

# soap RA st

Can't-Miss  
DAYS  
Preview!

## B&B BOMBSHELL

Liam Learns  
The Truth And  
Leaves Steffy!

NICK TO SHARON:  
SCOTT CHEATED  
— WITH ABBY!

# Y&R STARTS THE YEAR LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

JANUARY 8, 2018

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## GH'S GENIE FRANCIS ON WEIGHT BATTLE

"I accept myself much more."



DIET TIPS FROM THE STARS THAT **REALLY** WORK!



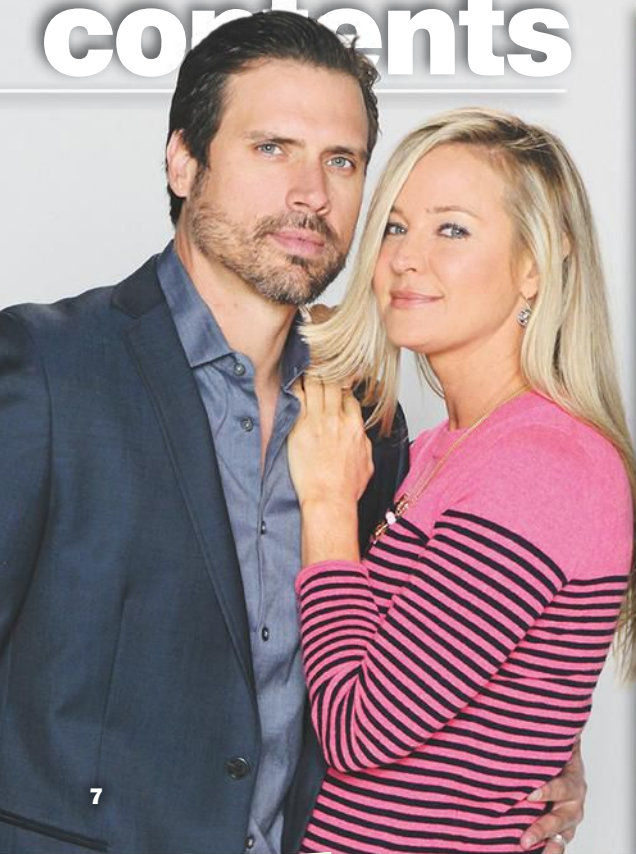
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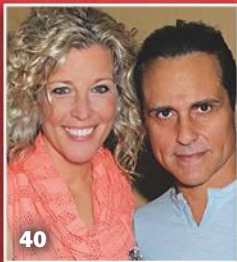


*can't-miss quote*  
**"I accept myself  
 much more than I  
 ever did before."**

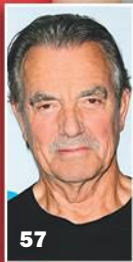
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**COVER CREDITS:** Y&R's Joshua Morrow (Nick), Sharon Case (Sharon), Melissa Ordway (Abby) and Daniel Hall (Scott). Photos: John Paschal/JPI. Genie Francis (Laura, GH). Photo: Courtesy of Nutrisystem. B&B's Scott Clifton and Jacqueline MacInnes Wood (Liam and Steffy). Photo: Howard Wise/JPI.



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**01-27347-001-E97801**

# late-breaking news

hot off  
the press

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XJ JOHNSON/JPI

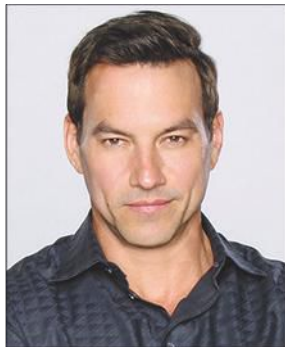
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## TYLER CHRISTOPHER MARKS DAYS DEBUT

**T**wo seasons have passed!" cracks Tyler Christopher of the many months in between being hired to play *DAYS*'s Stefan DiMera to making his debut on December 28.

The actor, who is best known for portraying *GH*'s Nikolas Cassadine, says he was very excited to create a new character. "I played Nikolas for 20 years, so to be able to come in here with a whole new cast and a whole new set of people, some familiar faces, some new, it sort of renewed my spirit for the genre," he reflects. "I kind of felt like I was starting over again, so I had that renewed sense of spirit for the work and I hope it carries over."

Christopher says he did his homework before tackling his new role. "I was flattered that they asked me to basically be the Stefan DiMera, Jr.," he shares. "I knew a little bit about the character of Stefano just having played in this circle for so many years. I had met [the late] Joe [Mascolo, ex-Stefano] before. I got myself up to speed about who these legacy characters were and how they were intertwined, and once I was



JOHN PASCHAL/JPI

able to figure out the lineage of everyone, it was much easier to take it from there."

Stefan, he adds, "is not unlike Nikolas in terms of his business savvy. Ron [Carlivati, head writer] described this character as kind of a power player just coming into town wielding a big stick and taking over the DiMera business. He picks up where his father left off and sort of takes over the town and everyone is like, 'Who is this guy?' And he doesn't apologize for who he is. He's eager to sit on his father's throne."

When he reported to set, "I wasn't nervous, but excited would be more the word," he recalls. "These are all new people, I didn't know how I would be received, what kind of set am I walking into, what's the mood around here, and when I

# Leann Hunley Dishes DAYS Return

■ Leann Hunley (Anna) says she was thrilled to be asked back to DAYS, and shot her scenes last summer. “They called in June and I went to work at the end of July and worked through the end of August,” she reports. “I had some meaty stuff to do. It was fun.”

The actress was pleasantly surprised to see that the story involved Anna reconnecting with first husband Roman. “It’s so funny because the last time I worked with Josh [Taylor, Roman] in scenes that I remember actually having dialogue with him, he was Chris Kositchek [the role he played from 1977-87]. When I was there before, Anna was married to Wayne Northrop’s Roman. But it was great. It was nice to work with Josh after all these years. Anna and Roman are characters who did have affection for each other, they were married and had a child, so it was very fun to revisit some of that.”

Hunley admits that she never expected the characters to cross paths again. “Anna was so focused on Tony and has been so focused on Tony for 25 years at least,” she points out. “And I think Anna always thinks of Roman as being with Marlena and all the other people he dated after that. But I know she was always grateful to him for being a stable port in the



*“It’s always fun for me to go home.”*

storm for their daughter, Carrie, and looked out for her.”

When the actress previously returned in early 2017, the majority of her scenes took place outside of Salem. This time, she’s right in the thick of things in town. “On a personal level, it was really great because I got to work with people I hadn’t in a long time,” she enthuses. “And because you are in town, you have the opportunity for different characters to run into each other and interact with each other and to have some connections and disconnections, which obviously gives you story. And I enjoyed that.”

Plus, being at the set is a familiar feeling for her. “It’s always fun for me to go home,” Hunley declares. “I always feel like I’m going home. It’s like a family reunion for me; every year, she swings back through town and this time, she just happened to hook up with Roman. I relate to Anna a little bit because I live in California and my whole family is in Washington, and so for me to come home every year or every six months, it’s a connection that I need. And that’s what I feel when I go home to Salem and I think that’s what Anna feels; that’s how I tried to use it anyway. Anna wants to be a part of something, she wants to belong somewhere, and Salem is that for her.”

saw how happy everybody was, I just thought, ‘This is going to be a great place to work.’ And that’s half the battle anymore because we work so fast and it’s such a stressful environment when you’re being asked to turn out a good product as quickly as we’re asked to do, and it can lend itself to acting stress. It’s such a concert what they do

around here and it’s really a testament to the people here who have worked together for so long that everyone is still so happy. It’s so comforting to come into that environment.”

Five months into his run, Christopher doesn’t feel like the new guy anymore. “It feels like home,” he reflects. “I’m settling into this guy and

comfortable with being the town pariah, but still making him charming at the same time is a challenge and fun. They’ve entrusted me with the huge responsibility of playing this guy and there’s something new every day I come in. I get to interact with practically everyone; quite a few people just in this last five months. It’s been great.”

## B&B: LIAM LEARNS THE TRUTH!

■ Steffy is elated when she gets the paternity test results back and the baby is Liam's. "It's this really light and beautiful moment when she learns the truth," says Jacqueline MacInnes Wood (Steffy). "But then, it all stops and turns and Liam brings her back to reality when he finds the paper that was in Steffy's purse about the paternity test. Steffy isn't a good liar. She finally felt like the weight of the world was off her shoulders, but everything just falls right back down on her again. She doesn't know what to do or say, but in that moment it's very primal: 'Deny till you die.'"

Though Steffy tries to cover, Liam puts together the pieces and the result is, "Utter devastation," sighs Scott Clifton (Liam). "First, Liam sees the paternity test and thinks, 'Why would you need this? Wait, you were with someone else?' So, first it's the revelation of an affair. And then, the fact that the other man was his own father! It's just wave after wave of betrayal, and it just leaves him numb."

"It makes for a very long evening," adds Wood. "It's everything that needed to come out for so long, but



**Good News, Bad News:** Steffy (Wood) is thrilled to learn the baby she's carrying is Liam's (Clifton), but when he learns of her affair, he walks out.

HOWARD WISE/UP

Liam is so hurt and angry. She's never seen him like this, and she's afraid that this looks permanent." Indeed, she is distraught when Liam walks out. "Steffy has crossed so many lines that she does feel like this is going to be a permanent break," sighs Wood. "But that said, Steffy is going to fight for him, and she will do anything to make him realize how sorry she is, and that she will regret that day for the rest of her life. But in the heat of the moment, he does end up leaving her."

Steffy tries to get in touch with Liam after, to no avail. "She just has to sit with this," Wood continues. That's when someone unexpected learns of this shocking development. "Katie shows up, and obvi-

ously the paternity test that Liam pulled out of her purse is now on the coffee table. Katie sees the paternity test and realizes that Steffy is a mess, especially by how she appears."

Katie provides Steffy with a much-needed shoulder to cry on. "She is sympathetic," says Wood. "Knowing that Katie knows Bill well enough and knowing that he is capable of doing things that are pretty dark, she does ask Steffy if this is about revenge. She asks, 'Did he slip something in your drink?' and Steffy has to say, 'No, we both did this. He didn't manipulate me. He didn't talk me into this. I did this on my own.' Steffy stresses that this was not malicious in any way — but now, she has to face the consequences."

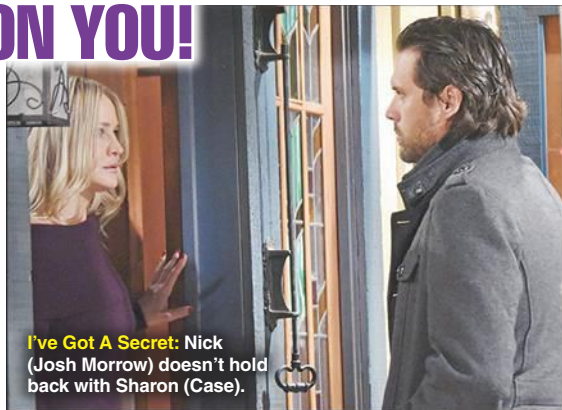


## Y&R'S NICK TO SHARON: SCOTT CHEATED ON YOU!

■ After witnessing Scott and Abby kiss on New Year's Eve, Nick is conflicted about whether or not Sharon should be apprised of her boyfriend's behavior. "Of course, at a party, you don't spend every moment with your date because you're mixing and mingling with other people," says Sharon Case (Sharon). "So, this kiss happened at one of those times when Sharon and Scott weren't together."

Chelsea tries to talk Nick out of tattling. "Chelsea points out to Nick that he's talking like Scott and Abby are having this big affair, which is a huge assumption to make," says Case. "Chelsea thinks Scott and Abby just got carried away that one time and they could already regret that it happened."

Nick isn't convinced that the smoldering buss was an isolated event and decides that Sharon needs to know. Nick heads out, then runs into his sister at Crimson Lights. He tells Abby what he saw, adding that he's on his way to talk to Sharon about it. Abby insists that nothing else is going on



XJ JOHNSON/UP

between her and Scott, but Nick is determined to clue in his ex. He promises to leave Abby's name out of his account. "Nick doesn't know that Faith saw Abby and Scott kissing," notes

*"Deep down, Sharon knows it could be true."*

Case. "He only knows about what he saw."

Nick shows up at Sharon's house and she's surprised to see him. When she asks the reason for his visit, Nick reveals what he knows about Scott. "He just says, 'Scott's involved with another woman,'" Case sighs. "Sharon asks who she is, but Nick says he doesn't want to say."

Sharon's first reaction is not to believe the story. "Initially, she comes to Scott's defense and she sort of lashes out at Nick," describes Case. "Sharon reasons that because Nick hates Scott, he's slanting what he may have seen or his imagination is over-exaggerating, so that it wasn't what Nick thought it was. Since Nick doesn't like Scott, why wouldn't Nick try to get rid of him? Sharon is in denial and clinging to hope."

However, Sharon begins to have doubts about Scott. "Somewhere deep down, Sharon knows it could be true," Case laments. "From that point, it all unravels." Sharon then learns that Abby is the other woman and there will be hell to pay....

## DAYS: STEFAN CRASHES THE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

■ Vivian crashes the DiMera New Year's party and reveals she isn't alone: She has brought along her secret son with Stefano, Stefan O. DiMera. "It's quite a grand entrance," muses Tyler Christopher (Stefan). "He crashes the party and says, 'This is who I am, believe it or not, and I'm taking over the company and this is how I'm going to run things. Like it or don't like it, but this is the way it is.'"

His arrival doesn't go over too well with Chad, Abigail, Andre and Kate. "Of course, everyone is in disbelief," previews Christopher. Adds Marci Miller (Abigail), "She's shocked, totally stunned. She and Chad are trying to have a great evening and it comes out of nowhere. Stefan rubs her the wrong way right off the bat. She thinks he's pompous and disrespectful and arrogant and she doesn't like him."

Stefan is well aware of how the crowd reacts to his presence. "Everyone hates him, but he will not apologize for who he is," explains Christopher. "He didn't know he was a DiMera his whole life. He did not come from money. He built him-



**Family Expansion:** Stefan's (Christopher, r.) arrival puts Chad (Billy Flynn) and Abigail (Miller) on edge.

XI JOHNSON/UP

self into the businessman he has become and just recently learned he was a DiMera."

There's immediate push-back from the family, who demands that Stefan take a DNA test. "It's what he expected and he has an answer for everyone," relays Christopher. "It's more about playing the game and winning with him."

While everyone is waiting for the results of the DNA test to come in, Stefan informs Chad and Abigail that he bought the bank that holds the mortgage on the DiMera mansion. He suggests they all live together so he can get to know them better. Abigail privately assures Chad they will fight Stefan together. "It's a situation where she's trying to keep her enemies close," says Miller. "She wants to stay there simply for a way to blow his cover and manipulate him in some way to get back all of these things

that he has taken over."

Being in close quarters with Abigail presents no issue for Stefan. "He's immediately attracted to her," shares Christopher. "Of course, the one problem being that she's married to his brother and she wants nothing to do with him, but that doesn't deter him from pursuing her."

Head Writer Ron Carlivati teases that there's a lot more to come in this story. "We used Vivian as a way to introduce Stefan, and Stefan will have a power of his own," he reveals. "They do come in like a mother/son power couple and they have their sights set on DiMera and taking it away from Kate and Andre and Chad and Abigail. So what you'll find is Vivian and Stefan's agendas are not totally aligned. Maybe they seem aligned, but there is a chance they could be working behind each other's backs at the same time."

## DREW FINDS SAM AND JASON TOGETHER ON GH

■ Sam didn't intend to ring in the new year with Jason, but thanks to Carly, she did — and Drew is far from thrilled when he catches up to them.

Sam and Jason's time together leaves Sam in a tight spot. Notes Co-Head Writer Shelly Altman, "Old memories stir old feelings and the conflict that Sam has been experiencing since the moment Jason returned to Port Charles forces her to examine — more honestly than she has so far — exactly what it is she feels and wants for her future."

Jason isn't looking to take advantage of her confusion. "Jason has been extremely clear about his feelings for Sam," Altman says. "That has not changed; he feels exactly what he felt five years ago. At the same time, he has respected and honored the fact that life moved on without him. So, he will not manipulate the situation, despite Carly's wishes. But at the same time, if Sam were, in the moment, to acknowledge that she feels what he feels, he certainly wouldn't turn her away."

Drew, who had been deliberately waylaid by Carly, finally makes it to *The Haunted Star* — only to find Sam and Jason together. "He



**Omission Policy:** Sam (Kelly Monaco) doesn't tell Drew everything about her night with Jason (Steve Burton).

ABC

is a little caught off-guard by the way in which he finds them," Altman reports. "But it's freezing, it's the new year, and his primary concern is to take care of Sam." Sam blames their predicament on Carly, which Drew easily accepts. "He knows Carly very well and he knows that Carly is Team Jason. He also can think back

*"Old memories stir old feelings."*

to how she first learned what his plans with Sam were for the evening. So, he has no doubt that Sam is telling the truth. The only question he has in his mind is, did Carly's plan work? And when the dust clears, he will certainly be examining his own perceptions of what did or might have happened that night."

Especially because Drew notes the presence of two props key to Sam/Jason

lore. "When he sees the dominoes and tequila out, questions are playing in his mind. Sure, they were alone, they were stuck waiting for help and killing time. But they happened to be killing time in a way he knows is extremely significant to their history — a history that he, himself, recalls and recreated with Sam! So, he knows very well what that means to them."

Sam decides to omit a few key details of her evening when she recaps it to Drew. "Is that a wise choice? Not necessarily," Altman acknowledges. "But it is a strong choice to share only the information she thinks is most pertinent to their relationship, hers and Drew's."

As for Carly, "She's got three people really pissed off," Altman chuckles. "Jason, Sam and Drew will each have an opportunity to tell her how they feel about her meddling."

## EARLY EDITIONS!

A preview of next week's stories.

HOWARD WISE/JPI



B&B's Ridge  
(Thorsten Kaye)

### BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

■ Ridge surprises Brooke by bringing Hope back to Los Angeles.

■ Liam shares big news with a shocked Wyatt.

CHRIS D./JPI



GH's Lulu  
(Emme Rylan)



DAYS's  
Tripp (Lucas Adams)  
and Claire  
(Olivia Rose Keegan)

XI JOHNSON/JPI

### DAYS OF OUR LIVES

■ Vivian's secret partner is revealed.

■ Theo faces complications.

■ Tripp tries to comfort Claire.

■ Abigail gets an eyeful of Stefan.

■ Victor is concerned about Brady and Eve.



Y&R's Graham  
(Max Shippee)

JILL JOHNSON/JPI

### GENERAL HOSPITAL

■ Sam calls Jason.

■ Laura has big news.

■ Franco has a disturbing run-in.

■ Curtis is humbled.

■ Lulu is too late.

### YOUNG AND RESTLESS

■ J.T. receives bad news.

■ Abby seeks forgiveness from Sharon.

■ Graham plays dirty with the Abbotts.

■ Reed faces the music.

■ Victor takes matters into his own hands.

# Quick Take

## with Marla Adams (Dina, Y&R)



MONTY BRINTON/CBS

### ■ What was your reaction when you learned that Dina would be afflicted with Alzheimer's?

"I was scared witless. [Former Head Writer] Sally Sussman called me well over a year ago and said, 'Marla, we're bringing you back to do a story on Alzheimer's with Dina.' I said, 'Sal, are you bringing me back just to kill me off?' She said no and that it was a big storyline."

**Did you have any concerns about playing Dina's diminishing mental capacity?** "Dina was a fierce businesswoman, so I had trepidation about this story, but I was very excited about taking on the challenge. They made it that she has had this insidious disease for over a year before coming back to Genoa City. I'm thrilled about portraying this storyline yet scared about how to approach it. It was frightening to attempt this with the utmost authenticity."

**When Executive Producer Mal Young also became the head writer, did you have any conversations with him about this storyline?** "He was on the set and I asked, 'Mal, do you know anyone in your life who's had Alzheimer's?' He looked up at me and said, 'Me mum.' After his father died, he took care of his mother for five years until she died. So, I jokingly asked him, 'Did she ever burn down a building and stab somebody?' He laughed and said, 'No, but she did get very violent.' This is what Dina is dealing

with now. She's being such a bitch, but it's a different kind of meanness. Dina is having those moments where she's mean, but then there are moments of lucidity and you care about her."

