

Thursday, April 22, 1982

# Carol Lynley takes naturally to the theater

By Ethel Simmons  
staff writer

**A**CTRESS CAROL LYNLEY has silky blonde hair and delectable facial features. She has a curvy figure that other women would envy and men admire, and she keeps it in trim through ballet and yoga.

She's co-starring with dashing Noel Harrison — son of the renowned actor Rex Harrison — in "Romantic Comedy," which has received the critics' acclaim locally, at the Birmingham Theatre through May 3.

Wouldn't all this be enough to make anyone a little bit stuck on herself? Lynley, however, doesn't seem to notice that she's a show-business personality. She's cheerful and talks about herself without any guile. She's free of any theatrical affectation.

She smiled, understandingly, when asked how she managed to avoid such "mannerisms," explaining that it's only the actors without confidence who need such crutches.

**A MODEL** at the age of 10, she soon became an actress and was on Broadway at 12 and making movies at 14. Lynley enjoys the life she leads and makes herself at home onstage and off throughout the world.

She arrived for her interview at the Birmingham Theatre with her little dog, Zuleika, a LaSza Apsa on a leash. The dog's name is that of a character in a book by Max Beerbohm, Lynley said. "She broke the hearts of all the men at Oxford. She's a heartbreaker," the actress said.

The interview progressed to the star's dressing room, where her name but no star, was tacked on the door. When the photographer asked to check the setting with the best light for a photo, she swiftly moved beyond the sitting room into the dressing room with make-up table.

There she apologized brightly for the clutter that included an empty wine bottle and caviar jar. "Noel and I like to get together for a few minutes after the show and discuss the characters," she said.

**'As a kid you're working adult hours, and have all the responsibility and not as much fun. You grow up much later.'**

— Carol Lynley  
star of 'Romantic Comedy'

**IN THE PLAY**, Lynley and Harrison are playwrights. He's a famous one, with conceit about his work and snobishness about his London tailoring. She's a naive schoolteacher from Vermont, who wants to get her first play published. Her clothes look like whatever got pulled out of her closet first (Lynley declared that most of the crazy-quilt wardrobe she wears in the first two acts are her own clothes, purposely mismatched).

"The baseball hat is mine too," she said. The hat's a symbol of the young playwright's indifference to her appearance and surroundings in much of the comedy's action.

Like another Bernard Slade play where the female character metamorphoses into a more sophisticated woman ("Same Time, Next Year"), Lynley does have a chance to shine with an elegant Parisian look, and show off her real, unrumpy, star quality.

Asked if she identifies easily with the character of Phoebe Craddock, Lynley said she doesn't have a problem relating to the roles she plays but that she does have some background in common with Phoebe.

"My mother's from Boston," she said. "My grandmother is from Vermont. I know the territory very well. I come from a long line of New England schoolteachers."

In "Romantic Comedy," the two playwrights collaborate on romantic comedies but don't really become romantically involved with each other until years after they have broken up their partnership.

**LYNLEY HAS** a fresh All-American look that has kept her in good stead through the years of performing in 34 films and six plays. At 12 she was on

Broadway and on tour in "Anniversary Waltz" for Moss Hart.

"As a kid you're working adult hours and have all the responsibility and not as much fun," she said. "You grow up much later. Emotionally you grow up much, much later."

Lynley said her private life started in her 20s when she was living in London after working there. "I lived there in the late '60s and '70s. I've been in and out of England the last 15 years."

Lynley has a daughter in school in Vermont. "She's 20," she said with a fake whisper.

The actress has residences in California and New York. Keeping up households on two coasts can be hectic, especially when things break down. She recalls one night when the electricity went out in her New York apartment and she had to go to a nearby deli and get "about 50 candles so I could read my lines to rehearse."

Sometimes things are breaking on both coasts. I'll get to L.A. and find the phones won't be ringing, and then I'll find the phones are broken," she said.

**AMONG HER** favorite film roles is the one she played in "Bunny Lake Is Missing." On stage, she likes to do comedy best. Her leading men would make a who's who of stage and screen, such stars as Kirk Douglas, Laurence Olivier, and Tom Selleck. "I worked with him (Selleck) a couple of years ago, before he became famous. I knew he would," she said of the Hollywood's newest heartthrob.

She is appearing in a remake of "The Cat and the Canary," with an all-star cast, which was shown recently on TV's Home Box Office. Last year the actress did a movie at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, with Peter Graves and Alex Cord. She has just finished a movie called "Vigilante."

