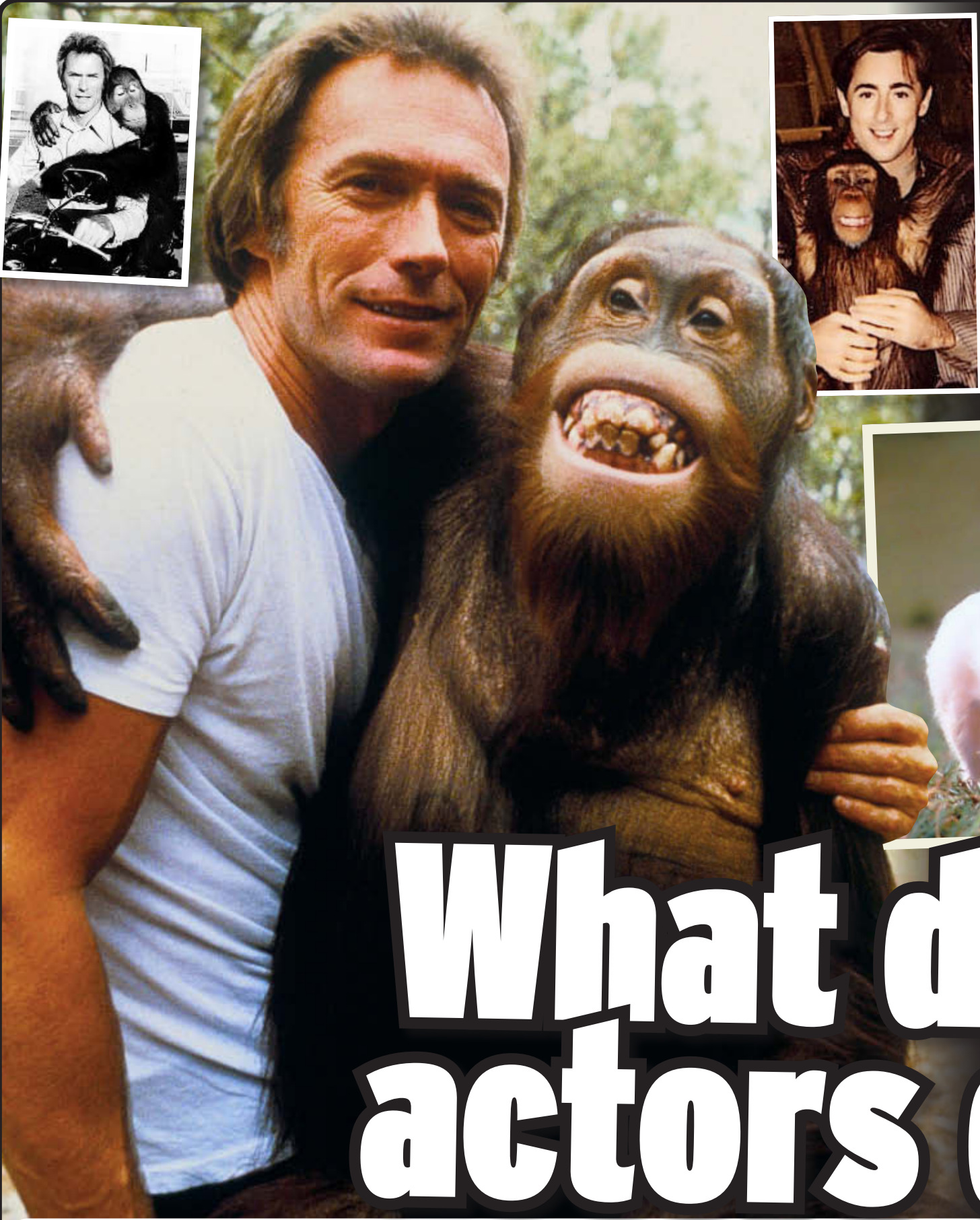


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ANIMAL MOVIE STARS DELIGHTED US ALL FOR YEARS BUT...



★ IT'S a truly bizarre tale of some real monkey business – the acting chimpanzee found in hiding after his owner faked his death.