### Your soap kids are putting in some powerful performances.

"I love Peter [Bergman, Jack]! That boy is so giving. When we have scenes, he comes to my dressing room and we rehearse together. He's so available and I just adore him. Eileen [Davidson, Ashley] has been wonderful and when Beth [Maitland] comes to play Traci, she stays overnight at my house. We'll drink a wee bit of vodka, and I'm talking about the good stuff I keep in the freezer. She and I have some scenes in January that'll break your heart. Traci is the common denominator who keeps the crazy Abbotts in line, so I hope Beth will be back often. Peter, Eileen and Beth are all pros in this and sometimes we giggle right before shooting to cut the tension, but then when the camera's on, we're focused. Poor Jack, Ashley and Traci have it all to bear and it's so heart-rending."

### Do you ever have a sense of finality since Dina's condition is irreversible?

"I said to Mal, 'I hope you're not going to kill me off anytime soon,' and he said, 'You're not going anywhere.' I've come home after I've done these very emotional scenes, but I guess you can say I'm a Method actress because I'm spent. I take it so to heart. I don't know where this story is going, but it's not going to be pretty. However, I feel assured it'll be very compassionate and heartfelt."

## RATINGS RACE: WEEK OF DECEMBER 4

The numbers listed after each show are ratings points. Each ratings point represents 1,196,000 homes. These numbers now reflect DVR playback within the same day.

- YOUNG AND RESTLESS 3.2
- BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL 2.6
- GENERAL HOSPITAL 2.1
- DAYS OF OUR LIVES 1.7

NIELSEN MEDIA RESEARCH



Bradford is back on the scene on GH.

## who's coming

### DAYS OF OUR LIVES

**Leann Hunley (Anna DiMera):** Anna returns to Salem on January 5. See page 5 for more.

### GENERAL HOSPITAL

**Bradford Anderson (Damian Spinelli):**

Spinelli is back on the scene this week, hoping to make inroads in figuring out who kidnapped Jason (**Steve Burton**) and implanted his memories into Drew (**Billy Miller**).

# Comings and Goings

## the latest cast changes



Max begins airing again on Y&R.

### YOUNG AND RESTLESS

**Michael Masini (Tony Kingsman):** This professional interacts heavily with Ashley (**Eileen Davidson**) on January 4. Masini previously played Joey on **PASSIONS**.

**Max Shipp (Graham Bloodworth):** A missing-in-action Graham is heading back to Genoa City.

## who's going

### GENERAL HOSPITAL

**Shari Belafonte (Janice Lomax):** The mayor's political downfall spells the end of Belafonte's run.

## CAST CHANGES AT Y&R

■ **Y&R Executive Producer/Head Writer Mal Young** has big plans to deliver more solid drama for 2018. "We're not going to rest on our laurels," he vows. "Just when you think you've got things worked out, we're going to shake things up. We have a motto written on our writers' wall, 'I never saw that coming,' and that's our mantra every day."

Young is aware that Y&R fans are a savvy bunch. "The viewers are very, very knowledgeable about how soaps work," he praises. "They're very telly-literate, so we have to work harder to stay ahead of them,

to stay credible and to stay within character. You can't just surprise people by having Nick saying he's having a sex change, because that would be silly, but you can do it in a credible way by us trying really hard to be good storytellers with character-driven stories."

Young adds that as part of his game plan, "There are new faces coming to Genoa City." A well-placed source reports that this will not only include original characters but recasting some past ones, as well, with Jack's son Kyle topping the list.

## CASTING ABOUT

■ **Sam Daly** (ex-Sam, 90210) will appear alongside **Wesley Snipes** in the post-Katrina heist drama, *Cut Throat City*, which is currently shooting in New Orleans.... **GREY'S ANATOMY** star **Ellen Pompeo** (Meredith) will direct another episode of the long-running medical drama later this season. It will be the second episode she directs. According to TVLine.com, a portion of the episode will flash back to Alex's (**Justin Chambers**) turbulent teenage years; he spent much of his childhood coping with a drug-addict father and schizophrenic mother.

## DAYS'S CARLIVATI ON VIVIAN'S RETURN

■ DAYS Head Writer **Ron Carlivati** was thrilled that **Louise Sorel** (r.) was able to return as Vivian Alamain for a story he had planned. "When I came on the show, I got the chance to write for all these iconic characters like Marlena, Patch and Hope, and then there were a handful of characters who I didn't think I'd get to write for that weren't on the show that I did, like Sami Brady and Susan Banks and a tiny bit for Kristen DiMera," he says. "Sadly, I didn't get a chance to write for Stefano, but I did for Victor Kiriakis. Another character who is sort of a larger-than-life, iconic character who is in that realm that I gravitated to is Vivian Alamain. That was sort of a wish list character for me, someone I would love to write for, and didn't know if the stars would align to make it happen like it did with **Ali Sweeney** [ex-Sami] and **Eileen Davidson** [ex-Susan/Kristen]. But I always sort of go for it and hope that it might work out. So we started to craft a story in which Vivian would be pivotal and luckily, that all started to fall into place. And that also centered around bringing on my first new character that I created since coming onto the show, Stefan, who is being played by **Tyler Christopher** (above). I found out that Stefano as Rudolfo had seduced Vivian in Europe, so the idea that we had in this first meeting is that when he seduced her, Vivian got pregnant and she had a son."



## REAL-LIFE STATUS

■ **Recovering:** B&B's **Scott Clifton** (Liam) reported via social media that he had major surgery. "The surgery wasn't on my thumbs," he cracked of his ability to still post online. The day after his initial post, he added, "Hey, just wanted to thank you guys for all the well-wishing regarding my surgery. I'm recovering nicely, and reading your tweets has been a welcome distraction ...can't wait for you to see what's in store."



■ **Great Expectations:** **John Stamos** (ex-Blackie, GH) and his wife-to-be, **Caitlin McHugh**, are expecting their first child. "My life has been 'over blessed' but this could be my happiest moment ever!" he wrote on Instagram, adding, "I will certainly fall short of the father my pop was, but - I'm going to give it my all!"



# Hot Plots Pr

## DAYS OF OUR LIVES

### Brady And Eve Make Love

A New Year's kiss turns into a whole lot more when Brady and Eve wind up in bed. "That's where the tide turns," previews Eric Martsoff (Brady). "It all started off with the most horrible of intentions, for Brady to try to win back the respect from his grandfather and to get his position back at Titan. And all of this is placed on a plate in front of him as long as he's able to demolish Eve and get her out of the house. But, in true Brady fashion, in true addict fashion, the man seems to fall for women quite easily, especially when they have strong and attractive qualities about them. I think he's starting to have some genuine feelings for Eve that are definitely conflicting with his goal of getting rid of her."

Eve is confused about their relationship and asks Brady to define what's going on with them. Though Brady tells her it's just sex, "He finds himself drawn to her, as opposed to wanting to push her out, and that's going to be a problem," teases Martsoff. "He's definitely not in a good place to make good decisions."

#### Bed Alert:

Brady (Martsoff) and Eve (Kassie DePaiva) get closer.



PHOTOS: CHRIS D'UPT

Local Politics: Olivia (Lisa LoCicero) encourages Ned (Kurth) to run for mayor.

## GENERAL HOSPITAL

### Ned Vs. Laura For Mayor?

Ned quits ELQ after a squabble with Michael. Notes Wally Kurth (Ned), "It's been really hard for him to work at a company he used to run, especially working for someone much younger and less experienced. Michael was very clear that he's the boss, the buck stops with him, so it was kind of an unworkable situation. Ned just couldn't handle it anymore."

Olivia then proposes that Ned run in the special mayoral election. "Olivia is really the one who convinces him," the actor explains. "He never would have dreamed of being a politician. But he doesn't have a job and here's his new wife encouraging him to do it and while he does resist the idea, a part of him is thinking, 'Why not? I have the skills to be a good mayor.'"

Unbeknownst to Ned, another newlywed has the same bright idea for his own spouse. "While Olivia is talking Ned into running, Kevin is listening to Laura talk about her passion for Port Charles and he tells her that she should run for mayor!" says Kurth. "It's really fun writing."



# review!

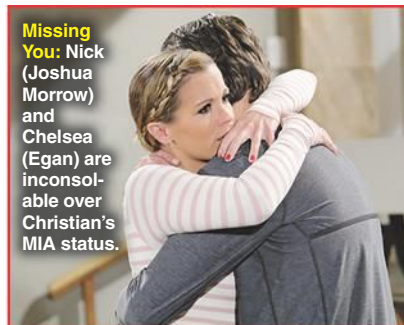
## What Will Happen

### YOUNG AND RESTLESS Christian Is Missing

While sitting at the GCAC with Connor and Christian, Chelsea gets up from the table after a momentary distraction, and when she comes back, Christian is gone. "It all happens very quickly," begins Melissa Claire Egan (Chelsea). "One second, Christian is there and the next second, he's not. She doesn't know if he walked off, so at first, it's, 'Where did he go?' She starts looking but she can't find him. Then she really starts to lose it."

The staff joins the search but Christian is nowhere to be found. Chelsea tries not to consider the idea that he was abducted. "She won't let her mind go there," says Egan. "She loves this child as if he was her own. But there are extra elements that come into this that make it even more frightening for her."

Nick shows up and is understandably upset about his missing son. "He's really scared, so he takes it out on her," Egan sighs. "She feels horrible, so I don't think she'll be joining the babysitters' club anytime soon."



**Missing You:** Nick (Joshua Morrow) and Chelsea (Egan) are inconsolable over Christian's MIA status.



SEAN SMITH/UP!

**Still The One:** Carter's (Saint-Victor) revelation shocks Maya (Karla Mosley).

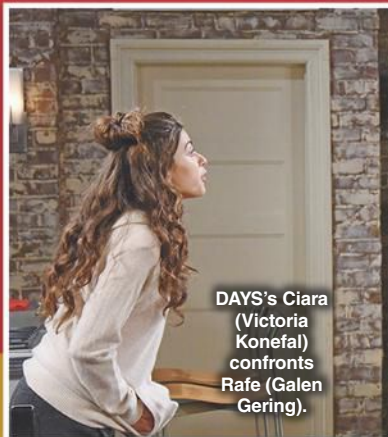
### BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL Carter Still Loves Maya

Carter drops a bombshell on ex-fiancée Maya when he tells her that he still has feelings for her. "Carter wanted to marry her," states his portrayer, Lawrence Saint-Victor. "There was all that tension between them after their breakup because Carter was never over her for real, and he's been battling these thoughts for a while now. So, the opportunity comes up for him to say how he feels. I think if he had it his way he wouldn't say anything but he just can't shake it. He's still in love with her."

The revelation doesn't go over well. "It's very awkward," he chuckles. "The temptation was to make it charming or smooth but there's no way around it. There's no way a confession like this would come out easily. And Maya is just as shocked as Karla [Mosley, Maya] and I were reading it. But, Maya has a family now. She's married. She seems to be happy, and that's something that's worth protecting — but if you ask me, I think she does feel something, too [laughs]!"

# 1<sup>st</sup> *sneak peek* LOOK photos

*A glimpse of what's coming up in the week ahead!*



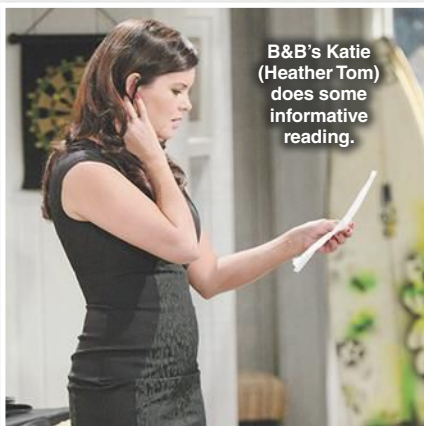
**DAYS's** Ciara (Victoria Konefal) confronts Rafe (Galen Gering).



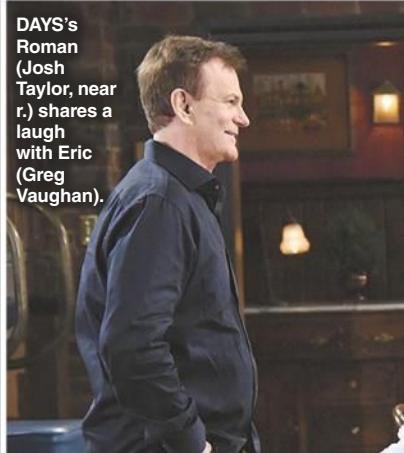
**Liam** (Scott Clifton, l.) and **Bill** (Don Diamont) battle it out on **B&B**.



**Y&R's** Lily (Christel Khalil) reconnects with **J.T.** (Thad Luckinbill).



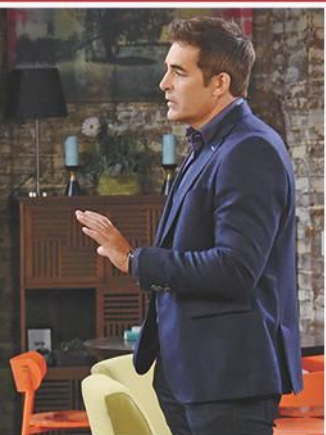
**B&B's** Katie (Heather Tom) does some informative reading.



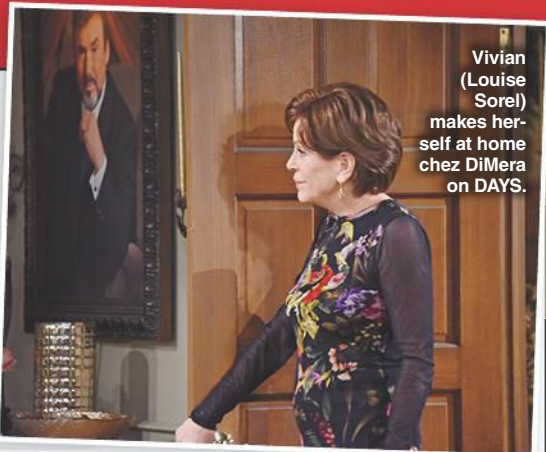
**DAYS's** Roman (Josh Taylor, near r.) shares a laugh with **Eric** (Greg Vaughan).

HOWARD WISE/JPI

HOWARD WISE/JPI



PHOTOS: IPI/JOHNSON



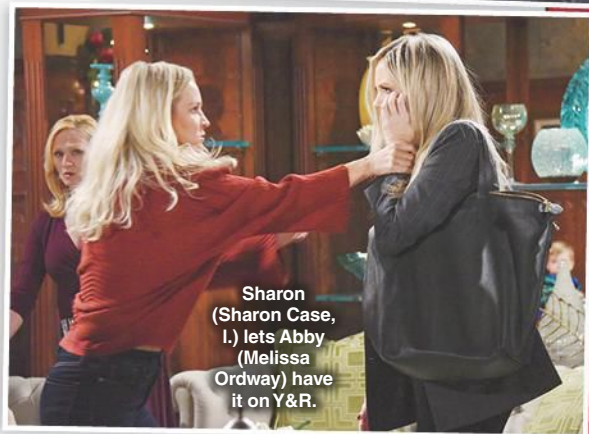
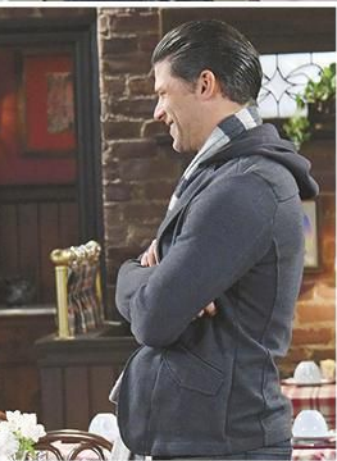
Vivian (Louise Sorel) makes herself at home chez DiMera on DAYS.



Jennifer (Melissa Reeves, L.) has a warm welcome home for Anna (Leann Hunley) on DAYS.



Jill (Jess Walton) and Cane (Daniel Goddard) catch up over coffee on Y&R.



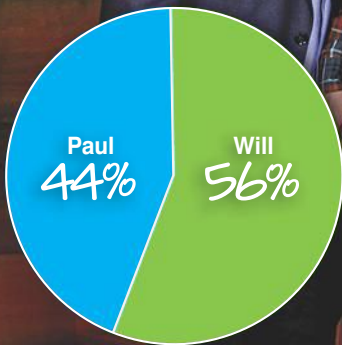
Sharon (Sharon Case, L.) lets Abby (Melissa Ordway) have it on Y&R.

# EXTRA! EXTRA!

## SNAP POLL

Readers of  
soapoperadigest.com  
weigh in.

### Who should DAYS's Sonny be with?



**Close Call:** By a slim margin, DAYS fans prefer Sonny (Freddie Smith, c.) with Will (Chandler Massey, r.) over Paul (Christopher Sean).

JOHN PASCHAL/JPI

## trend temperature



	Wake-Up Time	Impulsive DAYS Tryst	GH Newlyweds
HOT	Theo, DAYS	Brady and Eve	Kevin and Laura
WARM	Drew, GH	Lani and Eli	Ned and Olivia
COLD	Chloe, DAYS	Rafe and Sami	Nathan and Maxie

STAR SHOTS OF THE WEEK

INSTAGRAM/NICHOLS



"One last hug before our Holiday break," wrote Stephen Nichols (Steve, DAYS, with Mary Beth Evans, Kayla).



TWITTER/MARTINEZ

Reported A Martinez (ex-Eduardo, DAYS et al), "Shared a wonderful lunch with my friends and former colleagues @robinstrasser [ex-Dorian, ONE LIFE TO LIVE] and @KassieDePaiva [Eve, DAYS] (who snapped this). Bonds steeped in the details & memories of special work are bonds that endure, and Robin, in her generosity, put this exquisite twelve-string guitar into my hands."

INSTAGRAM/WRIGHT



"And to think we almost didn't do it !! Haa Merry Christmas!!!" cheered GH's Laura Wright (Carly), with beau Wes Ramsey (Peter) and her daughter, Lauren.

INSTAGRAM/STORMS



"Sunday night at Brandon's House," wrote Kirsten Storms (GH's Maxie), with former hubby Brandon Barash (ex-Johnny, GH) and their daughter, Harper Rose.



Marc Miller (Abby, DAYS, with Billy Flynn, Chad) had a message for "Chabby" fans. "Shot a whole set of scenes togetha and then came downstairs to each open the sweetest gifts! Y'all. We are so grateful for you."

INSTAGRAM/MILLER

# SNEAK PREVIEW!

# Record This

your handy  
guide to  
must-see  
episodes

PHOTOS: CHRIS DUJPI



## Bold And Beautiful Overdue Bill

On **Wednesday, January 3**, Wyatt (l.) queries Bill about how much he knows about Steffy's pregnancy.... On **Thursday, January 4**, Liam becomes the aggressor when he comes face to face with Bill.

## Days Of Our Lives Payback Time

Will and Paul kiss; Ciara vows to make Rafe pay; and Brady needles Sonny over Will and Paul on **Tuesday, January 2**.... On **Wednesday, January 3**, Chloe has a warning for Brady, and Will ends things with a heartbroken Sonny. "Will has no idea what's in his heart, because he's a blank canvas," notes Chandler Massey (Will). "It's almost an unselfish move for Will at this point. He knows it's not right to force something. He's trying to be the Will who Sonny remembers, but he can't because he doesn't remember." ... Abe has an honest talk with Theo, and Rafe figures out what's going on with Ciara on **Thursday, January 4**.... On **Friday, January 5**, Andre confesses to Kate (both above) that he has feelings for her.

XU JOHNSON/UPI

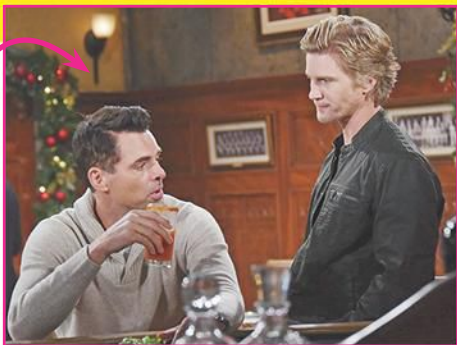


## General Hospital Bound And Determined

Anna is in a bind on **Tuesday, January 2**, while Nina grows anxious, and Sonny reaffirms his love.... On **Wednesday, January 3**, Jordan tracks Anna down; Franco's (l.) confusion grows; and Michael and Ned meet.... Anna pays a visit to the ICU; Amy hopes to have good news for Nathan; and Lulu's attempts fall flat on **Thursday, January 4**.

