

Palm Springs Life

California's Prestige Magazine

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Season's Greetings:

**THE DESERT'S OWN
BEST GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS
ST. FRANCIS OF LA QUINTA
GREAT CHEFS OF THE DESERT
CHRISTMAS CONFECTIONS
LYNDA CARTER/MAYBELLINE
TENNIS CHALLENGE**

**PLUS:
TRAVEL SHOWCASE:
THE CARIBBEAN**

**GIFT GUIDES:
DESERT FASHION PLAZA
PALM DESERT TOWN CENTER**



Holiday Fashions With Donna Mills



Photographer/Teke

Stylist/Ruth Bracken/Zenobia Agency

Hair Stylist/Bren Plaistowe

Set Designer/Gilbert Johnquest

Fashion Copy/Maggi Miller

Producer/Margo Lawrence

HOLIDAY FANTASY

PALM SPRINGS LIFE VISITS DONNA MILLS

By MARGO LAWRENCE

That face! Those lips, those eyes!

Everywhere you look these days, Donna

Mills is looking right back at you

with those neon baby blues.

Pick up a magazine, and her flawless face graces the cover. Switch on the set, and there's her alter ego Abby Cunningham Ewing, vamping the male cast of the long-running nighttime soap

Knots Landing.

Locally you can catch her perfecting

her tennis strokes on the grass courts at

La Quinta's Santa Rosa Cove and learning the art of polo at the Eldorado Polo Club in Indio.

Whether at work or play, the blonde actress is admittedly hard at work.

The Return of the "rock" . . .

au courant with emphasis on diamonds, colored stones and sapphires. Donna, elegantly alluring, is bejeweled in a drop necklace composed of a platinum and diamond chain with a faceted blue sapphire drop. Combine with an antique sapphire-lined bangle and sapphire and diamond drop earrings for a harmonious ensemble of elegance and grace.

All from Cartier, Beverly Hills.

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With her career in top form, Mills is not content to rest on her past achievements or allow the limelight to fade. "I'm always looking for new ways to grow," she says. "I'm definitely proud of what I've accomplished, but I'm not completely satisfied. There's more I want out of life."

Recognition for her acting ability is one goal that Mills is determined to achieve.

Toward that end, she played the role of a sexually obsessed housewife in the recent television movie *Intimate Encounters*. Unfortunately, the role still didn't convince the critics that Mills is more than just a pretty face.

"I had hoped the movie would have shown my strengths as an actress, but the script was too shallow," says Mills.

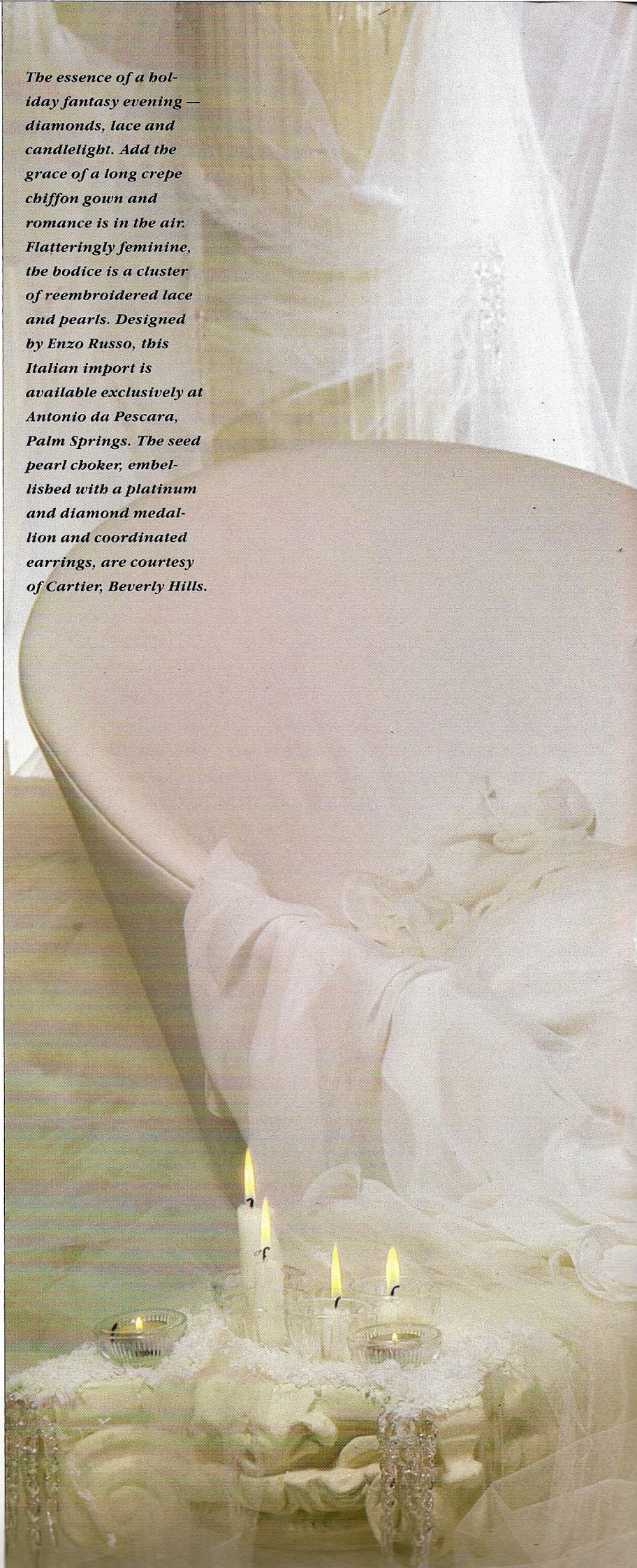
"As an actress, I haven't had a piece of material I feel really proud of."

