

Ask Charlie ?

Q: HOW WAS YOUR LIFE GROWING UP IN ENGLAND?

A: Much the same as it would have been growing up in America, I suppose, except that it was English. Therefore, cold and wet. Since the age of eight I was sent away to school, so my life as a child was alternated between school and holidays. We were a very close knit family and I got on very well with my brother so it was a very basically happy upbringing. It was also very exciting times, I grew up during the 60's which in London was a very colorful period, especially as we lived near the famous Kings Road. I lived in London but we also had a cottage in the countryside, so I had the advantage of both a city and country childhood.

Q: WHAT OTHER THINGS DO YOU DO BESIDES WORK ON "DAYS"?

A: Sleep and eat! Actually, I just finished working on a play with my wife. My brother directed. I also do a lot of work for an educational movement named Beyond War which is concerned with finding ways of resolving conflict without using violence. There are plenty of things I would like to do and I'm sure I'll get around to such as, Scuba Diving, and writing the great modern 20th Century novel. For the moment my life seems quite full enough.

Q: HOW OLD ARE YOU AND HOW OLD IS SHANE?

A: I am 31 years old as for Shane it's a little less easy to tell. It seems that either he is an extremely youthful looking 50 year old or the ISA has a remarkably quick promotion. He was a Captain at the time he married Emma, which has to have been at least 3 or 4 or 5 years ago. He was offered the head of the ISA a year ago at which point I just stopped worrying about it!!

Q: DO YOU PLAN TO STAY ON "DAYS" FOR A LONG TIME?

A: I would like to stay on the show for as long as I can keep the character interesting. Once it starts to get repetitive it may be time to move on. Depending of course on whether I can find some other way of paying my mortgage.

Q: WHY DID CHARLES CHOOSE TO APPEAR ON SOAPS RATHER THAN PURSUE HIS STAGE AND SCREEN CAREER?



A: Basically as an actor you take what you are given & are grateful. My stage career had been going very well in England & I'd worked on the stage in Los Angeles. I've never yet done a film, I would very much like to. In the meantime, the soaps provide an extremely good training for certain facilities of an actor. It's also regular work which is not to be sniffed at, but in time I would like to pursue other things.

Q: IS THE TWITCH IN YOUR CHEEK AN INVOLUNTARY REFLEX OR CAN YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN ON COMMAND?

A: That's a trade secret.

Q: WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO ON YOUR DAYS OFF?

A: Well you know, when you're working on "DAYS" for 3 or 4 times a week you don't have a chance to pursue the ordinary every day things that people do such as laundry or washing the car or doing minor repairs around the house etc. So my days off are really just days on. Of course, if I don't have to go to work the next day I can always go & see a movie in the evenings & stay up really late, like past 11:00 pm!

Q: WILL "SHANE" & "KIM" EVER MAKE IT TO THE ALTAR?

A: That's a trade secret too.

Q: WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE "SHANE" MARRY "KIM"?

A: Some time ago I suggested that maybe, possibly "Shane" & "Kim" wouldn't get married & I upset a lot of people, so I'll be more guarded this time. I think that after all "Shane" & "Kim" have been through they deserve at least a day of fulfillment & happiness, especially if the wedding can take place on some exotic location.

Q: DO YOU SOMETIMES GO BACK TO ENGLAND?

A: I've been back three times since I left, & twice was for work. Once in a play that I was doing, which rehearsed in England, & once with "Days of Our Lives". I enjoy being in America at this time of my life & don't really miss England. I can, however see myself & Susan moving back to England for a period of time once we have a family.

Q: SINCE YOU ACT FANTASY ALL DAY DO YOU FIND IT HARD TO GET BACK TO REALITY, HOW DO YOU HANDLE IT?

A: Good question! Sometimes it is hard. Strangely enough one of the problems I find is that I live very near the studio. It only takes me 10 minutes to drive home after work, & I find that not long enough to un-

wind. We hope to be moving to Santa Monica soon, & that will give me quite long enough to change my frame of reality on the long drive home. Whether the frustrations of the freeway are an adequate substitute for the frustrations of the studio remains to be seen.

Q: DO YOU HAVE FUN PORTRAYING "SHANE"?

A: Yes, on the whole I enjoy "Shane" a lot! However, there are times when I would like him to be a little less predictable. He used to have more of a sense of humor than he has now, I'd like to get that back. Life with "Kim" does seem to be one serious problem after another.

Q: DO YOU LIKE LIVING IN THE USA, WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT IT HERE & WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT ENGLAND?

A: I love the sun, sand & fresh squeezed orange juice. It's an exciting country, a world leader & on the cutting edge of the future. What I liked about England was a sense of history, which in it's turn gave one a sense of values & priorities.

Q: DO YOU READ ALL YOUR MAIL, DO YOU ENJOY HEARING FROM YOUR FANS?

A: Yes, absolutely! I enjoy hearing from my fans, both positive & negative reactions to the show. It's the only kind of feedback we can get, & in order to do what is required its sometimes very helpful to hear what the audience is feeling.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY ASPIRATIONS TO BE INVOLVED IN OTHER ASPECTS OF THE BUSINESS? (Directing, Producing, Writing etc.)

A: Yes, absolutely. I cannot see myself remaining an actor & only an actor for the rest of my life. I have always enjoyed directing theatre, I used to direct a lot in England. I would like to get into that here. As for writing & producing, they are things I have not tried but would very much like to do. To see an idea all the way through from first getting it through production, to seeing it end up on the screen or on the stage has to be one of the most thrilling things I can imagine.

Q: HOW DO YOU HANDLE ALL THE POPULARITY & ATTENTION THAT HAS COME YOUR WAY SO QUICKLY, DOES IT EVER BOTHER YOU, DO YOU REGRET IT OR ENJOY IT?

A: Are you crazy - I love it!

Q: IF YOU COULD PLAY ANY CHARACTER YOU WANTED WHAT WOULD YOUR DREAM ROLE BE & WHY?

A: That's a really difficult question. I really don't think I have a dream role. I would like to do sophisticated comedy, the kind of thing that Cary Grant was so good at.

Q: IF NUDITY WERE ALLOWED ON TV, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DO A NUDE SCENE IF THE SCRIPT CALLED FOR IT?

A: There would have to be a very good reason for it, not just gratuitous nudity. But if the producers could convince me that it was an essential part of the scene, & that it would be above all tastefully done, I don't think I would have anything against it. I certainly wouldn't have anything against it in principle.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR MIDDLE NAME?

A: My middle name is two names actually, George Patrick (Charles George Patrick Shaughnessy).

Q: WHEN IS SUSAN'S BIRTHDAY, & YOUR ANNIVERSARY?

A: Susan's birthday is November the 22nd, & our anniversary is May the 21st.

Q: ARE YOU HAPPIER NOW THAN YOU WERE BEFORE YOU WERE FAMOUS?

A: Fullfillment makes me happy, & in so far as the character is successful I feel fullfilled & therefor happy. However, before I was famous I was equally happy whenever I did something I felt I could be proud of. And by the way, it is true what they say, fame & fortune isn't everything.