## Young And Restless Fires And Ice

On **Tuesday, January 2**, J.T. worries about Billy's influence (both r.) over Reed.... On **Thursday, January 4**, Jack and Ashley reach an understanding.... Sparks fly between Cane and Lily on **Friday, January 5**.



XJ.JOHNSON/JPI

PRIME  
TIME

On **Monday, January 1**, VALOR, featuring GH vet Bryan Craig (ex-Morgan), returns for its winter premiere on THE CW.... B&B alum Kim Matula (ex-Hope, r.) stars in the high-flying workplace sitcom LA TO VEGAS, which follows the misadventures of a budget airline's flight crew and its passengers, debuting on **Tuesday, January 2**, on Fox. On THE MICK, Jennie Garth (ex-Kelly, BEVERLY HILLS, 90210) guest stars as a pretentious, New Age parent who also happens to be named Jennie Garth. THIS IS US returns for its winter premiere on NBC, as Kevin (Justin Hartley, ex-Adam, Y&R) faces the consequences following his DUI arrest.... 9-1-1, starring Connie Britton (ex-Rayna, NASHVILLE), debuts on **Wednesday, January 3**, on Fox.... On **Thursday, January 4**, NASHVILLE returns to CMT for its sixth and final season, where Juliette (r., with Avery) teeters on the verge of a breakdown; Deacon and Jessie make a decision about their relationship; and Gunnar adopts a new look.... On **Saturday, January 6**, on ABC, the Kyra Sedgwick (ex-Julia, ANOTHER WORLD) drama TEN DAYS IN THE VALLEY airs its two-hour series finale.



TARA ZIEMBA/GETTY IMAGES; CMT

**Please Note:** These are the scheduled air dates, released to us by the networks and TV production companies at press time. Due to last-minute pre-emptions, actual air dates may vary.

# editor's note

## Dear Readers,

Tyler Christopher makes his DAYS debut this week, and it is going to shake up the canvas in a big way. I spoke to the popular actor, who is very excited to be in Salem and has found a renewed sense of enthusiasm for performing as a result of his new gig. Turn to page 4 for more from him, and page 8 for some story preview.

The holidays are over, which, for most people means it's time to figure out how to shed the pounds you may have gained from some end-of-the-year indulgences. (Cookies? Eggnog? Too much party food?) In this issue, eight stars who know a thing or two about keeping trim share their fitness tips and strategies to get in shape and stay that way. Check out what they have to say, beginning on page 46. Speaking of losing weight, Genie Francis (Laura, GH) opens up more about her journey on the Nutrisystem program, and why she accepts herself more than she ever has before, on page 42.

After Y&R's Patty Weaver (ex-Gina, Y&R et al) lost her beloved husband, Jerry Birn, she discovered a new passion for painting and it helped her through her grief. On page 54, the artist shares her inspiring story.

The Roundup on page 36 is a fun one: Actors tell us which four co-stars they'd bring along on FAMILY FEUD.



**Stephanie Sloane,**  
Editorial Director



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# Now that's what you call Beginner's Luck!



by Master Doll Artist  
Cheryl Hill

## Grab the camera, this one's a keeper!

Looks like the rod and reel grandpa gave him worked wonders because this adorable angler was able to catch his very first fish — a largemouth bass that's nearly as big as he is!

Introducing "Beginner's Luck," an award-winning doll by artist Cheryl Hill. Artist's resin captures every bit of Ms. Hill's realistic sculpting, from that wonderfully joyous grin to his itty-bitty fingers and toes! Then he's hand-painted and dressed in the cutest fishing attire that's almost as impressive as his catch!

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Cheryl Hill's artist-original dolls sell for hundreds of dollars. But "Beginner's Luck," and each of the exclusive dolls in the *Reel Cute* collection, is yours for *only* \$39.99\*, payable in two easy payments of \$19.99, backed by our 365-day guarantee. And you may cancel at any time. But the dolls are strictly limited, so don't wait — order now!

"Beginner's Luck" is about 6" high. He is not a toy, but a fine collectible.

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# star style

what they're wearing...wh

## lengthy matters

■ **Lauren Koslow** (Kate, DAYS) has changed up her hair — and is loving it. “This might be the longest I’ve had it,” she says. “I am kind of playing with it. I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to do with it. It got longer and longer, and then I kind of just let it grow, and now it’s kind of a thing. There’s a new person styling my hair at work. She’s really into it, and every once in a while I’ll talk about cutting it and she’s like, ‘But we’re not going to be able to do all the things we’re doing!’ I feel like we’re going to be more experimental and creative with Kate’s hair. It’s kind of fun, and I kind of like it off work, too, because I can just braid it or put it up. I haven’t had longer hair for a long, long time. So, if I’m not going to do it now, when am I going to do it?”



JILL JOHNSON/JPI



AFF/STEVEN BERGMAN

## information station

**Q** Can you tell me where I can find that beautiful wrap dress that B&B’s Brooke was wearing when she was refereeing the fight between Ridge and Thorne? Katherine Kelly Lang [Brooke] looked lovely in it. Thank you.

**S.E., via email**

**A** Brooke’s long sleeve, A-Line Wrap Dress is by Diane von Furstenberg and can be found at [www.dvf.com](http://www.dvf.com) for \$398.



PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

**Q** Who makes the black and white top Phyllis [Gina Tognoni] wore on Y&R? It has cutouts on the sleeves. Thanks!

**Samantha S., via email**

**A** The cutout color-block sweater is by Yigal x Aqua.

ere they're going...what they're doing

top  
it  
off

When Curtis and Jordan went to Cuba to track down Andre on GH, all three characters rocked some tropical attire that Donnell Turner (Curtis) felt was “very current, very stylish. I thought all three of us represented. It was a good look for all of us.” Both Turner and Anthony Montgomery (Andre) had fedoras as part of their costumes (“I call them urban sombreros,” Turner reports), and originally, reports Vinessa Antoine (Jordan), “All three of us were wearing fedoras! Quite honestly, in the fitting, it looked fantastic. It would look great in a photo shoot and it was a cool, little look. But for the whole scene, no; it just wasn’t going to work. The way I explained it was, ‘Listen, if I have the hat on for half the scene and then take it off for the other half, we’re going to have a very weird, curly-haired hat head situation!’” Agrees Turner, “I think the look, the optics of it, would have been very weird. Andre had a smaller hat, my hat was kind of big for my size and her hat was even bigger.” “My hat was bigger than the both of theirs put together!” Antoine explains. “It would have been hilarious.”



**Hat Trick:**  
Anthony Montgomery (Andre, l.) and Donnell Turner (Curtis) were well-accessorized during recent GH scenes.

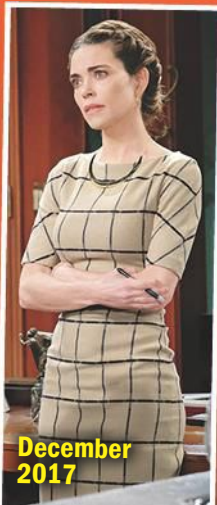
PHOTOS: X/PHOTONJ/PI

double vision

Y&R's Victoria (Amelia Heinle) dug into the back of her closet to find this frock.



January  
2016



December  
2017

SEAN SMITH/UP/CHRIS D.J/PI

Send your style questions to Star Style, Soap Opera Digest, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004 or email them to [SODSound@soapoperadigest.com](mailto:SODSound@soapoperadigest.com).

Due to the volume of mail received, we regret that we cannot answer your letters personally.

# so tweet

## @ThaaoPenghis (Andre, DAYS)

Sitting on top of the ancient crown of Athens, in front of the Parthenon. The Classical Age of the Acropolis, Greece surrounded by the Legends that remain.



TWITTER/PENGHIS

## @therachelmelvin (ex-Chelsea, DAYS)

#Winter is your best chance to see the forest through the trees ... well, unless you're in the #SouthernHemisphere then, you're still kinda screwed #friday #friyay #humor #weekend

## @DanielGoddard (Cane, Y&R)

Never be ashamed of how you feel. You have the right to feel any emotion that comes to you, and to follow a path that makes you happy! #Equality

## @Chrishell7 (ex-Jordan, DAYS et al)

Ok I am at a Kenny Loggins concert and was waiting to hear Islands In The Stream. Just got told: wrong Kenny

## @1SteveBurton (Jason, GH)

Hangin' with the jackal! @BfordAnderson we work early tomorrow. Learning lines Much luv to you guys! #stonecoldandthejackal

## @linseygodfrey (ex-Caroline, B&B)

I love how everyone is saying I dyed my hair for role haha! Guys I legit haven't dyed my hair since July. JULY! That's just some natural hair color right there. Hahaha

## @TheJudiEvans (Adrienne, DAYS)

Gettin' me some Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid tonight.....man! Talk about sex on a stick x 2....those two were so beautiful!!!

## @caitfairbanks (Tessa, Y&R)

Thought I saw a sign that said "Emotional Parking"

## check it out!

### @ImEvaLaRue (ex-Maria, ALL MY CHILDREN)

Just discovered @eatalya! I want to live here, this cheese section alone could keep me warm at night! #ilovefood #happyplace

### @rickygoldin (ex-Gus, GUIDING LIGHT et al)

The amazing @BrookeBurke just launched her fitness app BrookeBurkeBody. I love this woman and what she stands for. Brooke is a force of nature with bountiful positive energy. We can all LEARN from her. You would be foolish to pass this up. #AnytimeAnywhere

### @TheRealStafford (Nina, GH)

We LOVED making pizza last night from <http://veropizzaandpasta.com> food delivery service!! The best Italian food EVER! A great gift!



TWITTER/STAFFORD

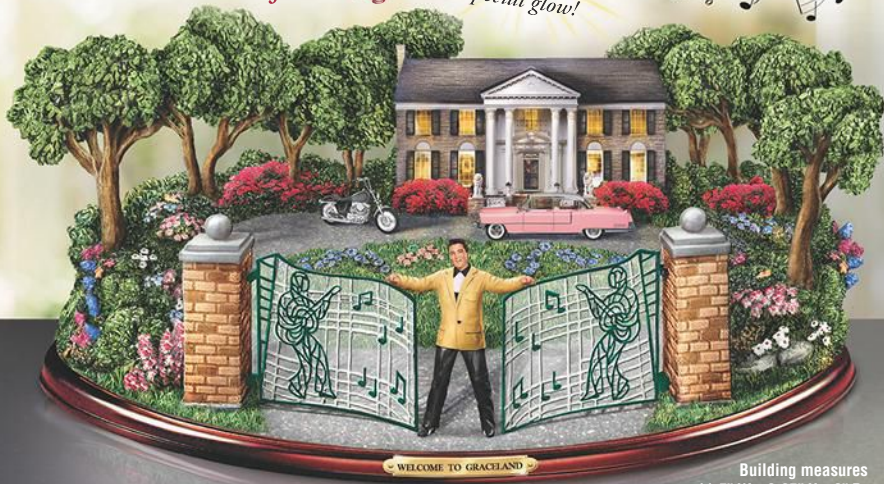
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Mr. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Name (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**14-01866-001-E97801**

# Digest's Hottest Shots

■ The cast and crew of B&B got together to celebrate the holidays at La Piazza at The Grove in Los Angeles.



## MIDDLE MAN

John McCook (Eric) was flanked by his reel-life wife, Rena Sofer (Quinn, I.), and his real-life wife, Laurette Spang.

PHOTOS: JPI



## WITH BELLS ON

B&B Executive Producer/Head Writer Bradley Bell and his sister, Lauralee Bell (Christine, Y&R), posed with their mother, B&B Co-Creator Lee Phillip Bell.

## OH, WHAT FUN

"Always such a blast at the @BandB\_CBS Christmas party," tweeted Katherine Kelly Lang (Brooke), with Ian Buchanan (James).



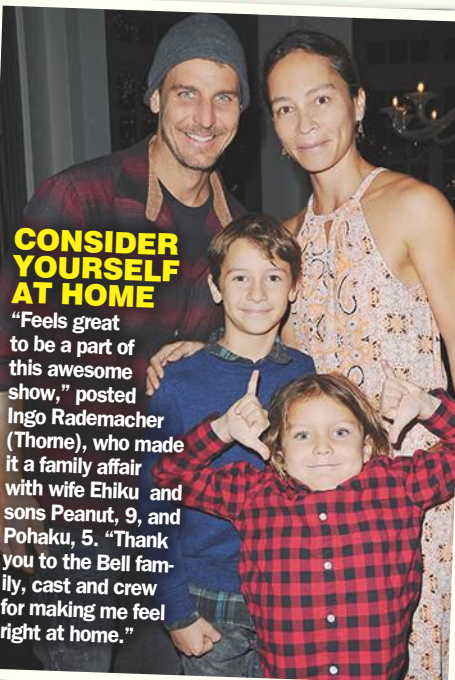
## TALK TO ME

Thorsten Kaye (Ridge) spent some time chatting with Bell.



## CONSIDER YOURSELF AT HOME

"Feels great to be a part of this awesome show," posted Ingo Rademacher (Thorne), who made it a family affair with wife Ehiku and sons Peanut, 9, and Pohaku, 5. "Thank you to the Bell family, cast and crew for making me feel right at home."





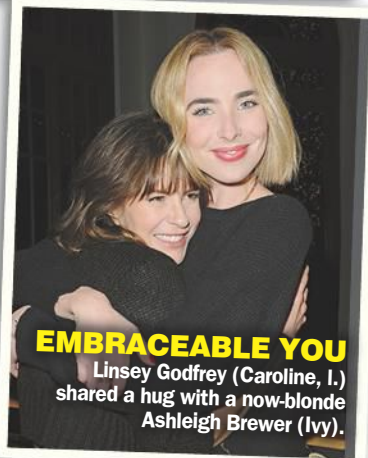
**SISTER ACT**  
Heather Tom (Katie, r.) brought along her sister, actress Nicholle Tom.



**JUSTIN TIME**  
Jennifer Gareis (Donna) caught up with Aaron D. Spears (Justin).



**THREE'S COMPANY**  
Scott Clifton (Liam) gave a lift to his son, Ford, in this photo with wife Nikki.



**EMBRACEABLE YOU**  
Linsey Godfrey (Caroline, I.) shared a hug with a now-blonde Ashleigh Brewer (Ivy).



**BOYS IN BLUE**  
Don Diamont (Bill) and his wife, Cindy Ambuehl, smiled for the camera with Bell.

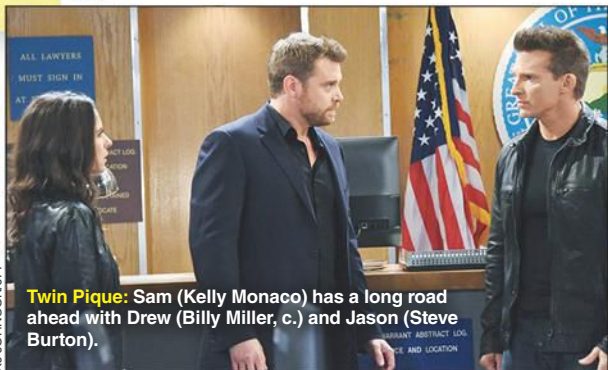
# editors' choice

Digest Salutes  
The Best In  
Soaps

## The New Normal, GENERAL HOSPITAL

**A**fter GH officially revealed which of Alan and Susan's twins is Jason (that would be Steve Burton) and which is Drew (Billy Miller), it began to dig into the wide-ranging fallout, making clear that there will be no shortage of roiling drama in the saga's next chapter.

Reeling and displaced, the newly minted Andrew clung to Sam for emotional support, but stiffened when she instinctively referred to him as Jason. "You can't call me that anymore," he reminded her with some bitterness. They pondered how to break the news to Danny (in a particularly heart-tugging moment, he tentatively asked if she wanted him be there when she informed the boy that he wasn't his father). Drew also nobly offered to step aside to allow her to return to his brother. She doubled down on her commitment to him: "I love you. *You*." Visibly relieved,



XJ JOHNSON/UP

**Twin Pique:** Sam (Kelly Monaco) has a long road ahead with Drew (Billy Miller, c.) and Jason (Steve Burton).

he admitted, "It would have killed me if I lost you." (No pressure, Sam!)

Meanwhile, Jason ran into Alexis, who not-so-subtly encouraged him to let "Dream" (fans' new squish name for the Drew/Sam pairing) remain a team, one with the mob-free family life Jason could never give her daughter. She then reiterated this point to Sam, reminding her that Jason "is not gonna change, honey ... He is who he is." Suddenly unable to breathe, Sam sped off to the pier, where Jason slipped out of the shadows. As the evocative "JaSam" theme music played, her eyes shined with tears and he assured her, "Whatever happens, it's all gonna work out." She thanked him, he walked away and she sank to her knees, overwhelmed

and anguished.

Now *this* is how to do a triangle! There are no villains here, just two men who truly love Sam and want her to be happy — and to make her own decisions. And if Sam is indeed in love with both of them, well, she certainly didn't get there by being fickle. All three actors have been superb, but Kelly Monaco, in particular, is slaying the emotional nuances of Sam's impossible situation.

The impact of the Jason/Drew reveal wasn't limited to the men and the woman who had married them. The Quartermaines had to contend with the implications for ELQ's stock distribution of a new heir, prompting a surprisingly touching rapprochement between the bickering Olivia and Monica when Liv schooled Ned, whose instinct



was to protect the company by denying Drew stock, on the importance of family. The news also prompted a change in Liz and Franco's relationship status, as the mother of Jason's firstborn realized she was ready to take the plunge with her live-in beau (who just so happens to be Jason's mortal enemy). She proposed, and when he later formalized their engagement with a ring, wouldn't you know it, new G.H. hire Kim (and the secret mother of Drew's firstborn) got lost looking for the employee lounge, stumbling into the art room and interrupting Franco's attempt to come clean with his wife-to-be about his advance knowledge of Jason's true identity.

In the park, the duo encountered Sam and Drew, who had few congratulations to offer them upon spotting Liz's new rock. Liz and Drew then took Jake aside to inform him that Drew isn't his daddy (portrayer Hudson West's devastation was spot-on and more than a little heartbreaking), leaving Sam and Franco behind to trade barbs. Jason "isn't done with you," Sam warned. "It sounds to me like you're not done with Jason," he countered. Touché!

With an embarrassment of messy, complex and compelling dynamics — romantic, familial, psychological — to work with, GH is setting up a gold mine of soapy goodness with no end in sight. □

## performer of the week

### Alison Sweeney

(SAMI, DAYS)

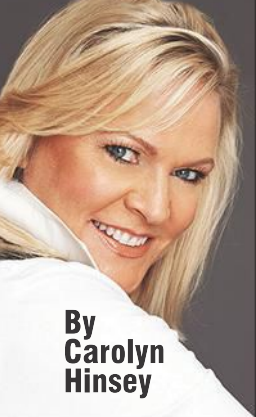


■ Alison Sweeney delivered a series of stunning performances during her Sami reprisal, but the actress's range was particularly impressive in her high-impact scenes with Sami's siblings.

In her blazing fight with Belle, Sweeney was defiant, lighting into her sis for betraying her (by giving her Sami-gifted largesse back to the DiMeras), all snarky tone and rolling eyes. Then Belle blasted her as selfish — and worse yet, no better than Stefano — for the extreme measures she'd taken to trigger amnesiac Will's memories. "Take that back," Sami seethed, face reddening, eyes watering, jabbing her finger at her accuser. After throwing Belle out, Sami lost it — and Sweeney let loose, unleashing a primal scream into a pillow and tearing the room apart.

She had settled onto the floor, spent nearly to the point of numbness, when Eric arrived. She began to weep softly, grateful to melt into his consoling arms. Eric chastised her for her recent antics, and Sami grew petulant, accusing him of being sympathetic to "everyone but me." Fresh tears falling, she admitted, "I've really screwed up this time," her pain and regret obvious as she recounted Will's icy rejection. But Eric's attempt at tough love rubbed her the wrong way and she tried to show *him* the door, too. Taking a gentler approach, he managed to get through to her, and her scowl faded as she allowed her vulnerability to peek through — and a little bit of hope, too, when Eric suggested that deep down, her son knew that she'd been acting out love. Sami's composure regained, Sweeney even allowed her a moment of sly humor, a mischievous glint in her eyes when she made a veiled reference to her night of passion with Rafe ("I had the law on my side").