After the production of "Romantic Comedy," which was put together espe-



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Movies, stage and television have all seen the charms of Carol Lynley, who has been an actress since childhood.

cially for the Birmingham Theatre, she plans to go to New York, then France, New York and Los Angeles.

"I'm into Paris," she said. She attended the Deauville Film Festival last year and would like to do it again.

Having studied ballet since the age

of 6, Lynley is a trained ballerina. "I played a ballerina on 'Fantasy Island.' They needed an actress who could perform on point, and there aren't too many of those," she said with a laugh.

Lynley can sing, too, and said, "I should do a musical."

Among her other accomplishments, she speaks Spanish and French. "I can get around without being dependent on English." She likes to cook, French, Italian and Chinese dishes. "I just happen to be a good cook" — like her mother and grandmother.

## Live show at Youtheatre spotlights Houdini

"The Great Houdini," a live musical biography of the legendary magician, will be presented for Detroit Youtheatre audiences at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday in the Detroit Institute of Arts

auditorium/theater.

Tickets at \$2.50 for children and adults and \$1.75 each in groups of 10 or more may be purchased through the museum ticket office (832-2730) and at

the door. Magic and illusion will be mixed with an original musical score to tell the story of the young Houdini in his rise to world fame.

**SOMERSET DINER THEATRE**  
America's Original Dinner Theatre  
Presenting the new musical  
**Alfred Hitchcock Presents**  
Produced by Alan Ayckbourn  
Performances:  
Fri. & Sat.  
Cocktails 7pm  
Dinner 7:30pm  
Show 8:45pm  
Wed. Mat. at noon  
Group Rates & Reservations  
643-8885  
Somermet Mall - Troy

**LAUREL HARDY FESTIVAL**  
5 Hilarious Hits!  
APRIL 22-23-24-25  
SHOWTIMES 3:30-11  
MERRIE MELODIE  
THEATRE  
ROCHESTER

**SUNDAY BRUNCH**  
Highlight your Sunday at Brunch in the newly renovated Pool Terrace Restaurant.

Chef Hank Van Daal has assembled what may be the finest NEW brunch in Metro Detroit. Bring the family and friends. Every Sunday from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

Seniors & Childrens \$5.50  
Adults \$6.95 plus tax

**POOL TERRACE**  
at the **Troy Hilton Inn**

1455 Stephenson Hwy., Troy, MI 48064 (313) 583-9000

**SHOWCASE CINEMAS**

**STERLING HTS.** 2300 VAN DYKE RD. STERLING HTS. 970-3100  
BARBARIAN MATINEE DAILY-FIRST SHOW ONLY \$1.50

**THE BEAST WITHIN**

**CHARIOTS OF FIRE**  
WINNER 4 ACADEMY AWARDS  
BEST PICTURE

**RICHARD PRYOR R**  
**SOME KIND OF HERO**

**QUEST FOR FIRE**  
PG

**TRICKY**  
PG

**DEATH TRAP**  
PG

**PONTIAC 1-2-3-4-5**  
2400 SO. TELEGRAPH RD. PONTIAC 332-0211  
BARBARIAN FIRST SHOW ONLY \$1.50

**PORKY'S**  
PG

**VICTOR VICTORIA**  
PG

**ON GOLDEN POND**  
PG

**\$1.00 EVERY TUES. BOTH PONTIAC LOCATIONS ONLY**  
Excluding 'Chariots of Fire'

**PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10**  
2405 SO. TELEGRAPH RD. PONTIAC 334-0811  
BARBARIAN FIRST SHOW ONLY \$1.50

**CHARIOTS OF FIRE**  
PG

**QUEST FOR FIRE**  
PG

**DEATH TRAP**  
PG

**ROBIN HOOD**  
PG

**CALL THEATRE FOR SCREEN TIMES**

**Meadow Brook Theatre**

**OPENS TONIGHT AT 8:30 PM**

**NEIL SIMON'S**

**CHAPTER TWO**

"Make 'Chapter Two' number one on your theatrical shopping list!"  
— Clive Barnes, NEW YORK POST

**377-3300**

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE IS A CULTURAL PROGRAM OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY WHICH IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION

**TRY A LITTLE TENDERNESS...**

**wjoi**  
FM 97

**THE MUSIC'S AS BEAUTIFUL AS THE NAME.**