

Frank Sinatra was the most awe-inspiring, Davis says, "because he was just a killer for his charisma. He was the most charismatic performer I've ever seen. When I directed Frank Sinatra and Friends in 1979, or 1980, he was simply the best."

Lily Tomlin may have been the kindest of all performers with which Davis worked.

After he won yet another Emmy for comedy for directing the Lily Tomlin Special, she sent Davis "a gold charm" in the shape of a tiny Emmy statue.

He shared other interesting experiences with actors who could be intimidating.

In a resurrection of the show Omnibus, Davis was directing Princess Grace of Monaco as she read a stanza from an American piece of poetry written in the 1800s.

The poem contained a racial slur that was not acceptable, but was in the U.S. at the time of the writing. Davis walked out on to the set and told her the line would have to be pulled. It was.

"Her entourage told me I had to address her as 'Her Highness' but I remembered that she was an actress. She was an actress so she understood that she needed direction and that word could not be read on American television," Davis says. "She said: 'I've never liked that line.'"

His last show before retirement was in the mid-1990s in Vancouver where he directed the late Shari Lewis in a children's show called Charlie Horse Music Pizza.

With work behind him and time now available to visit home in the summers, Davis says he was excited to learn of the \$12.8 million Quinte Cultural Centre project.

Davis has offered the centre the chance to exhibit, on loan, his 40 years of television collectibles such as his many Emmys, other television festival awards from around the world, as well as other memorabilia from his many shows over the years.

In a day when variety shows have all but disappeared from television sets, Davis says he hopes the display and his intrinsic BCIVS connection as a graduate will be welcomed by his hometown.

"I've always been grounded, I think, because of my hometown. 'You

can take the boy out of Belleville,' ... well, you know. I've always felt that I was the luckiest guy in the world and had opportunities to do all these things. My dreams came true for me and I owe much of it to BCI," said Davis.

"I think this Cultural Centre is a wonderful project and I want to lend support to it

if I can to say, thank you. I think 10 years after the new centre is opened, people will realize what a true treasure this will be."