Sweeney's iron-clad grasp on her mercurial character hasn't waned a bit in her time away from Salem — nor has the talent that made her one of the genre's most beloved icons.



By  
Carolyn  
Hinsey

# It's Only My Opinion

Daytime's  
most  
outspoken  
columnist  
returns!

Follow Carolyn on Twitter @carolynhinsey

■ Soaps fall into the trap of *telling* us the story rather than *showing* us when they rush the action.

■ Take the reveal that Drew was Oscar's father on GH. They built that story so well, with Oscar and Josslyn playing amateur sleuths to find his dad and little smartie Joss stealing Drew's glass for a DNA test. But just as the Scooby Kids were about to learn the truth, Oscar's mom blabbed the whole thing! Newbie Kim told Drew this rambling story about how they had a long-ago affair that conceived Oscar, but Drew was deployed and she couldn't find him and then she got busy with her life and blah blah.

Why not have the kids take the secret to someone they trust, like Sonny, Carly and/or Jason and add a valuable layer? Kim stopped the quest cold by confessing, and then repeated the story to Oscar with curiously no drama.

Elsewhere, Andre confessed to Anna he invented the memory transferring machine (?) to salvage his

wife's memories — a wife we knew nothing about who suffered from Alzheimer's which inspired his memory-saving invention (again, ?). **Andre:** "That light that was so much a part of her had been extinguished. She didn't even know me."

And we don't know *her*. A more dramatic way to tell this sad story would have been to take us to the hospital where Andre's wife sat catatonic

**Nelle finally has a purpose and it's fantastic.**

and *show* him trying to get her to recognize him. Bring Anna along to make us care, and show Anna embracing Andre afterward to acknowledge his heartbreak. That's so much more effective than Andre giving a monologue about a stranger.

Look at how well GH made us care about that drug storyline with Anna explain-

ing through tears "the impact on my life" after Robin contracted HIV from Stone as a result of an ex's drug use.

Or how they pivoted with that pointless Nelle by turning her into The Bitch of Port Charles. When Nelle came to town with her cockamamie revenge scheme against Carly, it was 100 percent backstory with Jax having bought Nelle's kidney from her evil stepfather off-screen to save Josslyn and Nelle being mad and ... zzzz. But Nelle is now a vengeful Carly 2.0 — and she's knocked up!

**Bobbie (to Carly):** "She wouldn't be the first schemer to fake a pregnancy."

Oh, like Bobbie did with Scotty Baldwin to get him away from Laura back in the 1970s? (She even stole a urine sample from a pregnant woman to "prove" it.) Or like Carly schemed to pass baby Michael off as Jason's when his father was really A.J.?

Get off your high horses, ladies. Nelle finally has a purpose and it's fantastic.

**Michael (entering):** "Did you



**Burning For You?** Thorne's (Ingo Rademacher) renewed interest in B&B's Brooke needs additional explanation.

summon my parents, too?"

**Nelle:** "No, just good luck I guess you could call it."

**Sonny:** "I could call it a lot of other things."

**Nelle:** "We should discuss this wonderful new addition to our lives. We are blessed...."

Carly's face looked like a skunk sprayed her!

■ Blasting Thorne back to B&B hell-bent on destroying his brother was clever, but they missed a few beats.

**Thorne:** "I've been thinking about my life, analyzing where I went wrong. Letting you go was one of the biggest mistakes I ever made."

**Brooke:** "We were good together."

No you weren't. Your marriage didn't last 12 months.

Hopefully they'll tell us more about Thorne's missing years in Paris and why he suddenly "analyzed" that he wanted Brooke back.

**Thorne:** "You cannot marry my brother. If you gotta marry anyone, you marry me."

"If you gotta marry anyone"? Is that a proposal or a

grocery list? ("If you gotta buy milk, buy almond milk.")

**Let's review:** 1) Brooke is still married to Bill. 2) Bill was Brooke's 14th marriage. 3) Brooke has also been married to Thorne's father, Eric (twice), and brother, Ridge (seven times). 4) Thorne has already been with Ridge's exes Caroline and Taylor.

That's at least worth a conversation, don't you think, Little Brother?

The best way to ease Thorne back onto the canvas would have been through Sally and Shirley Spectra, the aunt and cousin of his *actual* true love, Macy. And since Thorne was once CEO of Spectra Fashions, the logical entrée to the fashion biz would have been for him to team up with his former in-laws to beat Ridge at Forrester, rather than leave his drawings lying around the office hoping Eric or Brooke would be like, "Hey, those are good. Come unseat your brother and design for us."

I'd pay cash money for

a Ridge vs. Thorne splashy showstopper!

■ Y&R hurried the tale of Chancellor Park, moving it front burner in like two episodes. All of a sudden Faith wants to go skating in the same park her grandfather is trying to demolish? No. Show us flashbacks of Katherine sitting on a bench, all the times her loved ones gathered in the park over the years, and *then* kick off the tale of mean old Victor a.k.a. Mr. Potter trying to bulldoze this sweet place over the objections of his earnest son Nick a.k.a. Jimmy Stewart in *It's A Wonderful Life*.

Look at the masterful way Y&R slowly crafted Dina's Alzheimer's story. "We're going to make this holiday one to cherish," declared Jack as his dotty mother wrecked deal after deal. Like that.

■ DAYS rushed the story of Will forgiving Sami (that could have gone on for months!), but bringing back Susan and allowing Will to admit his mother's whacked-out methods to spark his memory actually worked and went a long way toward *showing* us his long, confusing journey.

**Will:** "I'm sorry for hurting you."

**Sami:** "I'm sorry I sic'd a serial killer on you."

What more could you ask from your mother at the holidays?

■ Hey. It's only my opinion. □

# engaging tale

*B&B's Jacqueline MacInnes Wood (Steffy) shares the romantic details of how beau Elan Ruspoli popped the question.* By Tom Stacy

“I was not expecting it at all,” says Wood of her sweet marriage proposal from Elan Ruspoli, a talent agent at CAA.

The groom-to-be meticulously planned the big moment, Wood reports. “One of Elan’s friends who works with him over at CAA mentioned to me, ‘I have this energy drink for our friend’s company. Could we do a shoot with you?’ ” she recalls. “I said, ‘Absolutely.’ He said, ‘Great, we’ll have hair and makeup come and we’ll get you a dress.’ So, I finished work, rushed home, got ready and we went to the Ace Hotel rooftop. They had the cameras and lights set up. We did some pictures and they were playing music. This song came on, which was one of our songs. Then, the next song that came on was from Blood Orange. Well, this is where we went on our first date, right here on this rooftop, and then we went across the street to see this guy perform. I thought, ‘How serendipitous that our first date is replaying itself,’ and then Elan walks out and I didn’t know what to do. He and his friends had set up this fake photo shoot, and Elan got down on one knee.”

Wood was stunned — and tapped into her emotions right away. “What’s funny is, I’d been filming nonstop for weeks and the night before this happened, I was lying in bed looking over my script and I turned over to Elan and I said, ‘I don’t know how I can cry anymore. I have no more tears in me.’ In fact, I watched a sad movie the day before and no tears came because I’d used them all up on B&B [laughs]. And suddenly, my tears came back. It was such a beautiful moment. After that — I said yes, by the way — he said, ‘Let’s grab some dinner,’ and when we got downstairs, there were balloons, all my friends were there, and he flew in my family and my friends from Canada. It was very, very special.” □

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACQUELINE MACINNES WOOD



Prior to the proposal, Wood posed for the camera believing she was participating in a photo shoot for an energy drink.





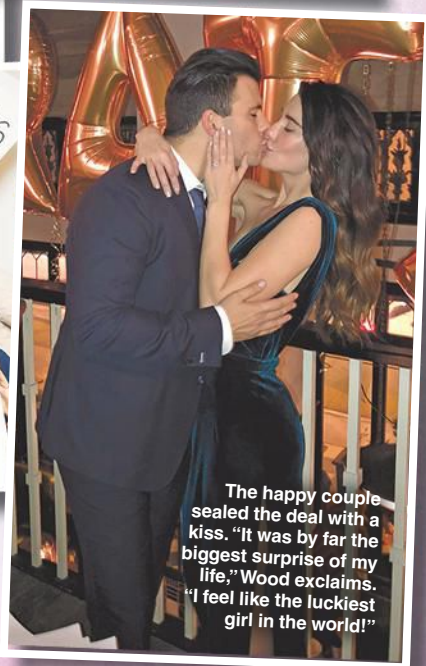
Wood was surprised when Ruspoli got down on one knee and popped the question.



INSTAGRAMWOOD



Ruspoli flew in Wood's family and friends from Canada for their big night. "He'd been planning this since August, and invitations went out in September, so this was really hush-hush," Wood relays.

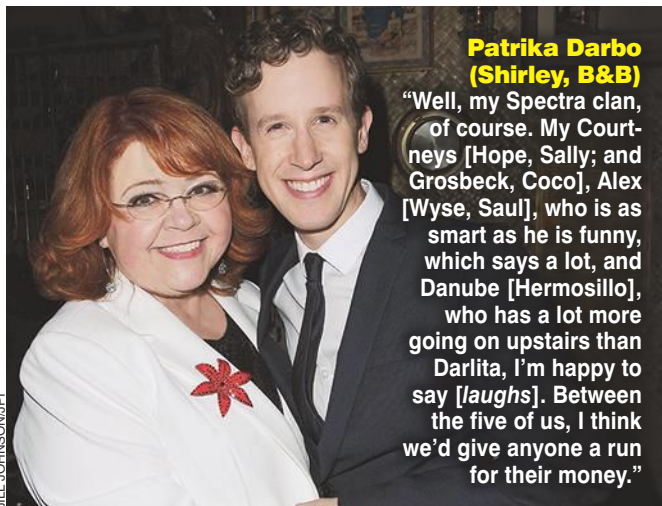


The happy couple sealed the deal with a kiss. "It was by far the biggest surprise of my life," Wood exclaims. "I feel like the luckiest girl in the world!"

# Q

# roundup

If you were on FAMILY castmates would you



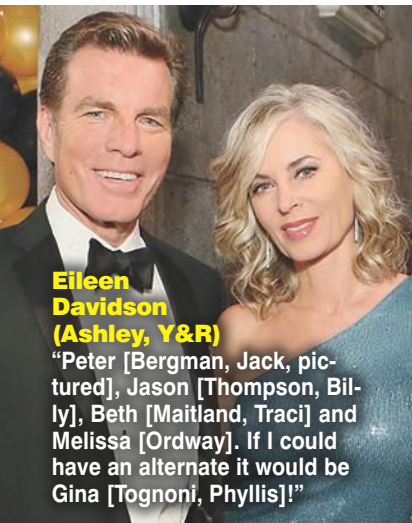
**Patrika Darbo  
(Shirley, B&B)**

"Well, my Spectra clan, of course. My Courtneys [Hope, Sally; and Grosbeck, Coco], Alex [Wyse, Saul], who is as smart as he is funny, which says a lot, and Danube [Hermosillo], who has a lot more going on upstairs than Darlita, I'm happy to say [laughs]. Between the five of us, I think we'd give anyone a run for their money."

JILL JOHNSON/UPI



HOWARD WISE/UPI



**Eileen Davidson  
(Ashley, Y&R)**

"Peter [Bergman, Jack, pictured], Jason [Thompson, Billy], Beth [Maitland, Traci] and Melissa [Ordway]. If I could have an alternate it would be Gina [Tognoni, Phyllis]!"

HOWARD WISE/UPI, JILL JOHNSON/UPI

**Jess Walton  
(Jill, Y&R)**

"Amelia [Heinle], Jason [Thompson, pictured], Melody [Thomas Scott, Nikki], and, of course, Eric [Braeden]. All for different reasons, but all would be very smart teammates!"



INSTAGRAM/LANG

# FEND, which four choose to appear with you?



JILL JOHNSON/JPI

**Amelia Heinle (Victoria, Y&R)**

“Eric [Braeden, Victor, pictured], Josh [Morrow, Nick], Melody [Thomas Scott, Nikki] and Melissa [Ordway, Abby, I.]. They’d be a fun group and a team that keeps the family together.”

**James Reynolds (Abe, DAYS)**

“Kristian [Alfonso, Hope], Josh [Taylor, Roman], Vanessa [Williams, Valerie, pictured] and Sal [Stowers, Lani]. Two of them are family and the other two, I’ve known for a long time and the characters are very close to Abe on the show and they’re friends.”



**Annika Noelle (Hope, B&B)**

“Wow, you’re putting the new girl on the hot spot! I would say Thorsten [Kaye, Ridge], Katherine Kelly Lang [Brooke, r.], Scott Clifton [Liam] and Jacqui [MacInnes Wood, Steffy], because she has a pit bull and I love him.”

HOWARD WISE/JPI, AFF/JG/STEVEN BERGMAN

**Hayley Erin (Kiki, GH)**

“Oh, I would love to do that! I would bring Roger Howarth [Franco] and Maura West [Ava] because they are both so clever, Ryan Paevey [Nathan, pictured] because I think he would have some good insights, and Kin Shriner [Scott]. He would be gold!”



# crossword

BY DONNA HOKE

## I DREAM OF GENIE

### ACROSS

1. SUBJECT'S MOST KNOWN

ROLE (two words)

11. One of Paul's exes (Y&R)

12. Italian cheese

14. MOVIE THE SUBJECT PASSED ON THAT THEN STARRED DARYL HANNAH

16. GH's Chloe (Nelle)

17. Bums around

19. Soft & \_\_\_\_ (personal care product)

20. Skedaddles

23. Jack's sister (Y&R)

26. DAYS role for Kassie DePaiva

27. \_\_\_\_ Na Na

28. B&B family name

31. MINI-SERIES IN WHICH THE SUBJECT PLAYED BRETT THREE TIMES

34. Bert's SESAME STREET pal

35. Prefix with gender

36. Popular slang sentence ender, briefly

37. An Obama daughter

39. Chuck

40. "How Dry \_\_\_\_" (two words)

43. "The future \_\_\_\_" (two words)

45. Wraps up by (two words)

48. Lacking energy

52. Y&R mainstay

53. ALL MY CHILDREN ROLE FOR THE SUBJECT

54. ARGUABLY, THE LOVE OF 1 ACROSS'S LIFE (two words)

### DOWN

1. \_\_\_\_ Vegas, NV

2. Software program, briefly

3. Web address abbr.

4. Iranian money

5. As well

6. Hobby shop wood

7. "Be Prepared" group, for short

8. "Ich bin \_\_\_\_ Berliner"

9. Bust, so to speak

10. Sonny's surname (GH)

13. A neighbor of France; abbr.

15. Kind of yoga

18. SUBJECT SURNAME

20. SUBJECT'S Y&R ROLE

21. SUBJECT'S FATHER OR BROTHER

22. Beach bird

24. ANOTHER WORLD attorney

25. \_\_\_\_ Andric, Literature Nobel

27. Former Mets stadium

29. Grand Theft \_\_\_\_

30. Certain degrees

32. Comic Conway

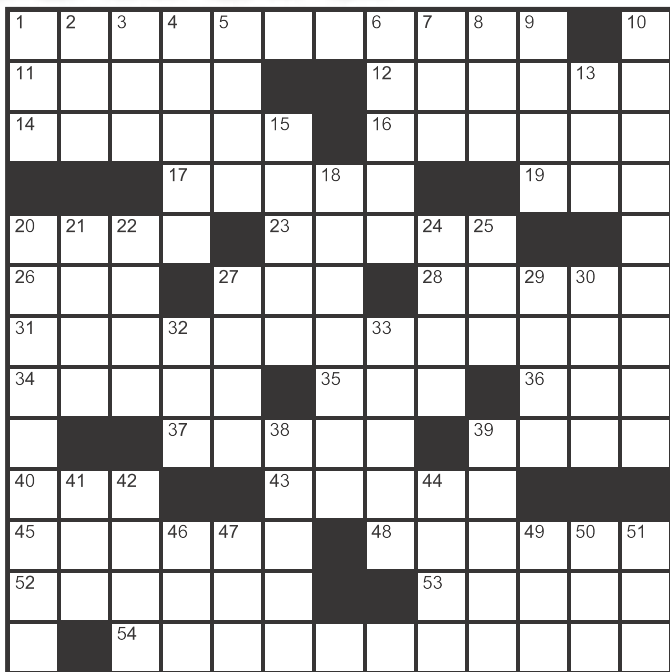
33. SUBJECT'S DAYS ROLE

38. Soda unit, in Canada

39. Summer soap target, perhaps

41. "Gimme \_\_\_\_!" (start of an Iowa State cheer)

42. 1650, in Roman numerals





# sudoku

■ Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. You can't change the digits already provided in the grid; you have to work around them.

	5	4		1		7	2	
		6		3				
			5		7	1		
	6				5			7
2			4	7	6			9
7			2				1	
		9	3		4			
				5		9		
	1	7		2		4	6	

## ANSWERS FROM LAST ISSUE

- 44. "\_\_\_ bitten, twice shy"
- 46. RUGRATS dad
- 47. 'All systems go'
- 49. GH role for John J. York
- 50. Anger
- 51. "Wheels"

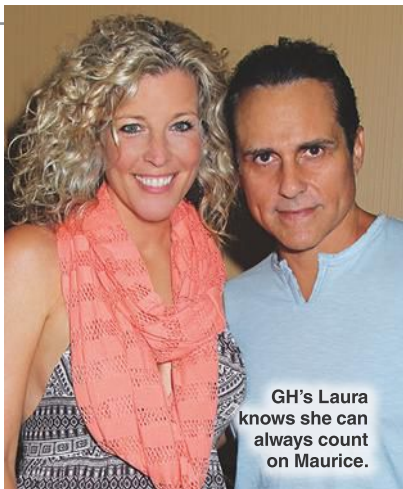
M	E	G	H	A	N	M	A	R	K	L	E				
A	C	A	I				O	R	E		A	L	S		
R	U	T	H			V	I	C	T	O	R	I	A		
C				O	J	O		S	I	N			L		
I	L	K		O	I	L		R	E	S			E		
L	A	Y		E	C	O		E			T	O	M		
			I	L	L	B	E	D	A	M	N	E	D		
T	R	E		A			E	V	E			V	E	H	
O			S	S	R			S	E	N		E	D	A	
N				T	B	D			R	T	E			N	
J	E	O	P	A	R	D	Y				M	B	A	S	
A	O	N			R	U	R					M	I	K	E
			N	O	R	A	B	U	C	H	A	N	A	N	

**BEHIND the  
SCENES!**

# Scene & Heard

## SUPPORT STAFF

**Laura Wright** (Carly, GH) cherishes the friendships she has made behind the scenes at the show. “**Maurice [Benard, Sonny]** and I are super-tight,” she says. “He’s one of my closest friends here. If I had any kind of an issue and I really needed to talk to someone, I would knock on his door. Maurice is a really good friend.” She’s also forged tight bonds with what she calls “a really great, supportive female cast. If I needed something, **Kelly Monaco [Sam]**, I don’t care where I am, what time of day, if I called Kelly, she’d be there for me and vice versa. In a heartbeat. I talk to **Emme**



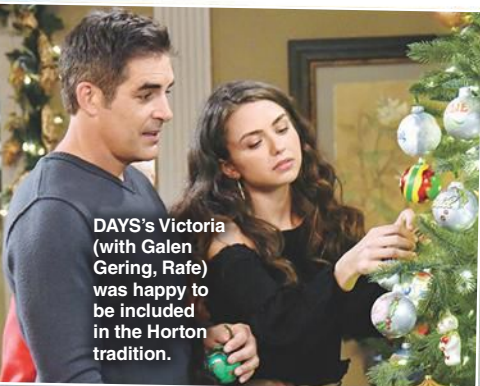
STEVEN BERGMAN

GH's Laura knows she can always count on Maurice.

**Rylan [Lulu]** a lot, and **Kirsten Storms [Maxie]** and **Becky Herbst [Elizabeth]**, who are my dressing room neighbors. And **Finola [Hughes, Anna]**, oh, my God, I could be in her room at any time, and she’s the best girlfriend, I have to say. I adore her. The amount of love I get from everyone here, it chokes me up. It blows my mind and I just am so grateful for it.”

