

Entertainment Outlook

Talking with EVA GABOR

STAR SPEAK



FRANK SANELLO

Eva Gabor is back as the fish-of-water socialite in "Return to Green Acres," a TV movie based on the '60s sitcom. It airs on Friday, May 18 on CBS.

In the original TV series, which went off the air in 1971, Gabor was Lisa Douglas, a high-living New Yorker who was forced to move to the country by her back-to-nature husband, played by Eddie Albert.

In the TV movie, the Douglases have moved back to the Big Apple but decide to return to Hooterville to save it from greedy developers. Original cast members Pat Buttram, Tom Lester and Frank Cady reprise their roles, along with the popular Arnold the Pig.

A native of Budapest, Hungary, Gabor — like her sisters, Zsa Zsa and Magda — became rich and famous. She immigrated to America and began her film career as a young woman during World War II.

In 1950, she became a star in the Broadway hit "The Happy Time." Also on Broadway, she co-starred with Noel Coward in his play "Present Laughter." In the 1958 film musical "Gigi," Gabor played a lascivious ice skater.

Through the years, she has married and divorced five times.

Today, Gabor operates a multi-million-dollar wig company, and involves herself in charity and social events.

An avid gardener (who has a rose named after her by the American Rose Society), she lives in Bel Air, Calif., with four dogs and three cats.

Q. How has Lisa Douglas changed in the 20 years since you last played her on "Green Acres"?

A. She's the same, except she's learned karate because she's moved back to New York. She also carries mace. I took karate lessons for the role. In one scene, I get to throw Eddie over my shoulder! Actually, I threw Eddie's double. I couldn't pick up Eddie because he has a bad back.

Q. What was life like growing up in Hungary before World War II?

A. My father owned a chain of jewelry stores. We were very well-off and had a beautiful home. When the Rus-

got a contract with Paramount. It's not well-known, but you're also a successful businesswoman.

A. My wig company is No. 1 in the world! I also have a hat company. I'm going to a board of directors meeting after this interview. I was on the phone at 7 this morning to New York to talk to the president of my company.

We have factories in Korea and China. Once things settle down in Hungary, I'm thinking of opening a factory there. Can you imagine going back to your birthplace as a big shot!

Q. Does your boyfriend Merv Griffin give you business advice?

A. He's not my boyfriend — he's just my best friend. I feel like I've known him all my life.

Have you seen him lately? He lost 30 pounds on the Jenny Craig diet. He looks fabulous.

Q. How do you stay so slim, especially since your sister Zsa Zsa has visibly put on a few pounds over the years?

A. I'm just a lucky person. I'm not inclined to gain. I eat an awful lot. Yesterday, I inhaled two Easter bunny chocolates. Isn't that terrible?

If I was inclined to get fat, I'd be obese. I don't have any discipline about eating.

I also play tennis, swim and walk three miles a day. I rarely get a chance to sit down. Maybe that has something to do with it.

Q. Which of your films are you most proud of?

A. I loved "Gigi." That was a wonderful year. I made "Gigi" in Paris, "The Truth About Women" in London and "It Started With a Kiss" in Spain all in the same year. It was fabulous!

Q. What's up next for Eva Gabor?

A. I'm reprising my role of Bianca, the little mouse, in Disney's "Rescuers II." And I just made a pilot for CBS called "Close Encounter." I play a matchmaker. I came up with the idea. We'll know pretty soon if it makes it on the fall schedule. If not, I'd love to revive "Green Acres" as a series.

