



They say 'class will tell' — and Charlie's got it.

Dashing CHARLES SHAUGHNESSY

says:

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to have a go at
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twice!"**

by Jacquie Friedlander

First it was Sean Connery as James Bond, in the movie series that started the whole thing, and is still going strong with Roger Moore as 007. Then it was Tristan Rogers as Robert Scorpio, on *General Hospital*.

Now they've been joined by Charles Shaughnessy, as Shane Donovan, on *Days of our Lives*: the newest of those sexy British secret agents who make our American hearts beat faster than a car chase over the Swiss alps. He's got to be one of the nicest, too — both on screen and off.

Like Bond and Scorpio before him, Shane combines elegance and excitement, as a British gentleman in a far-from-gentle field. Shane is a gentleman in both senses of the word, too: "gentle," as in "sweet and kind" and "gentle" is in "well-bred". It's nice to say that the same goes for the actor who created him.

Charles proved that he was a gentleman in the best sense, when a delay on the set made him late for a phone interview. His sincere apologies showed that he was genuinely dismayed at having caused inconvenience, and that he was free of any feeling that it was other people's business to wait for him, because he is, after all, a star. Forced to interrupt the conversation, when he called back later he remembered exactly where he had left off, 1½ hours before.

That kind of behavior is the sign of a real gentleman, no matter what his social status but Charles Shaughnessy has the background of a gentleman as well. He went to Eton and Cambridge, in his native England: a prep school and university which are very social indeed. His stepfather was a friend of King Edward VIII (who gave up his throne for the woman he loved) and George VI (who took it over). Charles says that those school and family photos which you see on the mantel at stately old Donovan Manor are really his own.

Charles's father, Alfred Shaughnessy, was head writer for *Upstairs, Downstairs*, which has been called a "British soap opera." Charles insists, though, that there is really nothing just like our soaps in England. "My parents still don't understand them and think that they are funny," Charles reports. "But they are still very pleased with my success."

Like any good British country squire,

Charles is also a sportsman, who says, "I am willing to have a go at anything at least twice" — from tennis to golf to skiing to baseball to riflery. (Need we add that he also has a dog?) On TV, Shane has so far mentioned only riding and cricket, but give him time.

It's obvious from their names that both "Shane Donovan" and "Charles Shaughnessy" are of Irish descent. Charles hopes that Shane's Irish background will eventually be explored on the show. He says that his own roots are Irish and Irish-American.

Charles' great-great grandfather came to America to flee the Irish Potato Famine. His mother, Jean Lodge Shaughnessy, is English, but his father was born in America, and taken to England only after his father died and his mother married a British subject. Charles' grandfather's death, during World War I, may have encouraged Charles' participation in the Beyond War organization.

All these similarities are not purely coincidental. The writers drew on his real-life background, Charles claims, while creating his TV character.

Charles Shaughnessy is like Shane Donovan in one other important way: both have an American "love interest." For Shane, it's Kimberly Brady (played by Patsy Pease), of Salem. For Charles, it's Susan Fallender, of California, whom he met while they were studying at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. Both women could be described, in general terms, as "ethnic": Kimberly is Irish-American, Susan is Jewish. Both also are trying for artistic careers: Kimberly as a photographer, Susan as an actress. We hasten to add, though, that the similarities end there, since Kimberly was previously engaged in another profession, generally considered the world's oldest.

Charles and Susan celebrated their second anniversary this May; the same month that Shane and Kimberly declared their love. While Shane and Kimberly had a honeymoon without a wedding, for Charles and Susan it was the other way around.

Coming to Hollywood soon after they were married, Charles recalls that, "We didn't have a lot of money, so we decided to go right to work."

On the day they were planning to leave for their "wedding trip," one year after the wedding, Charles was told to report for a job interview for *General Hospital*, and at 3 p.m. that afternoon,



One thing we'd like to know — would you find him as attractive without the accent?

he was told he had the job. "I have been working on television ever since," he says. "We still haven't had time to get away."

The job was four days as Alistair Crawford, part of Holly Scorpio's seemingly limitless family of high-class con-persons. Charles describes Alistair as a "bumbling idiot," but says that he also had a "glint of humor," and an aristocratic manner, just like Shane Donovan. He believes his work as Alistair may be the reason why he was cast as Shane, in August last year.