## BALL BEARINGS

**Victoria Konefal** (Ciara) says she was thrilled to take part in DAYS’s annual ornament-hanging episode at the Horton house, but didn’t know about the tradition until she arrived at the set. “I wasn’t aware until that morning and when they told me about it, I



DAYS’s Victoria (with Galen Gering, Rafe) was happy to be included in the Horton tradition.

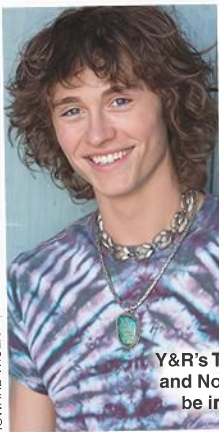
XJ JOHNSON/JPI

thought it was the cutest thing in the world and I was so excited to film,” she recalls. “I got my own ornament and I got to hang up Bo’s ornament and that was really sentimental. The physical ornaments have been in the show for years. They haven’t been changed. It’s the original Bo ornament. It felt really cool to be able to hold it and hang it up.” Doing the episode also helped her get closer to her castmates. “By then I had been on the show for a couple of months so I had time to bond with everyone. It was actually around that time that I started finding my footing on the show and getting a grasp on the character and the storyline.”

## NOTES WORTHY

Although **Tristan Lake Leabu** (Reed, Y&R) and co-star **Noah Alexander Gerry** (Charlie) have become close on-set buddies, their tastes in music are very different. "I'm into rock and roll and Noah likes hip-hop and rap but we've been trying to learn about each other's styles," Leabu explains. "What's funny is that some of the groups I like, such as Led Zeppelin and Black Crowes, is the same kind of music Noah's dad likes. So we've been going through my albums, song by song, for him to get to know the music. Usually, people are pretty confined by what they like listening to, but Noah has a really open attitude." The sentiment, however, isn't mutual. "I've tried to get into his music but there isn't really anything that I'd go out of my way to listen to," Leabu admits. "It's just so different and isn't really in my wheelhouse. He gives me grief but we just laugh about it. He knows

HOWARD WISE/UP!; JILL JOHNSON/UP!



Y&R's **Tristan (l.)** and Noah try to be in tune.

what a stickler I am for good music, so he gets it. I think it's really cool that he's interested and branching out. He even wants to learn how to play guitar, so I've been teaching him chords and he's getting good. I should have him brainwashed in no time [laughs]."

## HELLO, DOLLY!

When **Kimberlin Brown** (Sheila) returned to B&B last summer, she received a memorable gift from a fan. "I had this wonderful box sent to my dressing room, and there was my Sheila doll," Brown exclaims. "It was created by Justin Haire,

who lives in Florida. He created Sheila and Lauren dolls as they were on Y&R [circa 1990]. These dolls are truly pieces of art. The faces are hand-painted. The clothes are handmade. I took them up to show our wardrobe department and they were just beside themselves with the intricacies of the clothing and the accessories. And, in that envelope are the puzzle pieces from when Sheila blackmailed Lauren about her affair with Brad [in 1993]! The detail is just phenomenal. I was blown away that somebody took the time and the energy to do something so special for me. It's so greatly appreciated. Now **Heather Tom** [Katie] wants one!"



Kimberlin has a mini-me, courtesy of a B&B fan.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIMBERLIN BROWN

■ *After decades of struggling with her weight, Genie Francis lost 30 pounds on Nutrisystem in 2014, and became an ambassador for the company in 2015. The actress spoke candidly with Digest about the ups and downs of her ongoing weight-loss journey.*

**Soap Opera Digest:** What would you say is your earliest memory of feeling like you needed to lose weight?

**Genie Francis:** It panicked me when I came on GENERAL HOSPITAL as a young teenager, and they put Laura, my character, on a diet. That totally freaked me out when I was 14 years old. Completely freaked me out. And I did something incredibly extreme at that time. My mother was upset, but I lost weight really fast. I swear, I lost about eight pounds in a week. But that sort of began me being extreme.

**Digest:** The pressure on women to be thin is not exclusive to actresses, but to what extent do you think growing up in the public eye and in Hollywood shaped the pressure you felt and the pressure you put on yourself to be a certain size?

**Francis:** It was unbearable. It was all about that, you know? It was terrifying. I mean, it's different when you're on television or if you're a model, I suppose. Women are obsessing about their weight everywhere all over the place, whether they're on TV or not, but you go on TV, and now it's just — the pressure is unbelievable.

**Digest:** You've told us in the past that Nutrisystem approached you at a time when you felt resigned to always being overweight. Why was that?

**Francis:** I just remember that at the time, I felt really desperate, like, "That's it, I'm never going to get this weight off again. I'm never going back to work because I hate the way I look." That's when I got involved with Nutrisystem and, you know, it just changed my life entirely. I lost the first 30 pounds; then it was like, "Okay, maybe I'll go back to work again." It was right around that time

that I got approached by GH, and then I said, "Yes." I never would have said yes had I not lost those 30 pounds. I didn't want to do that to myself. And then, of course, I lost 10 more, and then I felt really good and started having fun with my clothes and shopping and all that kind of stuff. And then my doctor told me I had to quit smoking, so I quit smoking. I'm a nonsmoker now for more than two years, and I did that! It wasn't easy to quit smoking, and I didn't try to diet or even try to [maintain my weight]. I put back some weight, like 10 pounds, which is not a lot, considering how much heavier I had been prior to that. It's kind of amazing that I didn't go up more than that! And once I felt like I was on steady ground again with the quitting smoking, I could start to work those 10 pounds back off again and I did. It works very quickly and easily on this diet. It's not a painful, deprived, miserable thing.

**Digest:** Why do you think Nutrisystem has worked for you in ways that other weight-loss efforts haven't?

**Francis:** When I first started doing it, my feeling about it was, "This won't work. This cannot possibly work." And then, of course, it did. It works, like, two pounds a week. It was amazing to me because I had only done these really awful, extreme starvation kind of diets. I just really didn't believe that there was any other way to do it, and certainly not a way that included having dessert every night. I just didn't believe that! But I think Nutrisystem is a more balanced, easy way [to lose weight]. It's more like real life. You're not going to be able to maintain these crazy, you know, no-carbohydrate diets. Those are things that you can't do forever. With Nutrisystem, [coming to] understand portion control and proper eat-

By Mara Levinsky

(Laura Spencer)

# Slim Chance

GH's **Genie Francis** On Losing Weight  
And Gaining Control Of Her Health

ing serves you well, because you can go out into the world and eat at restaurants with friends, and with the others you really can't.

**Digest:** At this stage, are you still eating the Nutrisystem food?

**Francis:** Yeah, I do. I have some favorite items that I cannot part with. Like the breakfast [sandwich] — it's kind of like what you would think of as an Egg McMuffin, but I think it's delicious. I love that thing. That's one of my all-time favorites. They also have a little hamburger that is delicious, and a chili, and their chicken noodle soup is also delicious and a really good lunch item.

**Digest:** How would you describe a typical day of eating? What does that look like for you?

**Francis:** Well, one of the things that Nutrisystem has you do is eat six times a day, and I just think there's some kind of a magic in that. I think your metabolism keeps going, your blood sugar stays very even, and I don't feel really hungry. So I would have, a breakfast serving of the egg [sandwich], and you're supposed to add another protein to it, like a hard-boiled egg, and then mid-morning you have a protein. Sometimes I'll just have an egg white and maybe, like, a half of an apple or something. Then you have their lunch with a big salad and diet dressing, and then mid-afternoon you have a couple ounces of protein. Usually I'll do a couple ounces of chicken that's sort of plainly grilled, and I'll put that into a third of a cup of brown rice with some salsa and I heat it up, and that's like a mini-dinner, you know? If you do that around, like, 3:30, dinner all of a sudden I could manage. I could eat at dinner, and sometimes I go out, and when I do go out, I try to just keep it looking like what I did on my plate from a Nutrisystem dinner, about the size of that. I know what the proportions look like, and so I do it like that.

**Digest:** What would you say is the biggest difference in how you eat now than what you would have eaten before you went on this program?

**Francis:** Oh, I eat a little bit of all food groups, like there is a little bit of grain now in my diet,



**Playing Dress-Up:**  
“Having fun w/  
my clothes again  
thanks to  
@Nutrisystem,”  
the actress  
beamed on  
Twitter.

TWITTER/FRANCIS

and I used to try to keep that out, and I would never eat, like, a little piece of a potato because any form of carbs was “bad”, and that kind of put me into this super-starvation thing, which then always came back to bite me because then when you get, like, one crumble of bread, you want to eat the whole loaf! So my eating is much more from all the food groups.

**Digest:** Would you describe yourself as still trying to lose weight, or are you more in a maintenance stage?

**Francis:** Well, I guess I'm kind of more in maintenance now because it's the holidays and all, but after the holidays I'm sure I'll be back on the weight-loss plan. That's how life is.

**Digest:** What would you say are the most important lessons that you've taken away from learning a better way to eat via Nutrisystem?

**Francis:** Extremism doesn't work, you know? It's not a way to continue to live, and it's not maintainable.

**Digest:** Weight-loss journeys tend to have both ups and downs. What stands out as an up and a down for you over the course of yours?

**Francis:** Well, there's lots of ups and downs, you

**Look Away:** Despite the pounds she's shed, Francis, pictured as Laura, doesn't watch herself on GH. "I never have," she shrugs. "I don't see why I'd start now."



know? I didn't do it perfectly. There are days when I screwed up and I'd get really depressed. One of the things that's most important is forgiving yourself and getting back up on the horse. It's all about the next day and starting over. I was really disappointed in myself, and when I quit smoking — I quit smoking, which I should just be happy about, but I put back on some weight and I felt horrible, and I was working, you know? I was lucky that Nutrisystem didn't give up on me, because they could have. They could have said, "You're not doing what we want you to do right now, so

"I accept myself much more than I did ever before."

good-bye." And they didn't, they stayed with me, they held my hand and they got me back to where I ought to be. So, I was lucky.

**Digest:** What role does exercise play in your life these days?

**Francis:** I try to exercise as often as possible, more now than ever because I find if I rest and take it easy, my bones and my joints hurt. Walking is my big thing. That's really how I like to exercise the most. If I'm doing my walking and actually lifting a little bit of weight, oddly enough my joint pain goes away. It also

helps me even out my mood, which is hard when you're in your mid-50s and you're going through the change of life, and exercise does all of that for me.

**Digest:** What do you do in the winter if you're on the East Coast?

**Francis:** I walk on a treadmill.

**Digest:** At GH, do you talk nutrition and diet with any of your castmates?

**Francis:** Yes, everybody talks about it, everybody's thinking about it, the men and the women. It's interesting to see that we're all trying to deal with the same problem.

**Digest:** As you reflect on the mental part of taking control of your weight, can you compare where you are today to where you were when you first started on Nutrisystem?

**Francis:** It's like the difference between being hopeless and giving up — in all things in life, not just weight — and the joy of life, the possibility of career, the sense of hope, the sense of enjoying your youth and your attractiveness. None of that was there. When you start to lose the weight in a healthy way, and you get your life back, it's just, like, [the difference between] being a zombie and being alive. It's completely different when you're into your health.

**Digest:** Were you cognizant at the time that it was your weight that was making you feel that way?

**Francis:** Oh, yeah. I knew that it was my weight, but I felt like it was insurmountable. I didn't feel like I had the energy or the ability to change it.

**Digest:** In the past, you've told us about feeling a constant inner panic about your weight. Do you feel that's subsided? Or is it something that you've just learned to manage better?

**Francis:** I manage it better. I think part of that is getting older. I won't say that I don't still have moments of panic and worry. Whenever I have to dress up for something for the show or events or stuff like that, it's always a little uncomfortable, but overall I accept myself much more than I did ever before. □

# NEW YEAR, N

Reach your 2018 fitness goals



**Don  
Diamont**  
(Bill)

JILL JOHNSON/JPI

## Don's Top Three Tips

- "If you need help, get help. Go to Weight Watchers. Go to Jenny Craig. Get a trainer. If you need structure or guidance, get it."
- "Dogs are great exercise. Walk around the neighborhood. Run with them. Take them off leash and throw the tennis ball around. It's good for the both of you."
- "Avoid fad diets: It's calories in, calories out. Burn more than you consume. When people make it a 'lifestyle' instead of a 'diet', that's when you succeed."

## BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

**How do you like to keep in shape?** "I do quite a bit of cardio. Primarily, the elliptical machine, because it's very low impact. I interval train, and it's good because I have a gym at home."

**What else do you do?** "It varies from day to day. I'll jump from the elliptical straight into my weight workout, which is a combination of free weights and tables and machines."

**You like to get outside and exercise, too, right?** "Oh, yeah. I'll still play basketball with the kids. We have a sport court at home, so I'll get out there and we'll play two-on-two with Luca, Anton and Davis. I can still surprise them. Daddy still has a couple of moves [laughs]."

**How do you stay motivated?** "When your mojo is not quite there, don't go as hard. Doing a little something is better than doing a lot of nothing."

**What do you eat on a typical day?** "My breakfast is a plant-based protein drink. A couple of hours later — egg whites, maybe a piece of toast, or scrambled egg whites with avocado, spinach, tomato. Lunch will be some sort of protein, a complex carb like brown rice and vegetables. I have smaller meals throughout the day. I might have some sushi. Dinner is light: fish, chicken, not a lot of carbs."

**Do you cheat?** "I'm not overzealous. I will have pizza. I've got a terrible sweet tooth so I absolutely will have dessert — not every day, but I pick my spots."

**Do you work a little harder the next day to burn it off?** "If I've gone to dinner and it's still early, it would not be unusual for me to do some cardio for a half hour. It makes that bloated, uncomfortable feeling go away. Sometimes, I will take my running shoes to dinner with me and I will walk home after dinner. Then, I don't have food sitting in my belly."

**What advice can you give someone who's looking to get back into an exercise routine?** "When you look at something in its totality, it feels overwhelming and makes you shy away from it. Just take it one day at a time. Take a walk and just start increasing your steps as you're feeling better. Set some goals. Hit those goals. Pat yourself on the back and repeat."



INSTAGRAM/DIAMONT



# EW YOU

with tips from the stars.

(Be sure to consult your doctor before starting a new exercise and diet plan.)

**BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL**

**What's your favorite way to stay in shape?** "I love having an active lifestyle, so any way I can get out and get moving, I'm all for. I love doing Cardio Barre and Piloxing, which I also teach, and Pilates."

**How has your fitness routine changed since joining B&B?** "You have to make time for it. I like working out in the morning and sometimes I have an early call, so it means either waking up super-early, which I do some days, or incorporating gym time after work, where I can go on the StairMaster, take my scripts, step the stairs and learn my lines. There's nothing like multitasking."

**What is your approach to nutrition?** "I'm an advocate for learning your own body, according to your blood type and what you're allergic to, because everybody is different. Every diet isn't going to work for everyone. I can't eat dairy and I can't eat gluten because of my asthma, so I stay away from those things. If I'm going to cheat, I go for something with the least amount of sugar possible. For instance, I'd rather cheat with sweet potato fries than ice cream."

**What's a typical food day for you?** "I eat three moderate-sized meals, along with two snacks. I can't eat chicken so I normally eat turkey, sometimes beef, fish and vegetables. I use hand portions: The protein is the size of your palm and vegetables can be the size of your hand. For fats, I stick to salmon, which has a lot of omegas, and olive oil."

**Are cheat days important?** "I'm all about balance, but I go for a cheat meal as opposed to a cheat day because a whole day can throw your body off. The other night, I went and ate with friends and had a salad, and then had some sweet potato fries."

**What advice do you have for someone getting back into it?** "Identify your interests. My mom is getting back into it and she cannot stand walking on a treadmill. So, she started Pilates and really likes it. Start slow. Don't push yourself because you can get burned out quickly. If you're cycling all the time, you'll hate it. Keep changing things up. And challenge yourself mentally and spiritually. Boxing involves thought and precision, and hiking allows you to bond with nature. Remember to target all the parts of you in addition to physicality. That combination gets you to stick with it and keep going."



INSTAGRAM/HOPE



**Courtney Hope**  
(Sally)

GREG DOHERTY/GETTY IMAGES

## Courtney's Top Three Tips

- "Avoid caffeine. It contributes to anxiety and who needs that? I cut it out and I feel the difference."
- "Walk. Target is across the street from me, so I walk there instead of driving. Take the stairs instead of the elevator."
- "If you're tired, do something that isn't as strenuous. You'll feel better — and it's okay to take a day off, too."

## DAYS OF OUR LIVES



Lamon Archey (Eli)

JILL JOHNSON/JPI

### Lamon's Top Three Tips

- "Use the sauna to shed water weight."
- "Drink green tea to help slim your waist."
- "Allow yourself a small cheat day every 14 days."

INSTAGRAM/ARCHHEY



**Has being in shape always been important to you?**

"Yes! I was teased as a kid for being skinny. I'm seriously scarred from that."

**What is your favorite way to stay in shape?** "Lifting weights. I have to put on weight so I need the muscle."

**What is your routine at the gym?** "I touch my body, and whatever muscle isn't sore is the muscle I work out."

**If you go on a diet, what do you cut out?** "Sugar, i.e. cake, ice cream, cookies. Also, no juice, only water. I'd cut out about 75 percent of my carbohydrates, as well."

**If you have a cheat day, what food will you eat?** "Cold Stone Creamery ice cream, or Baskin-Robbins ice cream cake."

**How do you motivate yourself when you don't feel like working out?** "I think about losing weight and getting skinny."

**What would be your best advice to fans who want to get in shape in the new year?** "Find a workout buddy with similar goals and motivate each other. Having a gym partner really helps motivate me to go to the gym and to work harder once I get there."

**What one diet change would you recommend to a friend looking to shed pounds?** "Only eat organic fruit, raw veggies, and nuts. Also, shop at Whole Foods because you'll max your budget with less food."

**What would be your advice to a friend who feels too far away from their fitness goals to take the first step?**

"Exercise early in the morning before your brain figures out what you're doing."

**If a gym is too intimidating, or too far away, how would you recommend getting in exercise?** "Step outside, find the sidewalk, and walk on it. Also try yoga. It hurts, but it's a really great workout."

**What's your own strategy for staying in shape?** "I drink a protein shake before bed and I make sure I eat three meals a day. I find myself skipping breakfast or lunch a lot and that's counter-active to me accomplishing my goals."

**What's been the biggest challenge for you when you've tried to improve your fitness?**

"Diet! I don't like to change my diet. I like to eat whatever I want whenever I want."

**What are your own fitness goals for 2018 — and how do you plan to achieve them?** "To go to the gym at least three times a week for the entire year."

DAYS OF  
OUR LIVES

**What is your favorite way to stay in shape?** “My big thing right now is Orangetheory. I love it and I am obsessed with it. It’s a high-impact cardio — you’re on the treadmill, you’re on the water rower, and then you’re doing floor routines. I pretty much do it four days a week. And yoga I started doing because I broke my knee a few years back and that was my rehab for it and I fell in love with it. Those are what I do on a regular basis, and then I’m always at my gym because I’m an athletic person.”

**Have you always been into fitness?** “I ran track in high school, and during the years when I was modeling, obviously I had to stay in shape then, so I was always working out and always being aware of my body.”

**What do you eat in a typical day?** “I’m vegetarian; I don’t eat meat. I’m a huge smoothie freak, so I have one every day. I had one this morning with kale, celery, berries, ginger and coconut water. I eat a lot of pho [Vietnamese soup]. It’s one of my favorites. I’m a huge snacker, so there are always chips, salsa and guacamole in my refrigerator. And quinoa. I love making quinoa salads. I use cold quinoa and I will put in olive oil and lemon juice and avocado, black beans, tomatoes, and mix it up and eat it.”

**What do you cut out of your diet if you want to lose weight?** “I definitely cut out all bread, processed food and sugar because sugar is the worst thing. I don’t have a big sweet tooth — I never have — but it’s in a lot of food. I know some people say you should let all carbs go, but our body needs carbs, just in moderation.”

**How do you motivate yourself if you’re not in the mood to work out?** “Oh, yeah, that kind of happens a lot. As much as I love to work out, I do get those feelings of I don’t want to. When I have to work, I don’t like to work out because I feel it takes my energy elsewhere, so that’s something that I battle with. But I don’t beat myself up about that. If I don’t want to work out, I don’t work out and know I will go the next day or the day after.”