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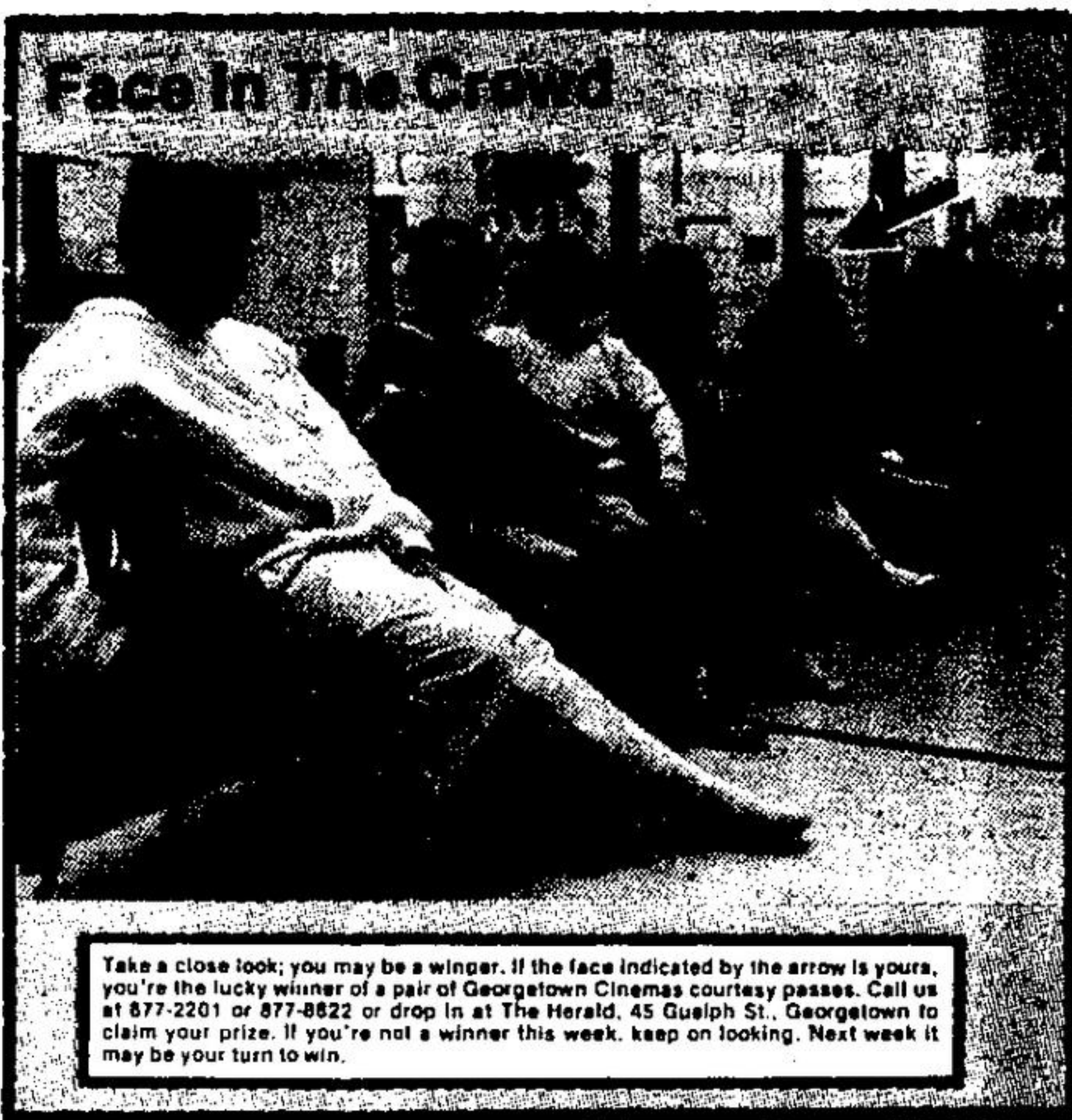
Eva Gabor

sians came in at the end of the war, they took my father out of our beautiful home and put him in a peasant's hut.

Q. Fortunately, you were already in America by then. What brought you to our shores?

A. I eloped to America with a young Swedish doctor in the early 1940s. We were so broke, we only had 30 cents, which was a good experience because it taught me the value of money.

I was terribly homesick and didn't know a soul in America. But after only three months in this country, I



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Freedom 7 flew in 1961 DATE BOOK

May 5, 1990

Today is the 125th day of 1990 and the 47th day of spring.

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TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1961, Alar B Shepard made a 15-minute flight in Freedom 7 from Cape Canaveral, reaching an altitude of 116 miles and becoming the first American in space.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855), Danish philosopher; Nettie Bl, Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman (1867-1922), American journalist; James Beard (1903-), author; Alice Faye (1915-), actress; Pat Carroll (1927-), actress; Michael Palin (1943-),

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