

Soap super stars

THE INTERVIEW

Another World stars Steve Schnetzer (Cas) and Linda Dano (Felicia) appeared Saturday at the Woman of Today show in the Convention Centre.

Women had come from all over the city - if not the province - to see their favourite soap opera stars. Now they waited expectantly before the balloon draped stage.

Another World is the most faithfully followed soap in Edmonton - and the fans were at the Convention Centre to show their loyalty and perhaps have a brush with the glitter and glamour of soap opera stars.

Felicia, in her bright-eye slickness, more than lived up to her fans' expectations. With rings flashing, she took the mike and answered questions from the floor.

Cas was a bit of a surprise - dressed in a sweater and ruffled cords - up close, in real life, he actually seemed nice - not the somewhat sinister womanizer of Another World.

Enough of this, here's what they had to say.

Gateway: Do you identify with the character of Felicia?

Linda: Yes. I can be an awful lot like Felicia. I don't think I'm mean, it's just that there are people I don't like, but who'd like those people anyway? Actually, in real life I'd like to tell people off, but I'm too timid. It's a tough role to play, the clothes, the look - a real wild lady.

Gateway: How do you handle playing a heavy like Cas?

Steve: Felicia doesn't take herself too seriously and neither does Cas. Roles like ours you have to play with a certain sense of humour. I don't think I'd like to play a Duddley-Do-Right. It's fun to play those characters with a bit of grey.

Gateway: How do you handle romantic scenes?

Linda: It's nice to be paid to kiss someone, it's like being paid to cheat (both Linda and Steve are married). As outgoing, and as big a mouth as Felicia has, Linda is very shy.

salt. I don't boogie all night, I don't go to Studio 54 and I don't do drugs and booze. I'm sorry to disappoint the fans that expect a total jerk or a sensational character. But if I did all the things the magazines said I did I'd never be able to do my work. I'm too old for that kind of thing.

Gateway: What have you done so far in your stay in Edmonton?

Linda: I've shopped a lot, I bought dozens of earrings at Holt Renfrew, a couple of italian sweaters at Mr. Donovan, and Steve and I bought Trivial Pursuit games at the Bay. God knows what I could have spent if I had a few more hours. I do like to shop.

Gateway: Did you hit West Edmonton Mall?

Linda: No, we didn't have time.

Gateway: What about morality and the soaps?

Steve: There is a basic morality in soap operas - good is rewarded and evil is punished. It might take eight years but it will happen.

Gateway: How do you and Steve get along with each other off the screen?

Linda: We're old, old, friends and worked together on *One Life to Live*. I know his wife, Nancy, and he knows my husband Frank. One of the reasons I started on the show was because of Steve.

Gateway: What do you do outside the soaps?

Linda: I have a fashion company that I started two years ago. I majored in fashion in college. I do fashion designs and sell clothing to other soaps like *One Life*, *All My Children*, *Loving*, *As the World Turns*, and *The Guiding Light*.

Cas: Linda is a dynamo, she works about 20 hours a day.

Linda: I love to design, but the problem right now is time. I get up at 5 in the morning, and shoot *Another World* till 7 at night. I have a house in Connecticut that I hope to retire in and go back to painting and designing. I do some designing now, but not enough. I wear some of my own designs on *Another World*.



(Above) Tea and Soap and Convention Inn. (Right) Diane Christie, huddles in the woods of Lake Louise on TV screen behind her. (B) at Convention Center last Saturday.

"It's nice to be paid to kiss someone, it's like being paid to cheat."

Steve: I did marry one of my leading ladies on *One Life to Live* but with makeup ladies, cameramen and the whole technical rigmarole it's not too romantic.

Gateway: What about typecasting? Aren't you afraid of being locked into a particular role?

Steve: There's a danger of typecasting, but this is my third soap opera. My first soap was *Days of Our Lives* and that character was much meaner, but you don't get locked into a role unless you play it for many years.

Linda: I intend to retire within the next 5-10 years. I moved from California to New York when I got married. Six years ago, I did nighttime TV, movies of the week, that kind of stuff in New York, but I had to do soap work because there isn't much movie and TV work in New York.

Gateway: What are your backgrounds in the business?

Steve: Most of my background apart from my three soaps has been the theatre. I did eight years of theatrical work, mainly the classics. I'd like to explore all three media (movies, TV and theatre) very fully. At one time I wanted to teach high school Spanish and French.

Linda: Like Steve, this is my third soap, and I've had experience in nighttime television and in movies.

Gateway: How do you react to the stories written about you in soap opera fan magazines?

Steve: The magazines are pretty silly, fun, but they have to be taken with a grain of

