

ENTERTAINMENT

Soap actress Tom steps back

Heather Tom quit her role as tempestuous, much-married Victoria Newman on *The Young and the Restless* to pursue other projects

by LILANA NOVAKOVICH
For Southam Newspapers

Heather Tom must feel loved and appreciated. In March, Tom quit her role as tempestuous, much-married Victoria Newman on *The Young and the Restless* to pursue other projects, primarily to focus on her theatre company, The Creative Outlet Theatre.

Tom and Chad Allen (Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman) had co-produced Biloxi Blues, in which Tom alternated with her sister Nicholle (The Nanny) in the role of Daisy in a successful run last year. She still has aspirations of appearing on Broadway.

However, Sarah Aldrich, Tom's replacement on Y&R, didn't work out and was let go in June. Soon thereafter, Y&R started wooing Tom to come back. They managed to twist her arm and Tom returned to the soap in October, to a red-hot storyline.

Her hiatus from Y&R gave Tom a chance to catch her breath and re-evaluate her career.

"I really had a chance to focus on what my priorities are in my life," she explains. "I've been working since I was 13, and this was the longest break I've had."

Tom, now 21, started working in commercials as a toddler in Chicago. When she was 10, the family relocated to Seattle, where the budding ballerina appeared in *The Nutcracker Suite* and other productions with the Seattle Pacific Ballet. Three years later her mother brought the three kids (Heather and twins Nicholle and David, whose credits include *Swing Kids*) to Los Angeles for a three-week make-or-break trial stay. The siblings made it.

Tom took acting classes at the Young Actor's Space, financed by money she earned working at a cookie store. She was absolutely hooked on acting.

"The feeling of losing the audience for a moment and becoming connected with the scene and the character is absolutely incredible."

Soon she landed guest appearances on *Kids Inc.* and *Who's the Boss*.

Tom remains close to her mother Marie, and the twins, who are now 19. She also has a warm and fuzzy romantic life. "I've been seeing the same person for almost two years — Jep Hill," she confesses. "It's a wonderful relationship. Like everybody else, we have ups and downs, but we love each other."

Hill, a computer animator, has his own place, close to hers in Los Angeles. Which is just as well, since Tom's house is inevitably filled to capacity and bursting with activity.

"I have two permanent roommates and there are always three to six people staying with us," she laughs. "In my duplex, there is my manager who puts up his young clients when they are in L.A. doing interviews. It's great."

That's not counting her two dogs, Wesley and Willy.

And then there is her TV family: "The best part about coming back is seeing my TV family almost every day," she insists. "You have to remember I grew up on the set with Melody Thomas Scott (Nikki), Eric Braeden (Victor) and Joshua Morrow (Nicholas). Even though I stayed in touch with them, I missed seeing them."

Hot Spot: Nathan Purdee has come a long way in soaps.

Purdie, who plays district attorney Hank Gannon on *One Life to Live*, got his foot in the door via Anthony Geary, who was leading man on *General Hospital*. Geary helped sneak him on the set and Purdee eventually snagged the recurring role of Dr. Karlan.

"I learned how to watch and keep my mouth shut."

He played a carpenter on *Santa Barbara* for 10 weeks and then a two-day stint as a mob enforcer on *The Young and the Restless* led to the role of Kong, an illiterate but street-smart con turned good guy. As Kong learned to read and became more upscale, his name was changed to Nathan Hastings and he became assistant detective for the town's leading private eye.

Purdie, a military brat, has paid his dues. At one point, he lived in a van and delivered newspapers to finance acting class.

Have you heard? All My Children fans can look forward to Kate Collins, who played Natalie 1985-92 and Janet from 1990-92, making a special Christmas appearance from Dec. 22-24 ... *Days of Our Lives* has a casting call out for an Englishman who will have a profound impact on Susan's life ... Cynthia Watros (Annie on *Guiding Light*) has decided to leave the show in January. She looks forward to exploring other acting opportunities. Her last scenes will air in February ... *Bold and the Beautiful* has

SHOWBIZ IN BRIEF

Film award

MONTREAL (CP) — Kitchen Party, a feature film by Calgary director Gary Burns, has received a 10-million lire (\$8,300) prize at the Turin International Festival of Young Cinema.

A critics group at the festival praised the film "for its incisive and ironic portrayal of middle-class family life in western society," said Telefilm Canada.

