

Lynda Hirsch on Soaps: Gossip

by *Lynda_Hirsch*

We are going to step off our soapbox for a moment.

The stunning death of Natasha Richardson has caused a collective "oh, how sad" from around the world. Richardson, 45, died earlier this week following a skiing accident. The Tony Award-winning actress ("Cabaret") was on a beginners ski slope when she fell and suffered a catastrophic brain injury.

At one time, I was a television film critic. One of the perks is getting to meet lots of talented and nice performers. Richardson was both. She was promoting the flick "Parent Trap." Lindsay Lohan, 12 at the time, was the double-your-trouble daughter.

Richardson, the member of a well-known acting family, had kind words for Lohan. "She is unspoiled," Richardson said at the time. "I know what it is like to grow up in the public eye. I hope Lindsay can understand the scrutiny."

It was being the member of a third-generation English acting family that led Richardson to America. "We Brits really love our gossip. My family had a lot of gossip to give," Richardson said "â€" this before gossip became American's No. 1 cottage industry.

Although open, Richardson would not talk about her then-recent marriage to Liam Neeson. "That is a special and private part of my life," she said. Neeson felt that way, too. When he was doing press for his amazing work as Oskar Schindler in the film "Schindler's List," he had one rule. "Please, no questions about my marriage," he asked in an up-front statement. "It is wonderful, and we are very happy."

If anyone did not follow the rules, Neeson would politely say, "No, no." If you followed the rules, he gave you a gracious, "Thank you, for honoring my request."

At this time, it would be nice if his request for "privacy" were granted.

When Beth Ehlers (Taylor) was headed to "All My Children" last year, the buzz was she had signed on to

reprise the role of Liza Colby. The rumor was false. It was decided to create a new character for Ehlers.

Now, Liza is indeed returning. Jamie Lunar has the part. Marcy Walker, who created the role, is no longer acting. She is working as a youth minister in North Carolina. As for Lunar, she has appeared in the prime-time shows "Melrose Place" and "The Ten of Us."

When Liza pops up in April, she will do battle with daughter Colby, ex-husband Adam, ex-lover Tad, Taylor and just about anyone who gets in her way. Liza is now a lawyer who will not be above using her legal prowess to get what and who she wants.

Siri Pinter, daughter of Colleen Zenk Pinter (Barbara on "As the World Turns") and Mark Pinter (Rayner on "General Hospital"), and her longtime boyfriend, Carson Daly of "Last Call," became first-time parents. The couple welcomed Jackson James Daly into the world on March 15. The 7 pound, 8 ounce baby made the Pinters first-time grandparents.

On another positive note, it appears the reoccurrence of Colleen's cancer of the tongue seems to be in remission. Now that the actress is back on the road to health, look for more Barbara on ATWT.

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