

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Many hit shows are doubling the pleasure by employing twins. So if you think you're seeing double, you probably are.



On TV's *Little House, the Greenbush twins (top) share the role of Carrie, the Turnbeaugh twins play baby Grace.*

By Isobel Silden

Do actresses who are identical twins have any advantage over their "single" competitors? Sometimes, if both are lucky; however, there are currently less than half-a-dozen pairs of identical twins with successful acting careers.

Among the sets of twins who are well established in show business are Deidre Hall and Andrea Hall Lovell, who play Marlena and Samantha, respectively, on the daytime serial, *Days of Our Lives*; Cyb and Trish Barnstable, who starred in the *Quark* TV series and who are best known for the television and magazine ads they've done for Toni hair products and Doublemint gum; and Lindsay and Sidney Greenbush, who take turns playing Carrie on *Little House on the Prairie*.

The Greenbush girls are show-business veterans at the tender age of nine. Their mother, Carol, is a retired actress; their father, Billy, an actor.

"I had no idea the girls could be actors," their mother now says. "But friends said I should register them with Central Casting (a corporation that provides extras), so I did."

Lindsay and Sidney lolled about their playpen for three years before they were cast for the part of Jill in *Sunshine*, a television movie starring Cliff De Young. After that, there were movies: *Five Easy Pieces*, *Electra Glide in Blue* and *40 Carats*. Then, five years ago, they were introduced to Michael Landon, executive producer and star of *Little House on the Prairie*. He cast the twins in the role of Carrie, and they've been with the show since. While both girls are on the set every day, one of them attends school while the other works. To avoid sibling rivalry, as well as tiring out the youngsters, Carol and Michael Landon agreed from the beginning to alternate the two. "Sometimes even they can't remember who

played what," admits their mother.

Physically the girls are almost identical. The only perceptible difference is that Lindsay currently has a tiny space between her two front teeth.

According to Carol, it is their personalities that are different. "Sidney is very sensitive and cries easily. She's about six months ahead of Lindsay in her development. She's at a whiney stage now, so we know Lindsay will be, too. Lindsay is more competent at some things; for instance, she has absolutely no fear of horses."

Since the twins are on the set so regularly, they can count the famous among their friends. While walking to lunch, the girls are greeted by the season's hottest new star, Robin Williams of the *Mork and Mindy* show, and their show-business sophistication shows.

"Hi, Robin." Sidney and Lindsay respond very matter-of-factly.

"He's our newest friend," Lindsay confides. "He's replaced Henry Winkler in our love."

Both girls seem content with their splintered lives. They work and go to school on the set, and when the series ceases production, they transfer back to public school. Their mother has invested their earnings in real estate, but if each girl makes her bed every day for a week, she gets a dollar on Saturday.

The twins are enthusiastic about their careers, and enjoy working together.

"I really love playing the part," Sidney confides. "But like today, I got scared and didn't want to do the scene. That's the best part about being a twin: Your sister can do it for you."

Lindsay happily agrees. "Not many people get to be both twins and actresses. And we like Michael best of anyone we've worked with. He's really a funny guy. He puts frogs in his mouth when we're on location. We get the frogs from a pond for him." And both girls burst into giggles.

While Lindsay and Sidney were chosen to play Carrie because they could share the part, Deidre Hall and her twin sister, Andrea, play twins on television as well. Deidre's role as Dr. Marlena Evans Craig has been an integral part of *Days of Our Lives* for three years, but when the show's writers learned that Deidre had a twin, they created a part for Andrea.

The fact that Andrea had no acting experience didn't seem to matter. She took a leave of absence from her job as a teacher of the mentally retarded in Tallahassee, the city where both twins grew up. She came to Hollywood in early 1977, planning to work for only a few months until she was written out of the show. She is still here, and appears as a semiregular in the series.

Although it was, at one point, impossible to tell the twins apart, Andrea has cut her long, blond hair and now looks totally unlike her sister. "We are mirror twins, not identical ones," explains Deidre. "Mirror" is a medical term which means that their "negative" was reversed. Deidre is right-handed; Andrea is left-handed. Deidre has a birthmark on her left arm, while Andrea is thinner and a half-inch taller than her sister.

Deidre is emphatic about the direction both their careers are taking. "We don't want to be interchangeable," she pronounces. "Andrea is sporty, while I'm sophisticated. She's better at drama, and I prefer comedy. We have different interests, and we don't want to work together all the time. We both feel that can be a deadly trap in this industry."

Cyb and Trish Barnstable, on the other hand, have capitalized on the fact that they really are interchangeable. The only discernible difference between them is that Cyb has a mole on the right side of her neck. Trish had hers removed. One dares not ask if Cyb's husband, Lowell McGlothin, has to check the women's necks when they're all together.

The Barnstables were born in Louisville, where "you don't grow up thinking you'll be an actress," says Cyb. But in 1971, Trish began entering beauty contests, and went on to be named

Miss Kentucky. Cyb became her manager, and, they now confide, substituted for her in Miss Kentucky duties once in a while. Who could tell the difference?

At this point, they came to the attention of Bob Hope, who invited them to entertain servicemen overseas. When they returned they went to New York.

In New York, twins were new and different. We got the Doublemint and Toni commercials, and we'd only been out of college four months!" Trish bubbles.

"We had thought of starting a modeling school at home. Instead, things came to us," marvels Cyb.

Indeed. From their Toni commercial alone, they received \$50,000 a year each for four consecutive years.

The *Quark* show, in which they starred with Richard Benjamin, was their first television series. Although it failed, they have been guests on various shows and have since made other commercials.

"These are good days to be modeling," Trish admits. "because we get \$700 a day. Each."

Both women feel that being a twin has been a career boost. The pair are now under contract to Warner Brothers Television, and they expect to star in their own series soon.

They are as close now as they were when they were children. "You always have a friend, and there is a true, understood thing between us."

Indeed, all the twins agree that having a twin means never having to be lonely. **fw**



Trish (left) and Cyb Barnstable have made a mint on Doublemint commercials.

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