

CHARLES SHAUGHNESSY



# "I WOULD LOVE A HOUSE BY THE OCEAN!"



to go back home to America. She went back and we kept in touch and I would come over here for vacation and she would come over to England. It just got very expensive. There came a point when I decided it was time to take the plunge. We decided to get married. Having made that decision, every other decision became easy. If I am in a changing-my-life mood, I might as well change it completely. When I was over here, I liked what I saw. I like the energy here. There are a lot more chances to do things. England is a lovely place and I miss it at times. It will always be sad. It had its glory days, it is very difficult to make a living. So, I came over here two years ago. We got married in May of 1983. In the back of my mind is the possibility of sometime down the line to go back to England. When we talk about children and a family, we are not sure whether we want to bring children up here. I would like the children to grow up in England as well.

Born and raised in London, England, Charles came to America when the English play he was performing in toured here. Charles landed a part on *General Hospital* before playing Shane Donovan on *Days*. Although Charles loves it here, his future plans could include a return to England.

**ED.:** You were born and raised in England. How did

you end up in the States?

**CHARLES:** What happened was; when I was at drama school, The Central School of Speech and Drama, I met an American student there, Susan Hallender, who was in the year below me. She had come over to study in England. We started going out. I finished school and started working for a year. We kept in touch and saw each other. Then, when she finished school she decided she wanted

**ED.:** Have you had any input into your character?

**CHARLES:** A bit. I have never been in a position where it is a good idea to actually be part of the creative process of a character. It would be great fun. I am looking forward to doing that.

**ED.:** What do your parents do?

**CHARLES:** My father is a script writer, Alfred Shaughnessy. He wrote *Upstairs, Downstairs*. My mother was an actress and gave it up when I was born. She was not very serious, though. She devotes her life to the family and the house. The kids.

**ED.:** Do you have any future goals?

**CHARLES:** I directed a lot in England. Stage plays. I would also like to move into production, TV and film production. I would like to get into a position where I can have some of the initiative on what goes on. There are a lot of projects and books I read that I come across that I would like to see happen. I would like to move on.

**ED.:** What do you like to do in your spare time?

**CHARLES:** REST! Otherwise, masses of films that I want to catch up on. I love walking in the park and thinking. The beach, the ocean is wonderful for a long walk in the sand. Especially in the winter. I would love to have a little apartment in L.A. and have a nice house outside by the ocean. I like writing. Journalistic writing like articles in the form of little essays.