Donna Mills isn't about to give up.

Throughout her 20-year career she admits to having some disappointments and lean times. "I've had my share of struggles," she recalls. "Nothing ever comes easy to me." Mills counts tennis star Ivan Lendl among the people she most admires, as much for his attitude as his tennis game. "I remember one interview when Lendl was asked how he earned his No. 1 ranking in the tennis world. I loved his response. He said, 'I have to work hard to be good. It never comes easy.'"

An obvious perfectionist, Mills is keen on presenting a polished image. In contrast to the sexuality she oozes on screen, she's very modest, carefully checking her mirrored image to see that not too much skin is revealed in a photo session.

The essence of a holiday fantasy evening — diamonds, lace and candlelight. Add the grace of a long crepe chiffon gown and romance is in the air. Flatteringly feminine, the bodice is a cluster of reembroidered lace and pearls. Designed by Enzo Russo, this Italian import is available exclusively at Antonio da Pescara, Palm Springs. The seed pearl choker, embellished with a platinum and diamond medalion and coordinated earrings, are courtesy of Cartier, Beverly Hills.







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Mills says she genuinely was surprised to learn she'd been chosen as one of the 10 sexiest women in America in a recent magazine poll. Joining her in the honors are Kathleen Turner and Cybill Shepherd.

"It's important to me that I present a feminine yet strong image," Mills explains. "I feel better wearing clothes designed with soft construction. 'Some women want breast implants,' she laughs. 'I want shoulder pad implants.'"

Touted as one of the world's most beautiful women, Mills admits she's had a difficult time getting people to take her seriously and look beyond her bedroom eyes and sleek figure.

Yet her natural assets also have helped to open doors of opportunity.

In a merger of beauty and brains, Mills is marketing her gorgeous blue eyes through an instructional video called *The Eyes Have It*.

She's also venturing into the business world as the beauty and fashion director for Fabergé, revealing her coveted beauty secrets to the world.

