

Entertainment Outlook

Talking with SHIRLEY MacLAINE

By Frank Sanello

The critics are already predicting that Shirley MacLaine, 54, will get yet another Oscar nomination for "Madame Sousatzka," in which she plays a tyrannical piano teacher in a crumbling section of London.

If she does, it would be her sixth, following nominations for "Some Came Running" (1958), "The Apartment" (1960), "Irma la Douce" (1963), "The Turning Point" (1977) and "Terms of Endearment," for which she won her only Oscar in 1984.

A ballet student all her life, the Richmond, Va.,-born actress moved to New York at 20 and got her first big break on Broadway in "Pajama Game." An associate of director Alfred Hitchcock spotted MacLaine on stage and brought her to Hollywood, where she made her film debut in Hitchcock's "The Trouble With Harry" in 1955.

She has written four best-selling autobiographies and recently finished filming "Steel Magnolias," based on the off-Broadway comedy-drama.

Here, MacLaine talks about past and future lives, and her unusual plans for space travel.

Q: Did you base the character of Madame Sousatzka on anyone in particular?

A: She was so much like every ballet teacher I ever had. I remember how my teachers scared me but got

the best out of me. You don't like it when it's happening, but when it's over you realize what they've done. I had a ballet teacher named Madame Perslovak in New York, a little bit of a thing who drank beer all the time. She had a stick as big as she was. She was so frightening that you brought your leg up two inches higher than if she hadn't been there.

Q: Between "Terms of Endearment" five years ago and "Madame Sousatzka," you made only one film. Why?

A: I didn't like the scripts I got. Nothing interested me that much. I also wrote two books, did stage work, some seminars. Nothing really attracted me enough to interrupt my life and go back to (film) work.

Q: Did you really overcome your stage fright only four years ago?

A: During a (past life) regression, I learned I was Louis XV's court jester who was beheaded for putting on a bad performance. I just wasn't able to satisfy him, get him out of the black mood he was in. I wish I had found this out years ago.

Q: Tell me about your work with Mother Theresa in Calcutta.

A: I worked with her in 1968. She was very tough, extremely sure of herself. I worked in the house of the dying for a month. I also picked up dustbin babies off the streets of Calcutta. It was a very transformational period for me. I went to India intend-

ing to visit for one day and ended up staying four months.

Q: What are dustbin babies?

A: They are babies who have been thrown into garbage cans because their parents can't bring them up. I went around with a priest and picked up children and took them to an orphanage. The kids who survive in the garbage literally grow up with the dogs on the street.

Q: You've had 14 past lives. Have you ever "recalled" a future one?

A: The future is very positive. I've seen it several times just as I was falling asleep. I can sometimes see architectural structures, and they have wonderful colors. People wear crystal fabrics a lot and communicate through telepathy, like you do when you're in love with someone and you don't have to talk to make yourself understood.

Q: Did friends ever tell you to not to publicize your reincarnations because it might hurt your career?

A: Oh, yes, but they stopped saying that years ago. The propensity for ridicule is always there, but I'm so sure what happened to me is real it would be questioning my sense of reality to deny it. I am a stable, sane person with an expanded sense of reality. That's all.

Q: How did Hitchcock treat you on "The Trouble With Harry"?

A: He banned my husband from the set and finally from New England. It



'I am a stable, sane person with an expanded sense of reality.'

— Shirley MacLaine

wasn't until later I wished he had banned him from my life.

Q: Hitchcock allegedly sexually harassed his leading ladies. Did that ever happen to you?

A: I think he loved blondes. He never hit on me. I think he liked cracking through what he thought were ice queens, like Grace Kelly and Kim Novak.

Q: You've been all over the world. Any place you'd like to go that you haven't visited yet?

A: I'd love to go to Afghanistan. I'm so disappointed it's shot up like that.

I'd like to go to Antarctica and find the lost city Admiral Byrd claims to have seen. It's supposedly underground.

Q: What would you like to do that you haven't done?

A: I'd like to go on a spacecraft.

