

Alice

US TV sitcom : 1978-84 : dir. : Warner : 209 x 25 min
 prod: David Susskind : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Philip McKeon](#)
 Linda Lavin; Vic Tayback; Polly Holliday; Beth Howland; Diane Ladd

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	≠	Z	⊗	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Blue-collar sitcom of the pre-McDonalds epoch (it had waitresses)

Source: History of Television

Halliwell's Television Companion review:

"A widow works in a hash-house and brings up her teenage son. Moderate transcription of the restaurant sequences from the film **"ALICE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE"**. A raucous long-runner in the US, it didn't travel. Creator: Robert Getchell. (Polly Holliday, who played the raucous Flo, left after awhile to star in her own series, **"Flo"**, which didn't work. She was replaced by Diane Ladd.) "

History of Television comment:

"Two of the great shouting shows debuted in 1976. **"What's Happening?"** revolved around the experiences of a group of young blacks, and **"Alice"** - based on the movie **"ALICE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANY-MORE"** - was set in Mel's Diner. Mel the grouch (Vic Tayback) was invariably complaining; Vera the dumbbell (Beth Howland) was invariably stupid; Flo the sassy waitress (Polly Holliday) was invariably caustic; and Alice (Linda Lavin) was invariably long-suffering. And somehow the audience invariably howled at clever, shouted lines like "Kiss Mah Grits!" "

Caption to the still above:

"Two of the waitresses in Mel's Diner in **"Alice"** - Linda Lavin (left), who played Alice Hyatt, and Beth Howland, who played Vera"

[no listing in "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]

No further information currently available. Philip McKeon was 14 at the start of the show. His only known film appearance was in **"UP THE SANDBOX"** (72), presumably as Barbra Streisand's son. Frankie Howerd, at any rate, was not involved. Holmstrom points out that he was unrelated to Doug McKeon of **"ON GOLDEN POND"**. Here he's playing the same role as Alfred J. Lutter, Ellen Burstyn's obnoxious son in the 1974 Scorsese film. **"ALICE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE"** was so much Burstyn's picture (enlivened some by the appearance of Jodie Foster in a feisty small part) that it's hard to conceive of it succeeding as a TV series without her, but apparently it did. As described it sounds like a hick variant on **"Cheers"**. As for sassy waitresses, I'm in agreement with Mr Pink in **"RESERVOIR DOGS"** - "I don't tip. They get minimum wage."

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