**What are your fitness goals for 2018?** “I decided to let all dairy go. I’ve been seeing a holistic doctor and cleaning out my gut and it’s been really challenging to let all dairy go and sugar and things like that. So I want to fully commit to it and just keep going for it. And keep strengthening my knee that I broke because it’s really weak. I am really big on that you have one body for the rest of your life and how you treat your body now affects how you live when you’re 70 or 80, so you have to take care of it. You know what you’re eating. If you’re eating crap, stop eating crap. You have to be mindful and disciplined.”

PAUL ARCHULETA/GETTY IMAGES

## Sal Stowers (Lani)



INSTAGRAM/STOWERS

### Sal's Top Three Tips

- “Add lots of fiber into your diet and leafy greens.”
- “Let go of all processed food and sugar and dairy.”
- “Get your butt off the couch and move your body.”



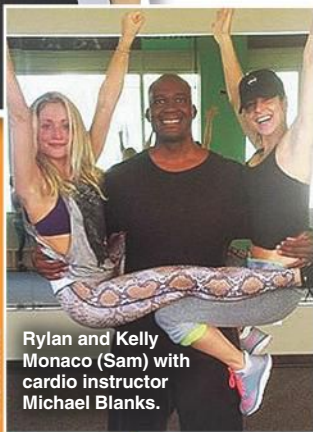
**Emme Rylan**  
(Lulu)

JILL JOHNSON/JPI

## Emme's Top Three Tips

- "If I don't change up my workouts, I plateau. So I switch up my activities every three or four weeks."
- "Walking is a really great workout and great for beginners. You can really change your body just by hitting the pavement."
- "Hydration is so important. I drink at least 60 ounces a day and really recommend keeping track of how much you're drinking because we all tend to think we're drinking more than we are."

INSTAGRAM/RYLAN



Rylan and Kelly Monaco (Sam) with cardio instructor Michael Blanks.

**Exercise is a big part of your life. Has that always been the case?** "I started dance when I was 3. I have probably worked out five days a week my whole life. I just love it. It's therapeutic for me."

**You gave birth to your new daughter, Dakota, last June.**

**When did you start exercising again?** "When she was 3 weeks old. For the first three weeks, I just walked with the stroller. I got one where the baby was facing me, which was great mom advice that someone gave me, because you're moving your body, but you still feel like you're hanging out with the baby. Then, I did four weeks of barre work, like Barre Method or Cardio Barre. Trying to regain my core muscles slowly and gently was my goal."

**Do you work out at a gym?** "I don't get as good of a workout when I'm by myself, so I go to classes the majority of the time as opposed to working out on the floor, but sometimes before or after a strength-training class, I'll do 30 minutes on the treadmill. When I have a teacher, for some reason I work out like twice as hard."

**What is a typical week of working out for you?**

"Right now, I'm taking an amazing cardio kickboxing class on Mondays. Tuesday and Friday, I take a group interval training class that's similar to Barry's Bootcamp. Wednesday, I do Zumba. Thursday, I do cardio hip-hop. Saturday, I'm back at kickboxing. Sunday, I take a ballet barre boot camp. I can't do seven days a week every week because life gets in the way, but that's my goal. Some weeks it's three days, some weeks it's six."

**What do you eat in a typical day?** "I'm a vegetarian, not a vegan, because I can't give up eggs. I usually eat a protein bar when I wake up and need to inhale something

really quickly. After I work out, I have an egg burrito or eggs with veggies or avocado toast. A few hours later, I'll have a protein smoothie. For dinner, I eat a gigantic pile of veggies with brown rice, a protein patty and cheese."

**How do you work out while traveling?** "Every time I go to a new city, I search for the most popular workout classes. Or I'll go to the park with my kids and race with them just to stay active."

**What would you say to someone who is intimidated at the thought of trying to get in shape?** "It's hard to start! I get that. My advice is to ignore your diet at first, just start to move your body every day. I believe that you will start making healthier choices with your food once you've started feeling the benefits of moving. So, get moving and have faith that the rest will come."

GENERAL  
HOSPITAL

STEVEN BERGMAN

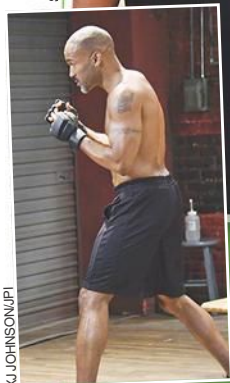
**How often do you work out and what are your favorite ways to get in exercise?** “I try to go to the gym five days a week and rest two and address a different muscle group every day. I do cardio, a mile on the treadmill as fast as I can and then I do my muscle groups. Legs Monday, chest Tuesday, shoulders Wednesday, back Thursday, arms Friday. Sometimes I’ll go for a hike on Saturday, but I don’t lift. You have to give the muscles the chance to rest and grow.”

**What advice would you give to someone who has never really worked out before but is looking to start?** “I’m going through this now with my mom. I would say, start slow, and it is going to hurt. You will be sore. But work through it; it will go away. You are going to feel better before you start to look better, so really work on doing it for how you feel, because you know you’re doing something good for your body. And don’t offset your hard work by going home and eating potato chips and cookies! Give yourself the best chance to succeed.”

**What do you recommend to people who are intimidated by the gym?** “You can do exercises at home to build your confidence before joining a gym. And if you do join a gym, working with a trainer can help you feel less intimidated because they can give you the information you need to know how to do everything properly.”

**You’ve been mostly vegan for six months. What does a typical day of eating for you look like now?** “There is more meal prep involved, definitely. I do raw oats for breakfast, oatmeal in almond milk with brown sugar, cinnamon and a little bit of agave. For dinner, I’ll make what they call a buddha bowl, which is russet potatoes and sweet potatoes, vegan sausage and flavored tofu with vegetables and quinoa or cous cous with barbecue sauce and jalapeno. I eat a lot of Trader Joe’s vegan chicken strips, which are fantastic. I’ll do gluten-free toast with sunflower butter and fruit for lunch, or a vegan chicken sandwich. I eat a lot of fruit for snacks, and an organic, plant-based protein drink. I can’t be 100 percent vegan because it’s almost impossible to feed myself when I travel. So, maybe once a month, I’ll have a steak. I just won’t have two or three steaks a week like I used to! My blood pressure is down, I feel great. I’m glad I made the change.”

**What dietary changes would you recommend to someone looking to shed extra pounds?** “Drink more water and don’t eat late at night, within two hours of going to bed. You will see results just from that.”



X JOHNSON/UP

**Donnell  
Turner  
(Curtis)**

### Donnell's Top Three Tips

- “Goals help — ‘Oh, I’m going on a cruise,’ or,

‘I want to fit into this for that wedding’ — but being fit is really a lifestyle. The greatest success comes when you understand that exercise is just what you do, like flossing your teeth and saying your prayers. Don’t wait for a doctor to tell you that you have to exercise to live. Prioritize it.”

- “When I was trying to get buff, my uncle gave me the advice, ‘Stay out of the mirror!’ A watched pot never boils, right? Quit looking for results every day. It doesn’t work like that.”

- “Start moving away from red meat on a nightly basis. Instead of Taco Tuesday, what about Salad Saturday? You would be shocked by how much protein you can get from plant-based foods like quinoa.”

## YOUNG AND RESTLESS



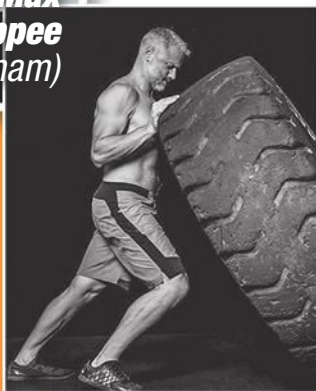
**Max Shippee**  
(Graham)

JILL JOHNSON/JPI

### Max's Top Three Tips

- "Get sweaty. Breaking a sweat shows you've put enough work in to start making changes in your body chemistry."
- "Lift something. Challenge yourself, but be safe! Keeping your muscles challenged keeps your metabolism up and your bones healthy."
- "Cut the sugar. It's the biggest thing you can do for your long-term health. You'll lose weight, and decrease your risk for a litany of chronic conditions."

COURTESY MAX SHIPPEE



**What is your overall feeling about working out?** "I think it's an absolute necessity for living a healthy life! That being said, I think there are an almost infinite variety of ways to 'work out'. Of course, I'm partial to the path I've taken, starting with dance, and then opening my own CrossFit gym. I work out five to seven days a week, varying my 'hard' and 'easy' days according to my shooting schedule and what hurdles life hands me. I really enjoy the ideas and guiding philosophies of CrossFit."

**What are the benefits of CrossFit?** "They range from better body mechanics, to losing weight and gaining confidence. From an exercise and health standpoint, it focuses on efficiency of movement, then getting strong. Lack of strength is one of the things that leads to lack of function in life."

**What do you eat in a typical day?** "I don't eat until noon. Skipping breakfast makes me feel both energetic and light. When I do start eating, my typical brunch is five eggs, and about a pound of steamed broccoli, cauliflower, or other veggies. Dinner usually consists of some other kind of meat and vegetable combination, with perhaps a little starch (rice or potatoes)."

**How do you motivate yourself when you don't feel like working out?** "I always feel better after a workout than when I started. So, I do it because I know that on the other side of that suffering is a reward that will pay off all day long."

**What would be your best advice for getting in shape in the new year?** "Doing something every day, even if it's small, is far more powerful than something you can't maintain. It's about finding things

you can do, whether it's walking a few hundred yards, doing a few push-ups, or getting some squats in on a coffee break. It's really about building habits. The good news is that you only have to work out today."

**What one diet change would you recommend to a friend looking to shed pounds?** "Eat meat, vegetables, nuts and seeds, some fruit, little starch, and no sugar."

**What are your own fitness goals for 2018?** "To get a little bit stronger, specifically in my upper body. I want to be able to hold a handstand for 60 seconds!"

**What's your fitness routine like?** "I've done yoga for a while now, but I didn't really see changes in my body until I got into Pilates, not on the mat but on machines. I started seeing changes in my body, in my abs, and more definition in my arms. Yoga is really good for flexibility, but I didn't really have the strength until I added Pilates. A few years ago, I added cardio, and it's good for your body to mix up routines for muscle confusion. If you do the same workout over and over, then you're just using the same muscles and you plateau after a while, so you stop seeing changes."

**What is your diet like?** "I recently just cut meat out of my diet. I'll have turkey at Thanksgiving and I still eat fish, but for a majority of my diet, I don't eat meat. Also, I cut out breakfast. When I do eat, it's usually all whole foods, like plant-based stuff. I try to eat as much vegetables as I can. I also eat a lot of quinoa. For dinner, I usually make myself some quinoa with sautéed veggies or lentil pasta with veggies."

**Is there a "bad" thing you won't cut out of your diet, and do you do anything extra in your routine to make up for it?** "Alcohol, which has lots of sugar and is very inflammatory for your body, which is why you wake up puffy after a night of drinking. Aside from more cardio, I have an infrared sauna in my house, so I'll go into the sauna for an hour and just sweat it out."

**What's your advice to someone who wants to start getting fit, but is intimidated by the gym?** "Start at home with a workout video. A lot of those videos are great. If I can't get to the gym, I'll literally carry my son on my back and do lunges in my backyard."

**What are your fitness goals for 2018?** "I did my first 5k on Thanksgiving and I really enjoyed it, so I want to do more running. I hate running, so I want to try and like it. I know it's hard on your joints, but it's really good for a cardio workout. So, my goal is try to enjoy running and do more of it."



INSTAGRAM/CHRISTEL\_KHALIL



**Christel Khalil**  
(Lily)

JILL JOHNSON/JPI

**Christel's Top Three Tips**

- "Mix up your workout, so it's fun. I've added pole dancing in my routine before to make my workout time more enjoyable."
- "Don't overeat. That sounds so simplistic, but only eat when you're hungry. You'll be surprised how much less you'll eat. Your body is very intelligent and knows what it needs."
- "Avoid processed food! Shop only on the outside aisles of the grocery store, where the produce is for example, because the items more inside are the processed foods. The only time I go further into the store is when I get my quinoa."

## HOW TRAGEDY LED Y&R ALUM PATTY WEAVER TO BE AN ARTIST

grief head-on. “I made a commitment to myself that I was going to let it all out, no matter how ugly it was, because I didn’t want to carry it around,” she explains. “My friends had to put up with me for four years, crying every day. Lee Bell [Y&R co-creator] knew that no words were going to make me feel better, so she would just hold my hand and let me cry. Everyone just let me go through what I had to go through.”

An impulsive decision to go skydiving helped with the emotional recovery. “It wasn’t on my bucket list, but I knew I needed to experience some sense of freedom from fear,” she reasons. “When I was standing at the open plane door and looked down, a tsunami of terror came over me, but the minute I was out, it was like every ounce of negativity just flew away. When we landed, I went to my car and cried for two hours and I haven’t been fearful or felt small ever since. Then I

started to really live in the moment. I found that has been the most rewarding and honest and hardest thing I’ve ever done in my life.”

Performing, she explains, “didn’t mean the same thing to me anymore. I haven’t thought about acting since I left, it hasn’t even crossed my mind. My husband loved to hear me sing and that was one thing of myself that I could do for him. I gave him my voice, so I don’t sing anymore, and I have no regrets about that.”

However, Weaver found a new creative outlet — painting. “I didn’t pick up a paint brush until four years ago, and I’ve never

# brushing up

BY DEVIN OWENS

■ With over three decades of daytime acting under her belt, Patty Weaver has played plenty of melodrama, but the death in 2009 of her husband, Jerry Bim, one of Y&R’s earliest writers, was far more painful than anything the actress/singer had portrayed on-screen. “We were only married for 14 years and it wasn’t enough,” she laments. “He was my best friend. We would have fabulous arguments and discussions and laughs and love. I was married to a really cool guy. When he got sick, it was my pleasure to take care of him until the end.”

The loss of her spouse hit Weaver hard, but she was determined to deal with the



**Canvas The Area:** Weaver and her painting, *The Kiss*.



**Birthday:** September 23  
**Born In:** Clarksburg, WV  
**Music To Her Ears:** Her rock band, The Loved Ones, opened for Simon & Garfunkel, The Hollies and Iron Butterfly. As a solo act, she performed for show biz luminaries like Tony Bennett and George Burns.  
**Soap Roles:** Gina Roma (Y&R, 1982-2010, 2013) and Trish Clayton (DAYS, 1974-82)  
**Pet Project:** She has a pug named Louie.

taken a lesson," she shares. "One morning, I got up, grabbed my car keys and didn't know where I was going. It was like I was in a trance. I drove to an art store and I purchased \$1,000 worth of stuff, even though I had no idea what I was buying. I brought it all home and just ... started. Before I knew it, I was painting, and it didn't look bad. I was thinking, 'What the hell is going on here?'"

Weaver's abstract style has undergone its own evolution. "My first two paintings were primitive, but I couldn't understand why I knew what to do," she chuckles. "I don't paint from photographs. Everything is from memory and what I remember about what I saw and

how it made me feel. I don't try to control what I'm going to do and I don't even know what I'll paint until I have a brush in my hand and I'm standing at a canvas."

Weaver had her first showing in 2016. "I thought I was going to sell one piece because I don't know anything about this business and I sold about 60 percent of my work," she marvels. "Although I love people to have my work, I want them to love it. I want them to enjoy what they have hanging on the wall and to feel something, even 10, 20 years from now."

Now, Weaver is trying to get out and about. "The only problem with being an artist, it's a very singular life," she points out. "Sometimes, I paint three, four days in a row without sleep, so you become kind of reclusive. I've been trying to make an effort to be more social. I just had Bill and Susan Hayes [Doug and Julie, DAYS] and Robert Clary [ex-Pierre, Y&R] over for lunch. I'm still in touch with Michael Damian [ex-Danny], and I see Lauralee Bell [Christine], Tricia Cast [Nina] and Jerry Douglas [John]." □

*To see more of Weaver's artwork, check out [www.PattyWeaverArt.com](http://www.PattyWeaverArt.com)*

# classic lines

## Forget WILL & GRACE! Some Of TV's Funniest Lines Are On Soaps.

### BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

*(Sally asks for Coco's opinion on a pair of gaudy earrings.)*

**Sally:** "Too much?"

**Coco:** "Depends. Are we going back to the carnival circuit?"

### DAYS OF OUR LIVES

*(Kate is upset about her grandson's status.)*

**Kate:** "Susan has Will thinking he's EJ? How does she get away with that?"

**Chad:** "She's nuts."

*(Rafe and Sami talk after he broke up with Hope.)*

**Rafe:** "Believe it or not, my love life doesn't revolve around you."

**Sami:** "Wait a second. Hold on. Didn't you get the memo? Everything revolves around me."

### DYNASTY

*(Fallon surprises Michael as he dispenses potatoes at a local church.)*

**Fallon:** "If there's anything that can unite rich and poor, it's carbs."

*(Blake and Fallon finally reconcile.)*

**Blake:** "For the record, there is nothing you could ever say or do that could jeopardize your place in this family."

**Fallon:** "Okay, you don't have to threaten me."

### EMPIRE

*(Porsha tries to warn her boss about an impending strike.)*

**Porsha:** "Cookie, you got a minute to talk?"

**Cookie:** "Uh, when are you ever not talking?"

*(Cookie catches Shine joining the striking Empire workers.)*

**Cookie:** "Shine, what the hell you doing?"

**Shine:** "I'm rolling with the 99 percent."

**Cookie:** "You do realize you own a percentage of the company."

**Shine:** "Don't matter. My mother worked in a school lunchroom. I got union blood."

**Cookie:** "You got dumb blood."

### GENERAL HOSPITAL

*(Franco resists Liz's plea to drop the assault charges against Jason.)*

**Franco:** "Show me his brain tumor. If it's bigger than mine, then I'll drop the charges."

*(Unaware that Griffin has left the priesthood, Julian is surprised to find him getting cozy with Ava.)*

**Julian:** "Hello, Father Munro. Putting in overtime loving thy neighbor?"

### YOUNG AND RESTLESS

*(Nick and Chelsea clash over their style of decorating.)*

**Chelsea** (gesturing at his choices): "These things are an affront to glamour."

**Nick:** "That's the nicest thing you said to me all day." □

**Size Matters:** GH's Franco (Roger Howarth) discussed tissue issues with Elizabeth (Rebecca Herbst).



# You Heard It Here

Chances are if you've read a funny, insightful or inspirational quote from a daytime actor, you read it here first.



Evans

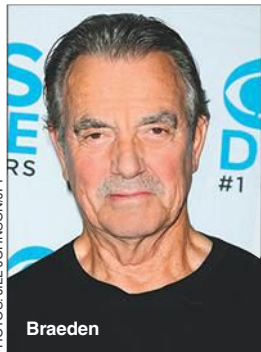
## LOVE MACHINE

"People see love scenes on TV and say, 'GOD!' Obviously, you want to bring realism to the scene. But at the same time, you've got a crew standing over you, you have someone who sneezes so you have to do the whole thing over."

— Wayne Northrop (ex-Roman, DAYS et al) on filming love scenes, 9/25/84

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

"It was one of the most peaceful experiences. To look at that large vista every day reminded me of my childhood ... You can get claustrophobia working



Braeden

indoors on the same set day after day."

— Eric Braeden (Victor, Y&R) on filming scenes outdoors when Victor lived on a farm with Hope, 10/12/93

## BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

"I'm always cast as a but-toned-down yuppie guy, and I'm probably about as far from that as you can get. I'm basically an old Bohemian. Haight-Ashbury is sort of a pilgrimage for me."

— Jon Lindstrom (Kevin, GH), 1/26/99

## BED-FREE ZONE

"She was ecstatic. Hank wasn't going to be in bed with anybody on the show. No soap starlets were going to be touching my bod, thank you."

— Brian Starcher (ex-Hank, AS THE WORLD TURNS) on his girlfriend's reaction to him playing a gay character, 3/21/89

## ON AIR

"I've always said that being on a soap is like working in a warehouse with

your friends. It's shocking to me that people even say that they see me on TV. I forget it even goes on the air because we're all hanging out and doing our thing."

— Mary Beth Evans (Kayla, DAYS), 10/21/13

## A CHANGE IS COMING

"Life is all about different points of view. Whether or not you agree with them, allow people to be different."