Q: You mean like a space shuttle?

A: No, a UFO. But I think they only pick up people who don't believe in UFOs, so they wouldn't bother with me, since I already believe.

Q: As a child you wanted to become an astronomer. What happened?

A: (Giggling) I am.



ASK DICK KLEINER

Did I hear Mason Adams?

By Dick Kleiner

Q: For several years, I have heard the voice of Mason Adams on commercials. Can you possibly tell me if he ever portrayed a youngster on radio years ago? His voice haunts me. Might he have been Henry Aldrich, or someone else? — D.E.B., Farwell, Mich.

A: He wasn't Henry — but he was very definitely someone else. For some 20 years on radio, Mason Adams was the voice of Pepper Young on "Pepper Young's Family."

Q: Could you tell me if Margaret Ladd of "Falcon Crest" is the daughter of Betty White and the late Alan Ladd of "Password"? — UNSIGNED, Houston.

A: You have several people confused. Alan Ladd was a Hollywood actor. Allen Ludden was the TV emcee for "Password." And Margaret Ladd is related to neither, no-how.

Q: Could you please tell me if Louise Mandrell and T.G. Sheppard are

husband and wife? There is a difference of opinion about it among my acquaintances. — Mrs. M.B.C., Westley, R.I.

A: The last time I looked, Louise Mandrell was still married to RC Bannon, a country singer like herself.

Q: Could you solve a fight that I am having with my parents. They say that beautiful, dark-haired Holly Halstrom of "The Price is Right" has brown hair. I say that she has red hair. It looks red to me. Fifteen bucks is

riding on this. — J.M., Deerfield, Wis.

A: You lose, but blame it on the bad color on your TV set. No question about it — beautiful, dark-haired Holly Halstrom is a practicing brownette.

Q: Please settle this. A friend told me that Fred Dryer and Stephanie Kramer are married to each other. I disagree. Who's right? — R.W., Reading, Pa.

A: You are. Stephanie is absolutely not Mrs. Dryer.

Q: Maybe you can help me. I remember a comedy with Brian Dennehy. He had a daughter who wanted to be a singer. I would like to know the name of that show, when it was on and who played his son and daughter. — S.M., Canton, Ohio.

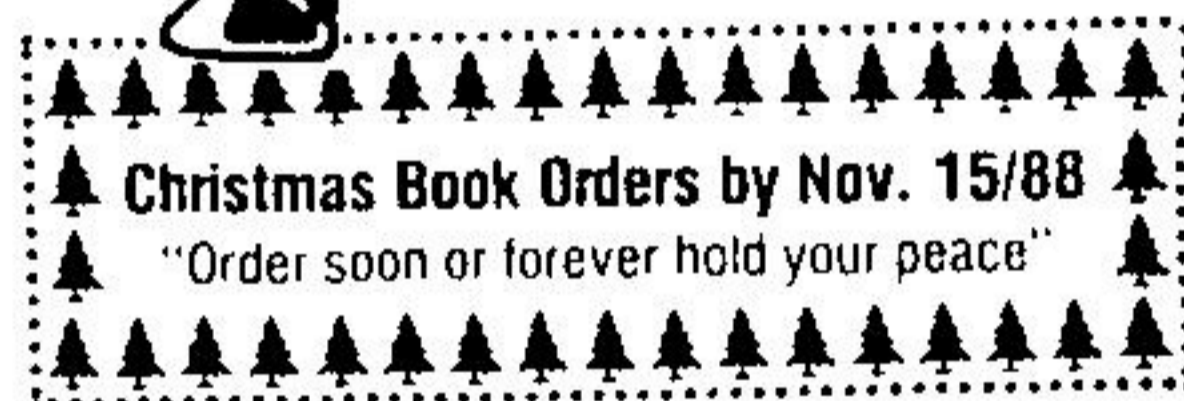
A: That was the forgotten (except by you and me) "Star of the Family," which aired in 1982 for a few fast weeks. It starred Dennehy, Kathy Malsnik and Michael Dudikoff.

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