

SUSAN SEAFORTH HAYES, professional actress by trade, is a historian by desire. Her degree from Los Angeles City College is in history, and the stack of books on her desk reflects an intense interest in the American West, European history, art history and Native American cultures. Had she not been so talented an actress she probably would be teaching today, or writing history books.

But Susan was destined to spend her life on stage and in front of cameras. Her initial theatrical experience was at the age of four, playing “Trouble” to Dorothy Kirsten’s “Madame Butterfly” for the Metropolitan Opera Company. At age eleven she toured a year with Billie Burke in *Mother Was a Bachelor*; and as a developing teenager she honed her crafts in the exciting world of television: *Matinee Theatre*, *Lassie*, *Eve Arden*, *Wyatt Earp*, *Loretta Young*, *Danny Thomas*; and films: *Five Pennies*, *Angel in My Pocket*, *Billy, California*.

While Susan plugged away at her college studies, interspersing classes with film, TV, and stage work, she mastered comedy and drama on TV’s *Dragnet*, *FBI*, *Death Valley Days*, *Bonanza*, *Hallmark Hall of Fame*, *My Three Sons*, *Fugitive*, *Hawaiian Eye*, *77 Sunset Strip*, *Man from UNCLE*, *Wagon Train*, *Perry Mason*, *Emergency*, *Adam-12* and *Ironside*. She also gained stature in live performance on stage in *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Mary Mary*, *Time Remembered* and *Ring Round the Moon*.



When she was cast again and again in the exciting/demanding world of TV soaps Susan was finally forced to curtail her academic work. *Young Marrieds* (2 yrs), *General Hospital* (1 yr), *The Young and the Restless* (5 yrs), *Sunset Beach* and forty years plus on *Days of our Lives*. All this drama put a serious dent in her classroom attendance. The sudsy genre produced four Emmy nominations, several Best Actress Awards, a *Time* Magazine cover, many years of Top-Ten Lists in fan-mags, and even a husband, when in 1974 Susan Seaforth married her *Days* co-star Bill Hayes.

Some of her activities which have not involved performing have included serving on the board of the Screen Actors Guild, addressing the House Judiciary Committee, and the Republican Platform Committee, docenting at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, and serving as an Elder and Board Member of the First Christian Church of North Hollywood. She has also lectured at Los Angeles Valley College (on Native American religions) and Boston University on acting for television.

The sweep of her credits in film, stage and television include *Oklahoma*, *The Two of Us*, *I Do I Do*, *Same Time Next Year*, *Harvey*, *Matlock*, *Heartbeat*, *Dream Machine*, *Wrestling with God*, *42nd Street*, *Social Security*, *Mame* and a 1993 13-week tour of *Oliver* in Florida, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur! In the 90s, Susan wowed Birmingham audiences with her “Mama Rose” in *Gypsy*, toured *Love Letters* extensively, played the wily “Mrs. Rubinstein” on TV’s *Platypus Man*, and charmed West Virginia Public Theatre fans in *A Christmas Carol* and *Cinderella*.

In 1997, Susan co-starred in the premiere of Bernard Slade’s sequel play *Same Time Another Year*; in the spring of 1999, she created the role of “District Attorney Steele” on NBC-TV’s *Sunset Beach*. In 2007 she sang “I’m Still Here” in *Follies* and added then added *Funny Girl* to her credits in 2008.

Her memoir, *Like Sands Through the Hourglass*, was published by Penguin-Putnam in 2005, and enjoyed robust sales. She and her husband published their first historical novel, *Trumpet*, in 2012.

And, yes, she continues to add her personal spice to the role of “Julie” on *Days of our Lives* (over 3,000 episodes!).

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