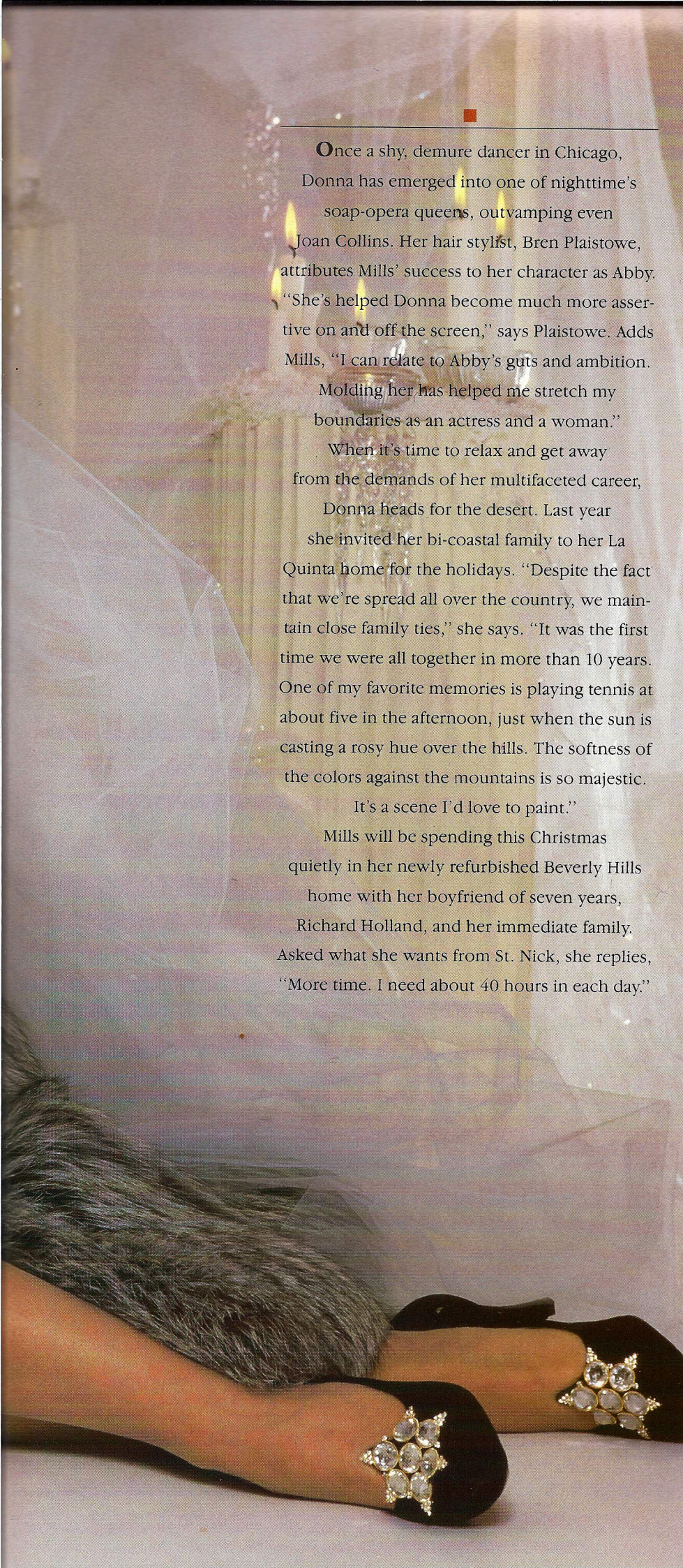
Making a dramatic entrance, Donna steps out in a solid crepe cocktail dress. Flowing with the body contours, the hip-bugging tulip skirt adds spice to any Christmas wardrobe.

From Edith Morré, Palm Desert. Accent with jewels courtesy of Shorr-Goodwin. The Iranian cabochon-cut turquoise and ruby drop suspended from an 18K gold and diamond necklace with matching ring sparkles in any light. Diamond earrings mounted in gold add the key light. To keep her busy schedule on track Donna wears an Audemars Piguet 18K gold watch available at Fred Joaillier, Beverly Hills.

Glamour is back in a pageant of metallic splendor. Donna shimmers in a pants suit contemporized in gold lamé. Flowing and weightless, it glitters as if it's been dipped in the real thing. Designed by Tangents, available at Beverly, Palm Desert. Complement with a three-color 18K gold necklace combining diamonds, rubies, emeralds and sapphires for the look of refined elegance. A gold and diamond bracelet with matching ring lets her shine when nothing less than dazzle will do. All European-crafted and available at Shorr-Goodwin, Palm Springs.







Once a shy, demure dancer in Chicago, Donna has emerged into one of nighttime's soap-opera queens, outvamping even Joan Collins. Her hair stylist, Bren Plaistowe, attributes Mills' success to her character as Abby. "She's helped Donna become much more assertive on and off the screen," says Plaistowe. Adds Mills, "I can relate to Abby's guts and ambition.

Molding her has helped me stretch my boundaries as an actress and a woman."

When it's time to relax and get away from the demands of her multifaceted career,

Donna heads for the desert. Last year she invited her bi-coastal family to her La Quinta home for the holidays. "Despite the fact that we're spread all over the country, we maintain close family ties," she says. "It was the first time we were all together in more than 10 years. One of my favorite memories is playing tennis at about five in the afternoon, just when the sun is casting a rosy hue over the hills. The softness of the colors against the mountains is so majestic.

It's a scene I'd love to paint."

Mills will be spending this Christmas quietly in her newly refurbished Beverly Hills home with her boyfriend of seven years, Richard Holland, and her immediate family. Asked what she wants from St. Nick, she replies, "More time. I need about 40 hours in each day."

Ready for a cozy evening, Donna wraps herself in a natural silver fox. A must for every Christmas list from Furs by Mannis, Beverly Hills. For holiday sparkle add a 50-carat diamond necklace and diamond earclips. Available at Cartier, Beverly Hills. Satin pumps courtesy of Antonio da Pescara, Palm Springs.