He was later invited to reprise his role on *General Hospital*, but by then he was already working on *Days*, so Alistair's brother Algernon was born

instead. "It's nice to be wanted," Charles says. "It is always nice to know that your work is appreciated."

Alistair was the closest he had come to playing someone like Shane. Far from being "type-cast" as a British aristocrat, he had previously played just about everything else.

Before coming to California, he had a leading role in *Jury*, a British mini-series, as one of the jurors in a rape case; a staunch liberal and feminist, who proves to have some pretty strong male chauvinist leanings after all. In another limited series, *Partners in Crime*, he was a schoolteacher whose left-wing beliefs made him the leading suspect in a jewel theft.

We like his pairing with Kimberly
(actress Patricia Pease), and your
letters support it overwhelmingly.



Dashing CHARLES SHAUGHNESSY

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Having made this strong start in British television, he came to America just as *Jury* was about to go on the air, where it met with a very favorable audience verdict. "My agent thought I was insane to go," Charles recalls. "But I thought, now is the time to go, when you are feeling hot. No one in America is going to know who you are, but feel good about yourself, so go now!"

In Los Angeles, he was a Prussian soldier in *A Patriot For Me* at the Ahmanson Theatre, part of the prestigious Mark Taper Forum. At the Los Angeles Actors Theater, in a drama called *SUS* "I played a terrible villain!" he says. "It was all about policeman and racial bigotry in England, and I played a policeman who was a real brute and almost a psychopathic sadist."

One of the most gentlemanly things about Charles is the modesty he shows when he expresses his pride at having worked with Francesca Annis in *Partners in Crime* and Alan Bates in *A Patriot* — both fine actors, to be sure, but nowhere near as popular in America as Charles himself.

"That kind of varied experience is what I like," he says. "The danger with something like this (*Days*) is that you will get stuck in one kind of role."

But there's no danger of "getting stuck" while playing Shane, who sometimes seems to be a one-man repertoire company of his own. He was first seen as a "Peeping Tom," spying on Kimberly through her window through binoculars, apparently on the payroll of Stefano di Mera, godfather of the Salem underworld. He was next revealed to be an ISA agent, working with Roman Brady, against Stefano and his cartel. Next, he left the ISA to become a full-time aristocrat and lord of Donovan Manor. When, still later, he swore vengeance on the terrorist called "The Dragon" who had killed his wife Emma, he seemed headed back to his old job with the ISA.

Charles thanks his fans, and their fan letters, for Shane's sudden transformation. "They (producers) read the

letters and if they are supportive of a baddy, he can become a goody, because you can usually last longer that way, he says. In creating Charles' "good" character, the producers used his own background.

Shane Donovan may still be in the process of evolving, though. Charles describes him, with masterful British understatement, as "unpredictable," and says, "You can't pin him down." Or, as Kimberly so aptly put it, "You are full of surprises."

One surprise (except, perhaps, to veteran soap watchers) is the apparent resurrection of Shane's first wife, just as he was about to make Kimberly his second. Charles assures us, though, that "Kimberly and I will be an item for awhile, even if there will be some frustrations."

He finds it harder to decide how he would like to have his character develop, except to say, "I do like the ISA attachment, which means that he can always be trying things which are exciting. He wasn't always running around, like Bo Brady (Kimberly's brother), but planning and thinking and being the brains of the operation. I wouldn't mind seeing him go back to that kind of work."

While he also likes his other attachment — to Kimberly Brady — he hopes that Shane's sweet and gentle love scenes don't wind up making him seem to be too much of a softy.

"You have to believe that he can be dangerous," Charles says. "He does have a caring side, but he must have an aggressive side, too. He would feel very badly if he had to hurt or kill someone, but he would do it, as part of the job. He didn't like having to put Kimberly in the position he did (convincing her to return to her past profession, in order to spy on Bronsky, one of Stefano's business associates). He was upset about it, but it was also part of the job."

No matter what Shane does, though, or how he does it, one thing seems sure — his fans will enjoy watching him do it. ●