— Kent King (ex-Lainey, GH) on something she'd like to change about the world, 9/19/06

## AND THE OSCAR GOES TO...

"Easy, Oscar. I've wanted one even before I knew what it was for. I just knew it was a prize for acting, but not what went into it. Of course, now I have a respect for what I do and making art for television and film, so I think getting an Oscar would be a terrific achievement."

— Bryton James (Devon, Y&R) on whether he'd want to win a Grammy or an Oscar, 8/24/14

# SCORECARD

Digest  
Keeps You  
Up-To-Date

SOAP OPERA DIGEST

## APPOINTED CO-CEO

**YOUNG AND RESTLESS**

Billy Abbott

## ARRESTED

**YOUNG AND RESTLESS**

Reed Hellstrom

## CAME TO BLOWS

**DAYS OF OUR LIVES**

Ciara Brady and  
Claire Brady

## CONFESSED FEELINGS

**DAYS OF OUR LIVES**

Tripp Dalton  
Ciara Brady

## KISSED

**DAYS OF OUR LIVES**

Will Horton and  
Sonny Kiriakis  
Brady Black and  
Eve Donovan  
JJ Deveraux and  
Lani Price

## LEFT TOWN

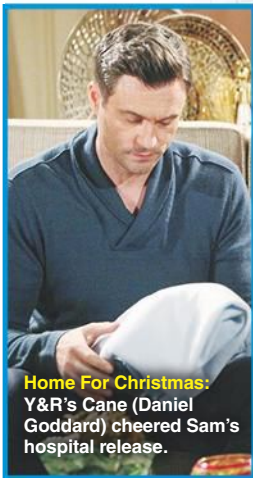
**DAYS OF OUR LIVES**

Belle and Shawn  
Brady

## MADE DATE

**DAYS OF OUR LIVES**

Eric Brady and  
Jennifer Horton



HOWARD WISE/JPI

**Home For Christmas:**  
Y&R's Cane (Daniel  
Goddard) cheered Sam's  
hospital release.

## MADE LOVE DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Eli Grant and  
Lani Price

## MARRIED GENERAL HOSPITAL

Kevin Collins and  
Laura Spencer

## MOVED BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Thorne Forrester

## OUT OF COMA DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Theo Carver

## REHIRED DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Brady Black

## REINSTATED AS POLICE COMMISSIONER

**DAYS OF OUR LIVES**  
Hope Brady

## RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL

**YOUNG AND RESTLESS**  
Sam Ashby

## RENEWED VOWS YOUNG AND RESTLESS

Nikki and Victor  
Newman

## RESIGNED FROM OFFICE

**GENERAL HOSPITAL**  
Janice Lomax

## FLASHBACK TRIVIA

*Who planted a bug to surveil  
Faison on GH in 1990?*

**Turn to page 62 to find out.**

# bold *and* beautiful

## FRISKY BUSINESS

When Thorne is unable to accept her engagement to Ridge, Brooke asks him to move out. At Katie's house, Katie and Wyatt get frisky, but Wyatt is called away to meet Liam. After Wyatt leaves, the doorbell rings. Katie opens her door in lingerie and is startled to see Thorne standing there. Thorne tells Katie he is intrigued by her newfound sense of adventure. Katie is surprised to hear that Brooke gave him the boot. As the pair catch up, Katie senses that Thorne still has a thing for her sister. She offers Thorne a place to stay.

## PUT TO THE TEST

An anxious Steffy follows up with Dr. Campbell

to find out when the results of the paternity test will be available. Liam tells Steffy how happy he is that they are going to be parents. Later, Steffy confronts Bill about his motives and point blank asks him if sleeping with her was a way to exact revenge on Liam. Bill denies the charge and states that he truly has feelings for her.

Liam confides in Wyatt that Steffy is pregnant. Wyatt is thrilled.

## OH, BROTHER

Brooke tells Ridge that she hopes that he will try to get along better with his brother but Ridge isn't interested. Ridge changes the subject and gets passionate with Brooke.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN

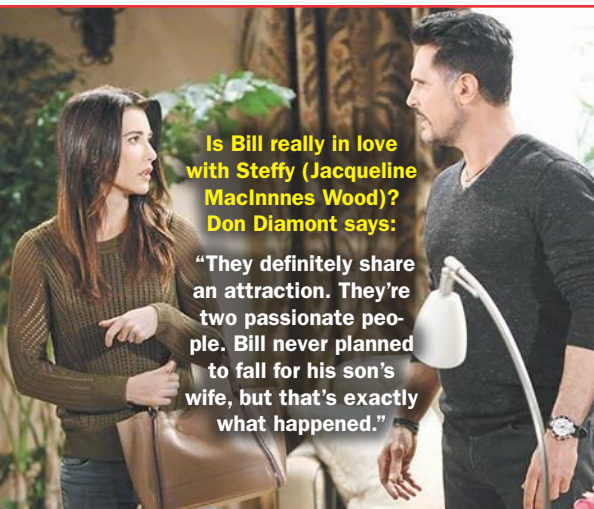
- Steffy confesses to an incredulous Katie about her affair with Bill and asks for her silence.
- Liam makes it clear to Bill that there are severe consequences for his actions.

## COMING CLEAN

Steffy gets the results of the paternity test and is thrilled to discover that Liam is the father of her baby. She then has a day-dream and imagines what life would be like having a family with Liam.

Bill talks to Justin about Steffy and admits that Steffy is pregnant. Bill dodges Justin's question about whether or not he is the father of her baby. Instead, Bill confesses that he did not expect to fall in love with his son's wife, but there has always been an undeniably powerful attraction between them. □

**Executive Producer/  
Head Writer:**  
Bradley Bell



**Is Bill really in love with Steffy (Jacqueline MacInnes Wood)? Don Diamont says:**

**"They definitely share an attraction. They're two passionate people. Bill never planned to fall for his son's wife, but that's exactly what happened."**

HOWARD WISE/JPI

# days *of our* lives

## REBOUND EFFECT

Lani is crushed when she spies JJ and Gabi in an embrace and flees, unaware that Gabi was just being a supportive friend. Gabi insists on spending the night and urges JJ to get professional help. A distraught Lani runs into Eli and tells him what she saw. Eli is peeved since he patiently waited for Gabi to get over Chad. Eli and Lani seek solace in each other and make love.

## IN THE PAST

Jennifer makes an emotional appeal to Abe to forgive JJ, pointing out how Brady forgave Abe after Abe accidentally shot him. Abe is impacted by her words, but won't make any promises.

On Christmas morning, Abe visits JJ and says he

## A LITTLE ROMANCE

Will encourages Sonny to spend more time with him, and asks to hear their love story. Sonny happily recalls the highlights of their romance. They share a passionate kiss, but stop short of letting it go further because Will isn't ready to recommit.... Brady moves forward with his and Victor's plan to neutralize Eve. Brady complains about his grandfather to Eve, who invites him back to work as Basic Black. They seal the deal with a handshake, but when they find themselves under mistletoe, Brady pulls Eve into a kiss.

forgives him.... Eric gives Jennifer a friendship bracelet and they share an electric moment.... Lani is shocked to wake up next to Eli. She hurries out. Gabi finds Eli, who accuses her of sleeping with JJ. Gabi is shocked, then explains why she was with her ex the night before. Eli feels guilty. He tracks down Lani later and relays what Gabi told him. They

agree to keep their night together a secret.


## STORY TIME

In the town square, Kayla and Steve call Joey to check in. Tripp joins them and they share a warm moment. Claire and Ciara clash over Theo; Roman sets them straight. The group heads to the pub to meet up with Eric and spend the holiday together. After, they go to the hospital, where Jennifer reads the Christmas story to the sick children.

## AWAKENINGS

Theo comes out of his coma, to the delight of his family and loved ones. Lani pulls JJ away and says she knows about his suicide attempt. JJ says his prayers have been answered now that Theo is awake and promises he won't try again. Lani takes JJ in to see Theo. JJ makes a heartfelt apol-

## flashback to 2002



**A Timeless Tale:** After surviving her battle with leukemia, Chloe (Nadia Bjorlin, bottom L.) read the Christmas story to the sick children at the hospital as (from l.) Maggie (Suzanne Rogers), Mickey (John Clarke) and Alice (Frances Reid) looked on.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- John asks Paul about his feelings for Will.
- Ciara lashes out at Jennifer and Eric.
- Kate pressures Kayla.
- Roman makes a surprising reconnection.

**How does Abe feel when he reinstates Hope (Kristian Alfonso)? James Reynolds says:**

**"He did treat Hope pretty badly. Hope is without question his closest friend, so to come back and make this right is something he has to do."**

ogy, but Theo lets him off the hook, saying he knows JJ thought he had a gun.

Ciara and Claire fight over visiting Theo. Claire and Theo declare their love, to Ciara's chagrin. Once alone, Ciara informs Claire that she plans to tell Theo she still loves him. The two come to blows; Tripp breaks it up. Ciara privately suggests to Tripp that they work together to get what they want.

## COMING CLEAN

Andre persuades Chad to let Kate stay in both the mansion and as the head of Countess Wilhelmina. Their conversation is interrupted by the news about Theo. Chad rushes to the hospital, with Kate on his heels. They visit with Theo, who explains he cares about Kate and didn't want her to get in trouble so he kept mum with Abe. After the chat,

Chad tells Kate that he has lost all respect for her. A devastated Kate confesses to Abe that she put Theo in harm's way.

JJ brings Lani a gift. He vows they will never be apart again; they kiss.

## GIVE IT A SHOT

JJ asks Eric if he can schedule counseling with him. Eric agrees. After, Jennifer asks Eric to go to Chad and Abby's New Year's party with her. Eric asks if it's a date; Jen says she's open to exploring options. Eric says yes.

Tripp finally confesses his feelings for Claire, who is overwhelmed. As she's going into Theo's room, Claire hears Ciara suggesting they rekindle their romance. Theo lets Ciara down gently, and Claire is touched when Theo has nice things to say about her. A devas-

tated Ciara returns to Tripp and says they've both lost.

Belle and Shawn prepare to leave town. They say good-bye to Claire, Hope and Rafe.

## CASE CLOSED

Abigail realizes Andre is defending Kate because he's in love with her. Andre denies it, but it's clear she's right. Abby finds an unfamiliar email address on her RSVP list for two.

Abe tells Rafe that he's reinstating Hope as commissioner. Her first action on the job is to close Theo's case. Abe tells Kate and Andre that he's not going to pursue charges against Kate, but she has to fire Theo from DiMera.

**Executive Producer:**

Ken Corday

**Head Writer:** Ron Carlivati

XI JOHNSON/JPI

# general hospital

## OH HAPPY DAY

With Lesley's Italian beau, Marcello, officiating, Laura and Kevin are joyfully married.

## SWEET CHARITY

The storm forces Ava, Griffin and Julian to spend a tense holiday together at Charlie's Pub. Molly, TJ, Alexis, Stella, Curtis and Jordan also end up there. The group pulls together to give the residents of a local homeless shelter a happy holiday. Later, Ava and Griffin work through the awkwardness that ensues when she gives him a lavish Christmas present. An insecure Ava then overhears Kiki and Griffin agreeing not to tell her something. Griff is confused by her sudden mood change. Ava's suspicions deepen when she sees the pair slip into an exam room together.

## ILL COMMUNICATION

After Nelle crosses paths with Jason, she shows up at the Corinthoses', woozy. Carly thinks it's an act, but with

## NO RISK, NO REWARD

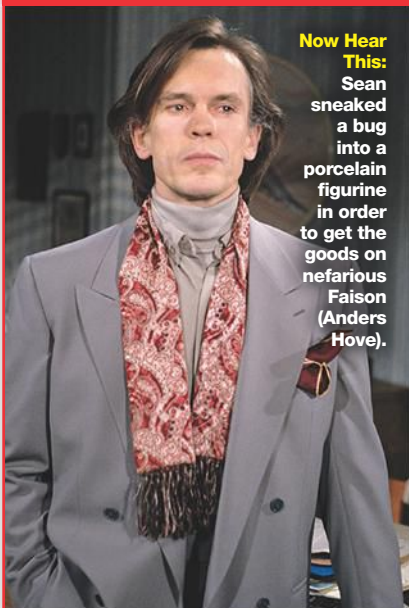
Fed up with Cassandra lurking around Valentin, Nina stops pretending to consider the woman a friend and threatens her in front of witnesses. Valentin darkly assures Nina that he won't let Cassandra hurt the people he cares about. Anna brings Finn to the boxing gym for a self-defense lesson. Their close physical proximity results in sexual tension, which is broken when Cassandra calls Finn to arrange a meeting. To locate Cassandra's warehouse, Anna tasks him with bugging Cassandra's phone, which he ultimately manages to do. While attempting to surveil their confab, Anna runs into Felicia, who urges her to take a genuine chance on love with Finn.

Jason's encouragement, she, Sonny and Michael

tend to the mom-to-be. Michael arranges for

Monica to examine Nelle, and the women reach an understanding.

## flashback to 1990



**Now Hear This:** Sean sneaked a bug into a porcelain figurine in order to get the goods on nefarious Faison (Anders Hove).

## MAKE A RUN FOR IT

Dante and Jordan get confirmation that the mayoral election was fixed. After Lulu's follow-up story on the scandal drops, Lomax steps down as mayor. Felicia declines to run in the special election to replace her; Kevin urges Laura to run. Peter suggests to Lulu that she make Faison

JERRY FITZGERALD/ABC



## WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Nathan jumps to conclusions.
- Carly is forced to face the music.
- Nelle is nervous about her first day.

**What is the dynamic like between Nina (Michelle Stafford, r.) and Cassandra when Nina threatens her? Jessica Tuck reports:**

“Well, Cassandra is no longer worrying about covering herself and pretending that all is well. Nina really loses her cool and lets Cassandra see it, so now neither of them is trying to keep a lid on things. It’s going to get nasty!”

PHOTOGRAPH BY XI JOHNSON/UP

the subject of her next investigation.

### THE RIFTERS

Sonny visits Drew, hoping to mend the rift between them, but Drew states that there is no room for Sonny in his new life. Sam asks Kim to help Drew fill in the gaps in his memory, so Kim gives him a copy of the CD he made for her. Later, Drew and Michael have a heart-to-heart about Drew’s identity and place in the family. Jason longs for Sam and makes plans to leave town; Carly decides to take action. Sam goes to *The Haunted Star*, where she and Drew plan to ring in the new year, but thanks to Carly’s intervention, Jason shows up instead.

### TEST CASE

Hoping to give Nathan peace of mind on the subject of his paternity, Maxie brings some Cas-sadine DNA (a strand of Valentin’s hair) and Nathan’s toothbrush to Amy, seeking her help with a DNA test. The women bicker, but Amy ultimately agrees to bend the rules and run the test. Meanwhile, Nathan tries to get answers out of Obrecht, who won’t cop to lying and urges him to focus on his future, not his past.

### BUGGING OUT

Cassandra informs Valentin that she expects him to travel overseas with her and Finn to start work on the new drug. He protests and wins a temporary reprieve. Finn

and Anna’s scheme goes according to plan when the bug he planted captures her conversing with workers at her clandestine factory. Anna alerts the WSB, dispatching them to seize the factory and arrest Cassandra. She tells Valentin that their work is almost done, and Finn wonders if his own partnership with Anna is over. Meanwhile, Charlotte causes accidental damage to Cassandra’s phone, tipping off her associate to the presence of the bug. Valentin finds himself in harm’s way after Cassandra realizes she was being surveilled. □

**Executive Producer:**  
Frank Valentini  
**Head Writers:** Shelly Altman and Chris Van Etten

# young *and* restless

## BAH, HUMBUG!

On Christmas Eve, Billy visits Jill while Phyllis dines at the Abbotts with Hilary. There's tension in the air as Ashley and Jack argue, and Dina learns about him being removed as CEO. Everyone storms off, leaving Phyllis and Hilary alone. Later, Ashley tries to make peace with Jack but he announces a new clause to Jabot's bylaws: Only a blood Abbott can run the company. Ashley is shocked by his betrayal.

## MAKING MERRY

Lily has dinner with Mattie and Devon at the GCAC, while Charlie brings Cane a gift from Lily to the Chancellor manse. Jill encourages Cane to call Lily, but when he does, they realize Charlie bought the gift in an attempt to bring his parents together. Lily is moved when Jill shows up with Cane, Charlie and Esther. Hilary arrives and joins the family in a Christmas carol.

## FOUR CHRISTMASSES

Sharon and Mariah spend Christmas

## THAT'S THE SPIRITS

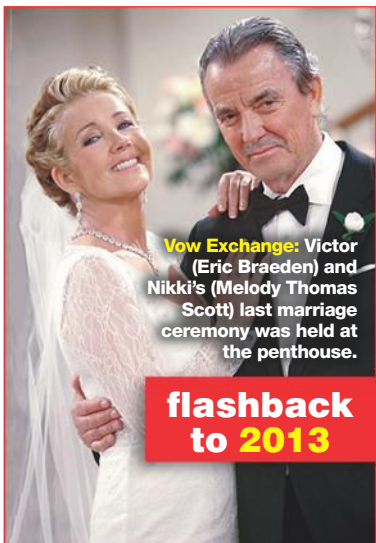
Reed is upset when J.T. informs him that he and Mac are getting a divorce. J.T. tries to reason with his son but Reed isn't willing to listen and leaves to meet Charlie and Mattie. At a party, Reed gets drunk and insists on driving home. Mattie tries to take his car keys but Reed drives off. Worried that he'll hurt himself or someone else, Mattie calls the police and reports Reed. The cops pull Reed over and arrest him for drunk driving. Victoria and J.T. are notified and they're furious. J.T. decides to stay in Genoa City to help get Reed back on track. Victoria tells Nikki about Reed's arrest. Nikki visits her grandson and shares her own struggles with alcohol. Nikki warns Reed about making the same mistakes.

trying to find the perfect gift for each other; Billy and Phyllis enjoy their first Christmas together; Hilary reflects on her painful holidays as a child; and Nikki is reminded of the true meaning of the season.

## DO IT AGAIN

Paul and Christine invite Nikki to dinner in an attempt to get information about Victor. Nikki quickly catches on to their plan but plays along. The next day, Nikki tells

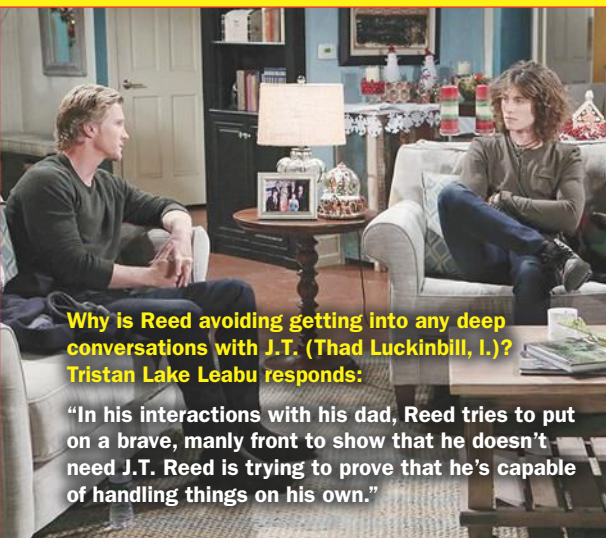
Victor about Paul and Christine's fishing expedition. Victor suggests they renew their vows on New Year's Eve to convince everyone that their reconciliation is legit. Nikki agrees and invites Mr. and Mrs. Williams. Paul tells Nikki that he sees through her plan and declines. Meanwhile, Nick is torn about attending until Victor cautions him about hurting Nikki.



**Vow Exchange:** Victor (Eric Braeden) and Nikki's (Melody Thomas Scott) last marriage ceremony was held at the penthouse.

**flashback  
to 2013**

SEAN SMITH/UP!



HOWARD WISE/JPI

**Why is Reed avoiding getting into any deep conversations with J.T. (Thad Luckinbill, l.)? Tristan Lake Leabu responds:**

**"In his interactions with his dad, Reed tries to put on a brave, manly front to show that he doesn't need J.T. Reed is trying to prove that he's capable of handling things on his own."**

## KEEPING COMPANY

As Billy shares a tense conversation with Jack about the new bylaw, Traci and Ashley exchange harsh words. Ashley then informs Jack that she'll challenge his bylaw in court. Later, Jack presents a new bid to Jill for Chancellor Industries. She stipulates that any sale must keep Cane as CEO. Meanwhile, Cane brings Sam home from the hospital and is surprised when Charlie and Mattie are waiting for them.

