

'Spectacular' is the word for TV star Joan Collins

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

Joan Collins, looking spiffy in a black and white polka dot suit, met the press Tuesday morning to talk about her new fragrance, Spectacular.

"It's floral, slightly spicy, and has staying power," she said. "It's a mix of such flowers as lily of the valley and tuberose, flowers I particularly like. It's a slightly sensual fragrance."

She and the gentleman whose company is manufacturing the perfume sat on chairs on a raised platform, with a table between them that held large bottles of the new scent. Questions were taken by a representative of Hudson's, which would launch her perfume the next day, following her appearance Tuesday night as special guest at the sold-out, Fash Bash fund-raiser.

Audience members were seated in chairs and raised their hands to ask a question, and were called upon by the store's representative. The locale was a meeting room at the elegant Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn, where Collins answered queries after posing for photos with the new perfume a few minutes earlier in another room.

IN THIS structured setting, Collins responded to questions about her perfume, but pending visit that afternoon to Detroit Children's Hospital and her future acting plans.

The glamorous star wore fluffy



Joan Collins in a glamour pose.

bangs and long hair, falling behind her ears, accented by a dark blue velvet headband with bow. She looked younger and certainly less flamboyant than the wicked Alexis she has portrayed in TV's long-running "Dynasty." She was tanned, and smiled frequently — with her beautiful, large mouth.

She said the perfume manufacturer sent her samples, after she described scents she liked. From the ones she selected, the final fragrance was chosen. "The most difficult part was finding the name for it," she said.

Collins held up Spectacular's French crystal bottle, which has a tasseled atomizer attached to it. She said the bottle was patterned after one she had on her own dresser and that had belonged to her grandmother.

A wing at Detroit Children's Hospital has been named after Joan Collins. She explained this came about through the Variety Club, which asked her to lend her name. She said she was involved with the club and its charities and, "I've been going to Variety events since I was about 15."

SHE STRESSED, "I'm glad they asked me because it's very dear to my heart. The thing that touches me the most is children, particularly children who are sick."

Collins' daughter was struck down by a car when she was 8, spent seven weeks in a coma, and has "made a remarkable recovery."

With the wind-up of seven and a half years on "Dynasty," Collins will continue her career in television, looking toward a new series and another mini-series. She said a TV series is being prepared for her and that a mini-series, based on "Prime Time," a novel she wrote, goes into production next February or March.

"Next August, I'm going back to the stage in England, in 'Private Lives,'" she said, calling the stage "my first love."

When asked about the kinds of parts she would like to do, Collins replied, "I'm not one of those actresses who go around in blue jeans, torn T-shirt and no make-up. I will probably always play women with a certain strength, but not the bitchiness, of Alexis, although she was very good for me."

upcoming things to do

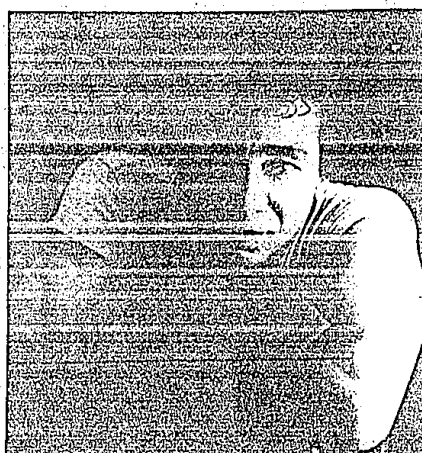
Deadline for the Upcoming calendar is one week ahead of publication. Items must be received by Thursday to be considered for publication the following Thursday. Send to: Ethel Simmons, Entertainment Editor, The Observer & Eccentric, 30251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

• VINTAGE PARTY

A '60s and '70s party and concert will be held Sunday, Aug. 20, at the Community Center Farmington-Farmington Hills. As part of the center's year-long 20th anniversary celebration, the event will begin with a vintage party at 5 p.m. and continue into the evening with a folk and rock music concert by the musical team B & R — Borkowski and Rosochacki — at 7 p.m. The party will be held outdoors on the center's ground and the concert will take place at the center's outdoor amphitheater. Nostalgia will abound at the party, with T-shirt tie-dyeing tanks, a classic car display, Frisbee throwing and Hula Hooping. Guests may bring their own T-shirts for dyeing or purchase one there. Pizza and salad are the dinner fare. Non-alcoholic beer and wine as well as soda pop will be available. Tickets for the party and performance, at \$5 per person, will be available the evening of the event. Guests should bring blankets or lawn chairs and are permitted to picnic on the lawn. For more information, call 477-8464.

• HARMONY GROUPS

Representation from two barbershop-harmony groups, Sweet Adelines and the Society for the Preservation and Elevation of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, in Chain Park in downtown Birmingham. The concert is called "Everything Old Is New Again in Barbershop Harmony." Representing the Sweet Adelines is the Great Lakes Chorus under the direction of Lee Balaguer. The chorus has been in existence almost 30 years and will present an entertainment package



Smokey Robinson is one of the entertainers who will perform in a free concert series at the Bandshell during the Michigan State Fair.

consisting of old barbershop favorites, Broadway and Hollywood classics and contemporary tunes. Representing the SPESQA will be the Gentlemen Songsters Chorus of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter directed by Steve Sutherland. In case of rain call 644-1807 for information.

• IN CONCERT

The folk and music group Ashcan Van Gogh will give a free performance at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23, at the outdoor amphitheater at the Community Center Farmington-Farmington Hills. Grounds will open an hour before the show. Guests should bring blankets or lawn chairs and are invited to picnic on the lawn.

For more information, call 477-8464.

• MUSICAL AUDITIONS

The Jewish Community Center with Nancy Gurwin Productions announces open auditions for the upcoming Broadway musical "West Side Story," which will open at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26, at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26; 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29; 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2; 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, and 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5. Auditions for singer, dancers

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table talk

Gourmet pizza

Mike Ilitch, owner of the Little Cezars pizza empire, greeted guests at the recent opening of his new

America's Pizza Cafe in Southfield. Besides tables and booths, there's a large, curved counter where diners can sit to enjoy the restaurant's special menu of gourmet pizzas and

pastas. Standing behind the counter, Ilitch pointed out the counter is particularly good for those dining alone, who might have hesitated in the past to go out for pizza for one.

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