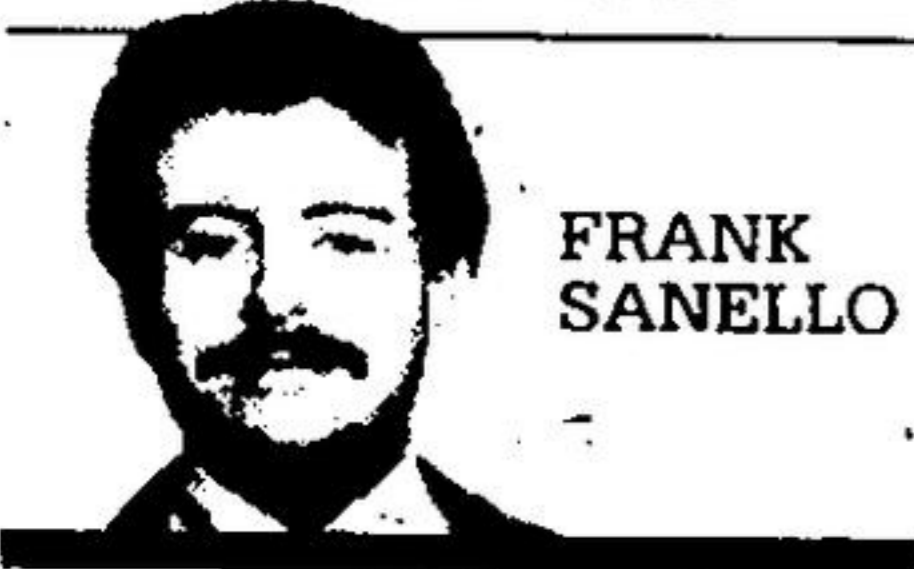


# Talking with JACLYN SMITH

## STAR SPEAK



FRANK SANELLO

Jaclyn Smith became an instant celebrity — and one of America's most glamorous women — when she debuted in "Charlie's Angels" in 1976. Although that frothy series hardly tested her talent, Smith has proven over the years that she is a competent actress in a wide variety of TV movies and miniseries. In addition to being typecast as classy beauties in glamor productions like "A Rage of Angels" and "Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy," Smith has also played such diverse roles as Florence Nightingale and George Washington's greatest love.

Smith, 42, grew up in Houston, where she dreamed of becoming a ballerina. After studying at Trinity University, she moved to New York and landed a lucrative job on TV commercials as the "Breck girl."

Relocating to Hollywood in the early 1970s, she soon had guest roles on series such as "The Rookies" (with future fellow Angel Kate Jackson) and "Switch."

During hiatuses from "Charlie's Angels," the actress, a self-confessed workaholic, began her work in miniseries, which continues to this day.

But right now, the mother of two has stepped out of miniseries to star in her own series, "Christine Cromwell." The glossy drama is part of "The ABC Saturday Mystery Movie" and stars Smith as an attorney and financial adviser.

**Q.** On "Christine Cromwell," you play a financial adviser whose clients must have a minimum of \$15 million to invest. Could Jaclyn Smith be one of Christine Cromwell's clients? After all, you've said that 13 million women are wearing your K mart clothing line.

**A.** If you're asking me if I'm worth \$15 million, I never discuss money. That's my Southern upbringing. We never discuss money, politics or religion. As for my financial status, let's just say I don't have to clip coupons, which doesn't mean I'm a snob shopper. I love to go into dime stores. I can shop anywhere and find something fun or worthwhile.

**Q.** You consistently make the list of the world's 10 most beautiful women.

Have your looks typecast you or limited the kinds of roles you can play?



Jaclyn Smith

**A.** My looks could typecast me, but I fight not to let them. I really had to fight for my role in (the miniseries) "Windmills of the Gods," because they said an ambassador wouldn't look like me. Finally, I just won out.

**Q.** You've been called the Queen of Miniseries, which I guess makes you Richard Chamberlain's consort. Which miniseries are you most proud of?

**A.** My favorite role is Jennifer Parker, in the first "Rage of Angels." Florence Nightingale was another challenge. I like doing roles that are so different from me and have dialects. Probably the biggest stretch I ever did was the recent TV movie "Settle the Score." I was a rape victim who goes after her rapist. I usually play nice girls, but this character was so angry and repressed...

**Q.** Why didn't you continue to do miniseries instead of tying yourself down to the grind of a TV series?

**A.** Miniseries are great. You get to travel all the world making them. The only problem is I have two young children, and now that my son is in school

it would be too disruptive to take him with me on location. "Christine Cromwell" allows me to stay at home and be with my kids. Plus it's a great show.

**Q.** What attracted you to "Christine Cromwell" — as opposed to all the other series offers you were considering?

**A.** Actually, I wanted to do a sitcom, but then I read the script to "Christine Cromwell," and I was hooked. The scripts are so complex. Sometimes, I have to read them several times before I can figure out what's going on!

**Q.** Was the instant stardom you received from "Charlie's Angels" something of a curse, since you will always be associated with the role?

**A.** It's true that some people still think I'm this Barbie Doll, but gradually, with every new role I play, that image is receding. And I would never bad-mouth "Charlie's Angels." It opened doors for me, and I made friends there who will be my friends for the rest of my life.

**Q.** You have the public image of being serenely even-tempered. Does Jaclyn Smith ever lose her temper, and what things really tick her off?

**A.** I actually like that image, but I can't always say I live up to it. I don't like losing my temper, but I think everybody has moments when they just lose it. That's life. You can't be the perfect person who always says and does the right thing. When I do lose my temper, it's often because someone lied to me. I loathe dishonesty.

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