Tonka the chimp has now been moved to an animal sanctuary after he was discovered alive in Tonia Haddix's basement, reportedly with a 60inch TV and iPad-style device keeping him entertained.

★ He had last been seen at a former breeding facility in Missouri, US, before it was shut down amid animal welfare issues.

It then emerged Haddix claimed Tonka died from heart failure and she burned his body in a fire pit. But suspicious of her story, animal rights group Peta obtained a court order to search her home and Tonka, who appeared in 1997's *George Of The Jungle*, was found.

★ Scottish actor Alan Cumming, left, who starred alongside the chimp in 1997's *Buddy* and had offered an £8,000 reward for information, was delighted to hear the news, saying: "I'm dancing a jig that Peta has rescued Tonka."

Here, **NADINE LINGE** looks at what happened to other animal film stars after fame...

What did beast actors do next?

WILLY: Free Willy told the tale of a captive whale at an amusement park and Keiko, the orca who played Willy, was also living in captivity in Mexico. But after the 1993 film was a hit, a campaign was launched to free Keiko, pictured right with actor Jason James Richter.

It was successful and he was released back into waters around Iceland in 2002. But having lived in captivity since 1979, he couldn't feed himself or socialise with other whales and eventually died of pneumonia in 2003.

BEETHOVEN: There were several mutts who played the big slobbery dog across the eight Beethoven films, but the lead in the original 1992 flick and its sequel was super-sized Chris, who weighed a whopping 90kg.

After his screen stint, he retired to a farm but died shortly after – although the cause was not made public.

LASSIE: Rough Collie Pal, above, first starred as the heroic pooch in 1943's *Lassie Come Home* and went on to appear in six more movies. He retired in 1954 after getting a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

His son and four grandsons went on to play Lassie in the TV series, which ran between 1954 and 1973. Pal died of natural causes in June 1958 aged 18.

RIN TIN TIN: He was one of five pups saved by Corporal Lee Duncan during World War One, when he found them starving in an abandoned dog kennel. The pooch went on to make 26 pictures, including *The Man From Hell's River*.

During his peak, Rin Tin Tin received 10,000 fan letters a week. He died in 1932 and was buried in a pet cemetery in Paris.

JERRY LEWIS: A pooch called Koton played Jerry Lewis in 1989's *K-9*, a destructive police dog who teams up with Jim's Belushi's detective, below. Koton was not an actor but a real police dog with the Kansas City Police Department who had an illustrious record of 24 arrests and a million-pound drugs bust. But after getting back on the beat in 1991, he was shot and killed in the line of duty as he chased a suspect in the murder of a police officer.

BABE: There were 48 porkers used to play Babe in the 1995 film about a pig who wants to be a sheepdog. And they were all saved from the chop afterwards, placed in homes in Australia to live as pets rather than get turned into bacon. Each new owner signed a no-slaughter agreement before taking them in.

HOCH: Another 1989 comedy about a cop forced to buddy up with a dog, *Turner & Hooch* saw Tom Hanks adopt a murder victim's dog to solve the case.

Hooch was played by Dogue de Bordeaux Beasley. An exact replica was created for – spoiler alert – the scene where he dies. He died for real in 1992, at 14.

BOB: This feline played himself in the 2016 film *A Street Cat Named Bob*, which told the real story of how he changed heroin addict James Bowen's life.

After meeting Bob, James was inspired to quit drugs. In June 2020, Bob, left, escaped from a skylight in James' home in Surrey and was found dead on the side of the road two days later.

THE HANG-OVER MONKEY: This chain-smoking capuchin was played by Crystal, who also starred with Tonka in *George Of The Jungle* and appeared in the *Night At The Museum* films. She's still working now, most recently starring in 2020 drama series *I Know This Much Is True* with Mark Ruffalo. When not on set, Crystal, 28, lives in LA with her trainer.

CLYDE: Played by Manis, this orangutan became one of Clint Eastwood's most memorable sidekicks when he starred in the 1978 hit movie *Every Which Way But Loose*. Manis was replaced by two new apes for the sequel as he had grown too big.

There were disturbing claims about how Manis was treated on set, alleging he was beaten with an iron bar to keep him docile – but these were never proved.