Cane and Billy update Jill on the Abbott family conflict. Jill decides to keep Chancellor and appoints Billy to be Cane's co-CEO.

## NEW STARTS?

Nick tells Chelsea that their family is outgrowing the penthouse, adding that he wants to build their dream home. Chelsea is touched but explains she's not ready to move on from all of the memories she shared there with Adam.

In order to bring Cane and Lily together, Jill invites them to a fake New Year's Eve party at the mansion. Jill is shocked when Hilary shows up and shares that Cane invited her. Jill tells Hilary about the plan and manages to get her to leave.

Cane and Lily both arrive and soon discover they are the only party guests. Cane asks Lily to stay until midnight. Jill and Esther watch as they almost share a kiss but pull back at the last minute.

## MIDNIGHT HOUR

The guests arrive for Victor and Nikki's vow renewal ceremony. Victor and Nikki put on quite a performance reading their vows but find themselves falling back into old patterns and feeling their powerful chemistry. After the ceremony, Nick goes into the next room to get his coat and spies Abby and Scott sharing a New Year's kiss.

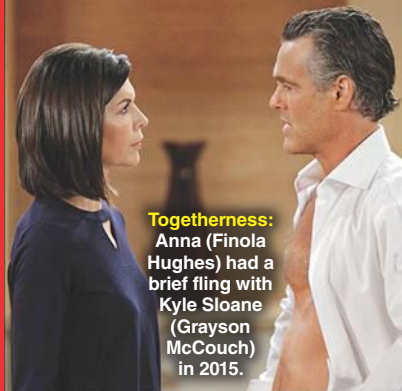
**Executive Producer/  
Head Writer:**  
Mal Young

## SUDOKU ANSWERS

9	5	4	6	1	8	7	2	3
1	7	6	9	3	2	5	4	8
8	3	2	5	4	7	1	9	6
4	6	3	1	9	5	2	8	7
2	8	1	4	7	6	3	5	9
7	9	5	2	8	3	6	1	4
5	2	9	3	6	4	8	7	1
6	4	8	7	5	1	9	3	2
3	1	7	8	2	9	4	6	5

# ask us

*we've got the answers*



**Together:** Anna (Finola Hughes) had a brief fling with Kyle Sloane (Grayson McCouch) in 2015.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

**Q** Has Anna slept with another man since Duke died on GH, or would Finn be the first, if they got to that point?

*Marla B., via email*

**A** Anna has slept with one man, Kyle Sloane, since Duke was killed in 2015, and it happened only once.

**Q** I loved Jessica Tuck on ONE LIFE TO LIVE as Megan and it's cool to see her on GH as Cassandra. I remember crying my eyes out when Megan died! Can you remind me of the disease she had?

*K.L., via email*

**A** Megan succumbed to lupus in 1992, dying in the arms of her husband, Jake.

**Q** I am thrilled that Nicollette Sheridan is the new Alexis on the DYNASTY reboot. I loved her on KNOTS LANDING (ex-Paige) and

**DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES (ex-Edie)! How did her character die on that show? I remember it was sudden but please refresh the circumstances for me. Thank you very much.**

*E.H., via email*

**A** In season five of **DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES**, Edie married motivational speaker Dave Williams, unaware that he had a secret agenda: to get revenge against their neighbor, Mike Delfino. Dave believed Mike had been responsible for the car accident that killed Dave's first wife and daughter. When Edie eventually discovered the connection, Dave tried to strangle her but she escaped. Disoriented, Edie ran out to her car and tried to phone Mike to warn him. But, as she was speeding down Wisteria Lane, Orson rushed out into the street, prompting Edie to swerve and crash into a utility pole. A dazed Edie stepped out of the car into a puddle and, holding onto the car door, which she was

## twiN peek

I think that Vinessa Antoine (Jordan, GH) looks like former First Lady Michelle Obama. Would you please run side-by-side photos of them? Thank you.

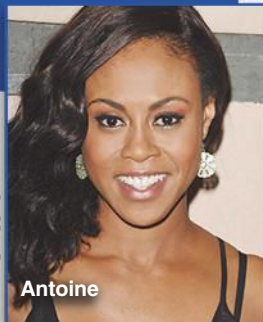
*Michelle M., via email*

INSTAR IMAGES



Obama

JILL JOHNSON/JPI



Antoine

unaware was underneath a dangling live wire; Edie was electrocuted.

**Q** How many times has B&B's Hope been married? I honestly lost track after awhile. LOL!

**L.G., Albuquerque, NM**

**A** Despite multiple tries with Liam, those star-crossed lovers only wed once, in Puglia, Italy, in 2012. However, the union was never legal because Hope refused to sign the paperwork after discovering Liam had kissed Steffy. Then, in 2014, after Hope thought she'd been stood up by Liam at the Eiffel Tower, she wed his brother, Wyatt, aboard the *Stella Maris*, docked off the coast of Monte Carlo. They split the following year.

**Q** I am totally confused. How can Y&R's Nick give away his \$500 million trust fund to charity, when the money isn't available for him to give away? Didn't Victor (through Kevin's hacking skills) take the money from Nick's account, and it's no longer there?

**Sara D., Colorado Springs, CO**

**A** When Nick suspected his dad of stealing the millions, his announcement on TV that he was giving away his trust fund to charity compelled Victor to return the money.

**Got a question or "Twin Peeks" suggestion for the staff of Soap Opera Digest?**

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# SOUND OFF

*What's on your mind?*

## HOT STUFF

When I saw DAYS's story promo, I knew I needed to clear my calendar to watch these episodes live and they did not disappoint. I especially enjoyed Sami, Rafe and Hope! [Head Writer] Ron Carlivati cleverly used Sami and Rafe's history to stir up trouble for the engaged couple! Fights ensued, rings were returned and comfort came with a high price tag. Oh, my God! Soap at its best! Ali [Sweeney, Sami], Galen [Gering, Rafe] and Kristian [Alfonso, Hope] are so talented and the chemistry is fantastic between all of them; I didn't want this storyline to end! I was even torn on who to root for because

XJ JOHNSON/UPFI

I love "Safe" and "Rope"! I was twisted this way and that way. That's when you know the writer and the actors have succeeded in hitting every beat in a story. Bravo, DAYS!

**Waverly B., via email**

## SPARK PLUGS

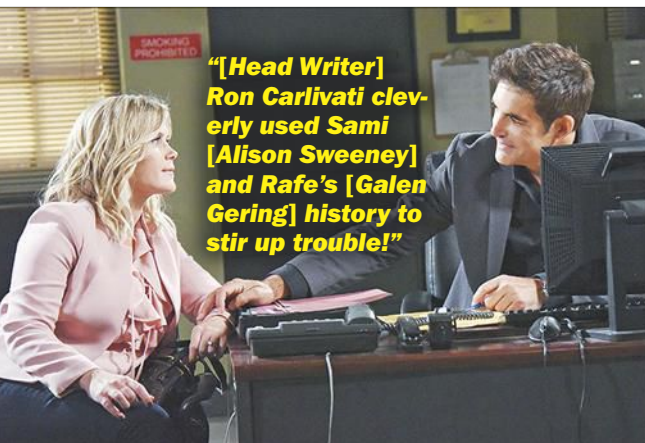
I would love to see more of GH's Anna and Finn hanging out, and now that their arguing has led to some unexpected passion, this relationship is even more intriguing! Putting these two in the same cosmos was an absolutely brilliant idea. They are the spark the show was lacking and the balance it needed to drag us out of the darkness and "bad news"

storylines. I enjoy how fiery their debates are. Instead of rehashing old stories and bringing on a ton more characters, I'd be a much happier GH fan if we could simply see more of Finola Hughes and Michael Easton. Trust me on this one, no one is more surprised than I am as to how much I enjoy and adore these two.

**E. Retinera, via email**

## SUGGESTION BOX

Not everyone who watches daytime programming has Internet reception reliable enough to watch the Daytime Emmy Awards program via streaming. Here's an idea: ABC, CBS, NBC (and any other channel with more than four nominations) should pre-empt their own programming for one three-hour period on one day to reward the faithful viewers of those shows and air the Emmys during the day! I was a faithful viewer of the Daytime Emmy Awards show through 2012 when it aired on HLN, but have been unable to watch it since because I live in rural PA and have unreliable Internet



**"[Head Writer] Ron Carlivati cleverly used Sami [Alison Sweeney] and Rafe's [Galen Gering] history to stir up trouble!"**

streaming. Programming gets pre-empted much too often, for pretty asinine reasons sometimes, and a planned pre-emption for a celebration of the reasons people like me turn our TVs on during the day makes more sense than not airing it at all!

Lois H., Brackney, PA

## TRUE TO LIFE

On Y&R, even though I diagnosed Dina Mergeron's Alzheimer's disease the first week she was in Genoa City, I'm enjoying the storyline so much. All of the actors — Peter Bergman's Jack, Eileen Davidson's Ashley, Melissa Ordway's Abby and Beth Maitland's Traci — are doing a wonderful job, and Marla Adams's Dina is excellent. If she doesn't win the Best Supporting Actress Emmy next year, there is truly no justice in their system! Meanwhile, back in Port Charles, *The Tale of the Two Jasons* is playing out beautifully, and I look forward to watching GH every day. One thing I don't understand, however, is why, whenever Sam Morgan has some thinking to do, she goes down to the docks. Girl, not three months ago, a violent criminal threw you off those docks and you nearly died! Go think at home with some popcorn and a good

JILL JOHNSON/JPI



**"Marla Adams's Dina is excellent [on Y&R]. If she doesn't win the Best Supporting Actress Emmy next year, there is truly no justice in their system!"**

soap opera! Of course, I know why the writers put her there — so she can bump into Jason — but it doesn't make sense. Thanks again to the wonderful people at *Soap Opera Digest* — I've had 27 years of great reading, thanks to you!

**Marcia H., Clarksville, AR**  
(Ed. Note: Thank you, Marcia! We appreciate your continued support!)

## OFFICE MANAGEMENT

I am truly offended by Y&R's portrayal of women in the workplace. First, we have ice princess Victoria channeling her inner Victor Newman. She has no compassion for what her sister is going through, and is only concerned with her climb to the top of Newman Enterprises. Even worse is Ashley Abbott. I usually enjoy the family dynamic between Ashley and Jack. They may not always agree,

but you can usually feel the love between the siblings. Now, Ashley is completely consumed with being the head of Jabot, while Jack is trying to deal with Dina's Alzheimer's disease. Jack is sympathetic, while Ashley is acting like a jerk. And what about Ashley's relationship with Ravi? With all of the national news about sexual predators in the workplace, it seems Ravi would have a valid complaint. Ashley uses Ravi when it is convenient for her. Just once I would like to see a woman in a position of power portrayed as responsible, kind and successful in her own right. I just think this is the classic cliché concerning female bosses.

Jan, via email

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# MAILBAG



## SALEM SHORTS

DAYS fans on *Digest*'s Facebook page weighed in about the current state of the show. Chris G. enthused, "Omg, DAYS has been phenomenal! I'm enjoying it more and more! Keep it up my favorite soap opera!" Kim F. noted, "It's about time Kate gets what is coming to her, and Jack could come back, no one seen his body, does anyone even remember a funeral for him? He went down in a elevator and never seen again?" Christopher N. said, "Jack should have never been killed off, he needs to be back for JJ and Jennifer and Abby and not as a ghost or memory this time. Never really liked anyone Jennifer has been paired up with except maybe Daniel. He seemed to be good for her but once again they killed him off." Eric P. praised, "DAYS has been amazing, it's been my favorite soap for over 20 years, loving every second of it. Keep the Drama com-

ing." Paula B. mused, "I like the dead people returning. lol. DAYS is the best soap because it's always been a little outrageous."

## ALI CHAT

DAYS fans also reacted to Alison Sweeney's return as Sami. Gabby D. posted, "I'm so glad you [came] back, you put some life in the story. You are a great actress and the writers should be glad to have you. I watch the story every day." Carol

Z. added, "Alison, you deserve an Emmy for your performance on DAYS. Best wishes!" Debbie D. echoed, "Alison you deserve the Emmy!! Job well done!! That's why we fans keep watching!!" Edith B. lamented, "I wish she would go back. not the same without her. Love the Sami parts always."

## YOU SAID IT!

"Yeah, Britt is back! Thank you, GH! She is a breath of fresh air with a great history. Now we need Brad to return as her sidekick."

— Robin M., Tucson, AZ

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# calendar

## events

**Who:** GH's Finola Hughes (Anna), Kirsten Storms (Maxie) and Laura Wright (Carly)

**What:** Small Talk with the Ladies of GH

**When:** Sat., Jan. 27

**Where:** Brokerage Comedy Club, 2797 Merrick Road, Bellmore, NY

**How:** Tickets range from \$79-\$129.

Depending on which ticket you buy, this event includes a show, a Q&A, a meet and greet, photo ops and autographs. To purchase, visit [tickets.brokeragecomedy.com](http://tickets.brokeragecomedy.com).

**Who:** GH's Kathleen Gati (Obrecht), Roger Howarth (Franco), Wally Kurth (Ned; Justin, DAYS), Chloe Lanier (Nelle), Robert Palmer Watkins (ex-Dillon), Maura West (Ava) and Wright

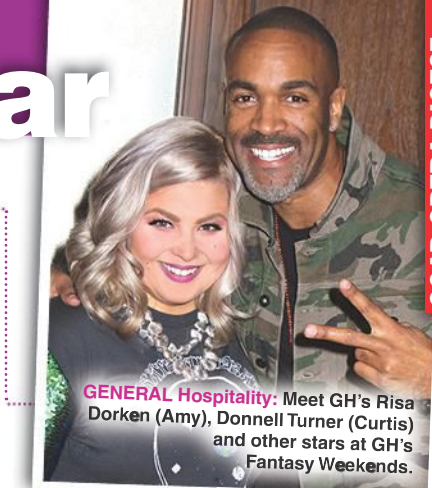
**What:** GH Fantasy Weekend

**When:** Sat., Feb. 10

**Where:** Hilton Palm Beach Airport, 150 Australian Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL

**How:** Tickets range from \$79-\$249.

Depending on which ticket you buy, this event includes a show, a Q&A, interviews, a group photo, a meet and greet, and autographs. To purchase, visit [feb10ghwpb.eventbrite.com](http://feb10ghwpb.eventbrite.com).



**GENERAL Hospitality:** Meet GH's Risa Dorken (Amy), Donnell Turner (Curtis) and other stars at GH's Fantasy Weekends.

SOAP OPERA DIGEST

STEVEN BERGMAN

**Who:** GH's Bradford Anderson (Spinelli), William deVry (Julian), Risa Dorken (Amy), Donnell Turner (Curtis) and Wright

**What:** GH Fantasy Weekend

**When:** Sat., April 28

**Where:** DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel St. Paul Downtown, 411 Minnesota Street, Saint Paul, MN

**How:** Tickets range from \$89-\$209.

Depending on which ticket you buy, this event includes a 90-minute show, a Q&A, a meet and greet, an autograph session, interviews and photo ops. To purchase, visit [ghfantasyminn.eventbrite.com](http://ghfantasyminn.eventbrite.com).

**Who:** GH's Anderson, deVry, Dorken, Turner and Wright

**What:** GH Fantasy Weekend

**When:** Sunday, April 29

**Where:** Wyndham Indianapolis West, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN

**How:** Tickets range from \$89-\$209. Depending on which ticket you buy, this event includes a 90-minute show, a Q&A, interviews, a meet and greet, an autograph session and photo ops. To purchase, visit [ghfantasyindy.eventbrite.com](http://ghfantasyindy.eventbrite.com).

## birthdays

**Camryn Grimes**  
(Mariah,  
Y&R) 1/7

**Donnell Turner**  
(Curtis,  
GH) 1/8



JILL JOHNSON/JPI

# TAKE FIVE

## **Christopher Sean** (Paul, *DAYS*)

■ **What are the top songs on your “recently played” list?** “‘Imagine’, by John Lennon, and Elvis Presley’s ‘Suspicious Minds.’”

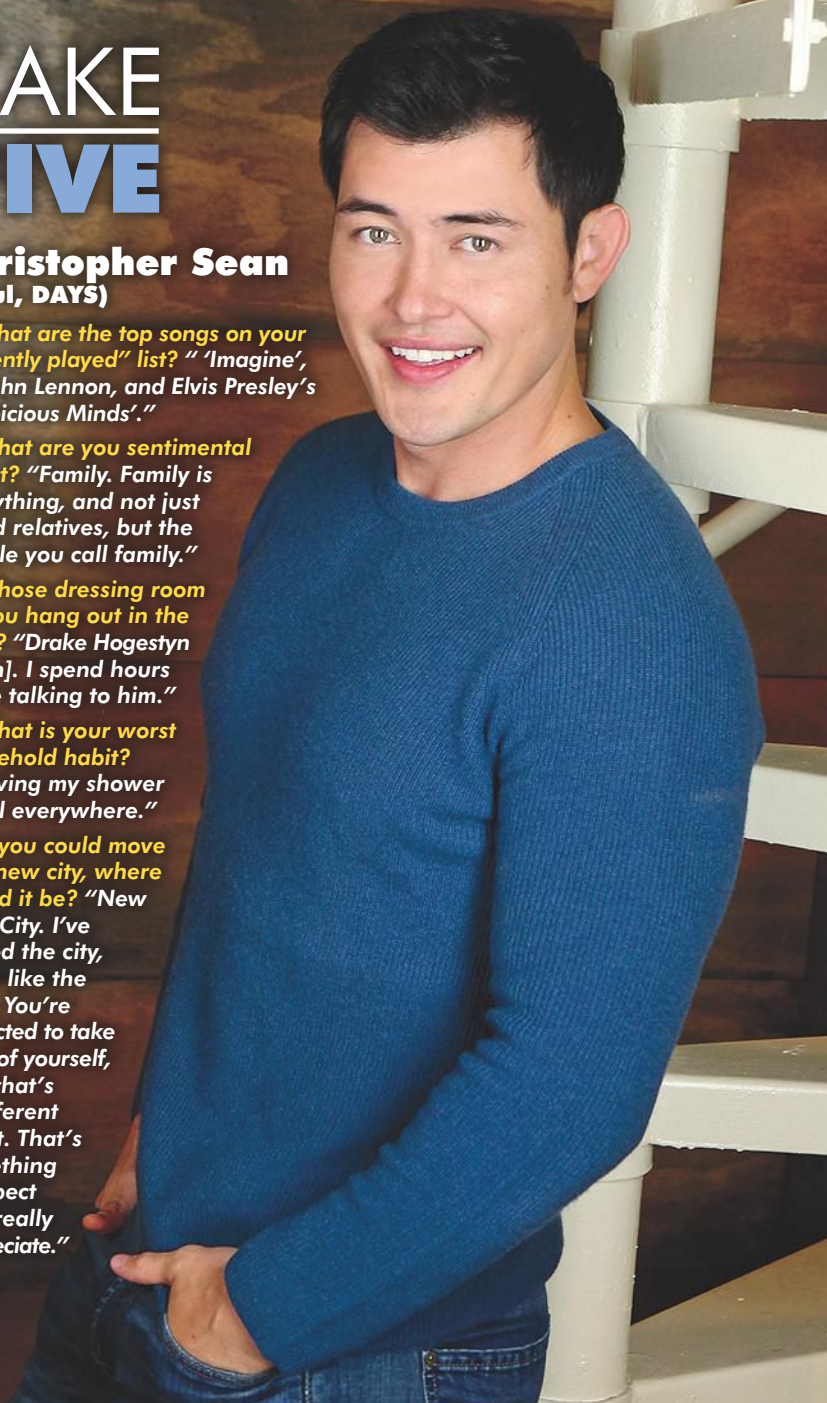
■ **What are you sentimental about?** “Family. Family is everything, and not just blood relatives, but the people you call family.”

■ **Whose dressing room do you hang out in the most?** “Drake Hogestyn [John]. I spend hours there talking to him.”

■ **What is your worst household habit?** “Leaving my shower towel everywhere.”

■ **If you could move to a new city, where would it be?** “New York City. I’ve visited the city, and I like the vibe. You’re expected to take care of yourself, and that’s a different beast. That’s something I respect and really appreciate.”

JOHN PASCHAL/JPI



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