Cash recovers

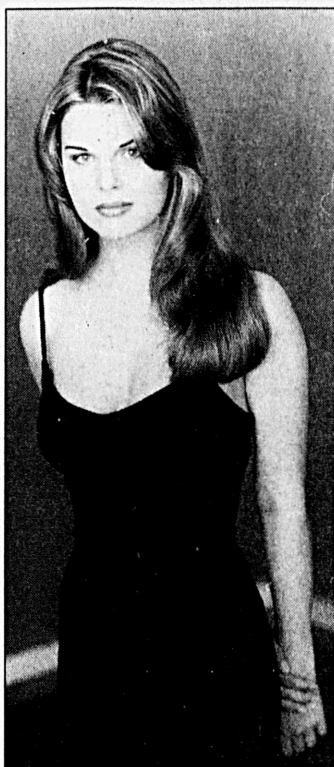
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Entertainer Johnny Cash has fully recovered from pneumonia, doctors say.

Cash, 65, entered Baptist Hospital earlier this month for treatment of Shy-Drager's Syndrome, a disease that attacks the central nervous system. He later developed pneumonia.

Opera in black

TORONTO (CP) — The Canadian Opera Company is posting a \$175,000 surplus for the 1996-97 season.

President Georgia Prassas says the season's success was the result of an 18 per cent increase in private-sector fund-raising and a \$1-million gift from the Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation.



ACTRESS HEATHER TOM

new cast members: Jacob Young will play Rick Forrester as of Jan. 5 while Agnes Bruckner will play Bridget. Also, David Lander has been cast as Dr. Guthrie, Mike Guthrie's brother, with his first air date on Dec. 24. David is best known for his portrayal of Squiggy on the hit comedy series *Laverne and Shirley*. In his most recent role, David portrayed 11 characters in the ABC movie of the week, *Family Reunion* ... Justin Gorence returns to *The Young and the Restless* as Peter Garrett, Phyllis's ex-flame on Dec. 22 for one episode.

Plotline Teasers for the week of Dec. 1

All My Children: Erica's desperation behind bars begins to come to a head ... Tim directs wild accusations Janet's way ... Dr. David surprises Allie.

One Life to Live: Mel discovers Dorian's deception ... Max feels Luna's presence and begins to believe the twins are alive.

Port Charles: Chris and Nicole consummate their friendship ... Scott has reason to be in distress with the trial looming ... Kevin warily agrees to let Lucy cozy up to Rex.

General Hospital: Tony catches Carly in yet another lie ... Stefan locates Katherine at Serenity ... Felicia and Mac try to corner James at his motel room.

Sunset Beach: Caitlin receives devastating news ... Vanessa is surprised when the tables are turned on her by Dr. Robinson.

The Bold and the Beautiful: Thorne makes a decision about his relationship with Taylor ... Eric is worried when he realizes who Rush is ... Taylor makes a realization.

Another World: Tyrone opens a package which contains his mother's last gift to him ... Felicia and Alexander discuss the future of their relationship.

Guiding Light: Annie and Alan announce their engagement to a less than thrilled Amanda ... Beth evades Lillian's questions ... Abby is determined to face up to the harsh reality of what's happened.

As the World Turns: Lew decides to go ahead with surgery ... John declares his love for Barbara at her bedside ... Molly regains consciousness.

The Young and the Restless: Neil tries to explain to Lily what he isn't going to be living with her and Dru any more ... Nikki wonders how Sarah knew something about Josh ... Mary strikes a sensitive nerve with Paul.

Days of Our Lives: Billie is very nervous about the situation with Max and continues to lean on Bo for support ... Sami wants power and an important job at Titan ... Eric and John argue about Marlena.

Coronation Street: Roy Cropper tries to solve the mystery of the spooky happenings ... Angie and Chris have a heart to heart about their relationship ... Gail is horrified to discover Nick has made a new friend on the street — Leanne Battersby.

MORTAL KOMBAT
ANNIHILATION
DESTROY ALL EXPECTATIONS

ALLIANCE

NOW PLAYING FAMOUS 6 322752

Frequent Violence CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORIES FOR LOCATIONS & SHOWTIMES

"ALIEN RESURRECTION' ROCKS!"
AN OPERATIC, JUICED-UP MARVEL THAT PULSES WITH ENERGY."

