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Interview with Hollywood screen siren Donna Mills

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Hollywood could never shine without one of its queens of **prime time** television. Actress **Donna Mills**. From Woody Allen to Clint Eastwood, Donna has worked



Photo by Frederick M. Brown/Getty Images

with some of the best names in show business. Her stardom truly rose when she joined the cast of the hit primetime **soap** *Knots Landing*. With her

award-winning portrayal of Abby Cunningham, she quickly became the hottest villainess on television. Examiner [Leny Navarro](#) spoke to the star about her humanitarian engagement, her newest show *Queens of Drama* and her upcoming projects.

Examiner: You have carved a very prolific career but how and when did you know you wanted to be in show business?

Donna Mills: I started studying dance at the age of 5 and knew even then that the only thing I wanted to be was a dancer. I started working as a dancer when I was in High School. I did summer stock, a national company of *My Fair Lady*, lots of shows around [Chicago](#). Acting was just something I fell into and then discovered that I liked that too. For a while, it was a real struggle choosing which one I wanted to do more, but I fell more and more in love with acting, so it won out.

E: When it comes to acting, is there a particular role that got away? A role you really wanted but wasn't cast in?

D: I actually did a screen test for *Beaches*. The [movie](#) was directed by Garry Marshall starring Bette Midler. I was the next in line to get the role if Barbara Hershey turned it down. Unfortunately, she didn't turn it down. That was a big disappointment.

E: This is often a reality in this business, many

aspiring actors end up giving up, as an award-winning actress/producer, what advice would you give to anyone trying to break into the industry?

D: Be sure that the reason you are in the business is not to be a star, but because you love the craft of acting. If you have a real passion for it and acting is what you want to do every day, you are much more likely to be successful. If being a star is your primary goal, you may end up being very disappointed.

E: On a cheeky note, who would most likely beat scheming Abby Fairgate-Cunningham as Outstanding Villainess?

D: No one!

E: How was your recent experience on *Queens of Drama*? How did you become involved with the show?

D: I had a blast doing *Queens of Drama*! I was very reluctant at first because I didn't know if I would like the reality format and I had never done anything even remotely like that before, so it was a little scary, but I ended up having a really good time and found I liked the improv mode. I also like the other women.

We all had a really good time together and although there were conflicts on the screen, we genuinely liked each other.

E: What are your upcoming projects?

D: Well, looks like Queens of Drama has been picked up for a second season and General Hospital is still going to be going, so I will be pretty busy with both of those.

I am also writing a book. It is a biography, but also kind of a history of television as I have seen it from my perspective.

E: Finally, you have been very active in environmental causes, tell us about the organizations that you work with?

D: I work a lot with Defenders of Wildlife, Environment California, ECO, Friends of the Earth. My big passion right now is working with FOE on trying to get the Nuclear Power Plant at Diablo Canyon shut down. We were very successful at getting San Onofre shut down a few years ago. There just shouldn't be nuclear power plants in a state that is so prone to earthquakes. It could be a horrible tragedy like they had in Japan.

Donna is also very active on the social networks, follow her Twitter [page](#) or check out her official website [here](#).

[Watch](#) Queens of Drama on PopTV.

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