PEOPLE MAGAZINE
LEAH ROZEN

"A STARTLING BLAST OF THRILLS,"
ACTION AND SHEER STIMULATING IMAGINATION."

WCBS-TV
DENNIS CUNNINGHAM

"A VISUAL MARVEL!"
ROLLING STONE
PETER TRAVERS

SIGOURNEY WEAVER WINONA RYDER

**ALIEN
RESURRECTION**

20TH CENTURY FOX PRESENTS A BRANDYVINE PRODUCTION SIGOURNEY WEAVER WINONA RYDER "ALIEN RESURRECTION" RON PERLMAN DAN HEDAYA
J.E. FREEMAN BRAD DOUBIE AND MICHAEL WINCOTT AND JOHN FRIZZELL
ALICIA GILLIS AND TOM WOODRUFF, JR.
HERVE SCHNEID A.C.E. NIGEL PHELPS
DARIUS KHONDJI A.C.E. GORDON CARROLL DAVID GILER WALTER HILL AND BILL BADALATO
CASTING BY DAN O'BANNON AND RONALD SHUSETT
EDITED BY JOSS WHEDON
DIRECTED BY JEAN-PIERRE JEUNET
CONFORMED TO THE RCA VICTOR
PLAY THE ALIEN RESURRECTION VIDEO
SAME THING IN THE THEATRE

NOW!

NO PASSES ACCEPTED FAMOUS PLAYERS PRINCE GEORGE 6 18+ Gory Violence

CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORIES FOR SHOWTIMES

FAMOUS PLAYERS DIGITAL SOUND
BIG SCREEN! BIG SOUND! BIG DIFFERENCE!

NEW Now Open! **FAMOUS PLAYERS 6** Famous Players Gift Certificates On Sale Now!

FAMOUS PLAYERS 6 & 7 Tel: 612-3993 #172 - 1600 15th Avenue, Prince George

SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET 12:45, 4:00; - 7:00, 10:00; Fri. & Sat. 12:45a.m. (PG) - Violence, coarse language.

✓ LITTLE MERMAID (Fri.-Sun.) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30; - 6:40; Fri. & Sat. 11:00p.m. (G)

✓ MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (Fri.-Sun.) 9:00 (PG) - Coarse language.

✓ MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (Mon.-Thurs.) 12:40, 3:15; 7:15, 9:30 (PG) - Coarse language.

✓ ALIEN RESURRECTION 12:30, 3:15; 7:10, 9:45; Fri. & Sat. 12:30a.m. (18A) Gory Violence

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER 12:15, 3:00; 7:30, 9:50; Fri. & Sat. 12:15a.m. (14A) - Violence, coarse language.

✓ MORTAL COMBAT 1:15, 3:30; - 6:50, 9:15; Fri. & Sat. 11:30p.m. (14A) - Frequent Violence.

✓ RAINMAKER 1:00, 4:15; - 7:20, 10:10; Fri. & Sat. 1:00a.m. (14A) - Violence, coarse language.

MATINEES EVERYDAY 322754

BUY YOUR TICKETS AT OUR AUTOMATIC TICKET MACHINE! MAJOR CARDS ACCEPTED

MORE DAYS
To Hear The Music.

Disney's **THE LITTLE MERMAID**

Only In Theatres Thru Sunday.

CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORIES FOR SHOWTIMES

GENERAL 322755

Take Home Music...

with our YAMAHA / CIBC
"Take Home Music" or
our own Rent-To-Own plans.

**THOUSANDS
OF INSTRUMENT
SOUNDS**

CLP MODELS START AT
\$59.00/MONTH

CVP MODELS START AT
\$74.00/MONTH

- Built in Teacher Guide Lamp System
- Player Piano with 16 Track Recorder
- Many More Fabulous Features

Simple and Easy

YAMAHA Clarinova DIGITAL PIANOS

EXCELLENT SALE PRICES

PLUS...

CIBC and YAMAHA
Take Home Music Plans

NO DOWN PAYMENT
NO INTEREST FOR 5 MONTHS
1ST PAYMENT MAY '96

MasterCard VISA

THE B&B MUSIC LTD.
316 George Street, Prince George, B.C.
Phone: 563-0691 318711