



# ACTRESS-SINGER-DANCER'S CAREER BOOMING



Chances are you've never heard of Paula Kelly. That is, unless you happened to see either the Los Angeles, Las Vegas or London production of the hit play, "Sweet Charity."

But right now the 25-year-old actress-singer-dancer is at Universal Studios recreating that same role in the film version of "Sweet Charity," with Shirley MacLaine in the title role, and following release of the multi-million dollar movie next year, Paula may well be one of the most sought after actresses in Hollywood.

Though Paula had toured as a dancer with Harry Belafonte and had appeared with Sammy Davis, Jr. (also starring in "Sweet Charity"), she was admittedly stunned at the possibility of being in a movie -- her first -- with both star billing and a fat salary.

"I was scared to death," admits Paula, "but at the same time I wanted it so badly. I immediately began thinking of the many differences between stage and movie production. With a camera right in my face, my movements would have to be more subtle; stage techniques would have to be left behind and that would be hard.

"So many things kept whizzing through my mind, yet I never doubted once that I could do it. I felt this was going to be the greatest thing to happen to me yet, and I was openly thrilled and eager."

Indeed, Paula has come a long way since the day she was born in Jacksonville, Florida, one of three daughters of Ruth and Lehman Kelly. Of the three girls, Paula is the only one who sought a show business career. Dolores works in a bank in the East, while Juliet is a secretary in Los Angeles.

COMING WITH her parents to New York when she was only six months old, Paula turned toward a singing career while still in junior high school.

A teacher who had admired Paula's voice in the school choir arranged for an audition at New York's Music and Art High School. She was accepted and during her fourth year there she was encouraged to audition for New York's noted school for the performing arts, Julliard.

She managed to get a four-year scholarship to Julliard, but during her second year Paula took a six-months leave of absence to make her professional debut as a member of Harry Belafonte's touring company. She did, however, graduate from Julliard in '64.

Later, choreographer Donald McHale asked her to assist him in staging musical numbers for the Al Hirt Show, a summer replacement for The Jackie Gleason Hour. Then Paula did several TV specials as a featured dancer for Gene Kelly, Harry Belafonte and Sammy Davis, Jr. She also appeared on Belafonte's special about Harlem.

The chance to do "Sweet Charity" in Las Vegas followed and she's been with it ever since.

"The only time I feel complete expression is when I'm dancing," enthuses Paula. "Then I feel I have no problems, no worries, no hang-ups; I feel I could do anything in the world."

When it comes to singing and dancing, she can.

REFLECTIVE SCENE -- Paula Kelly (left), Chita Rivera and Shirley MacLaine are caught reflected in a mirror in this scene from Universal's multi-million dollar production of "Sweet Charity," based on the Broadway play of the same title. Miss Kelly recreates the role she played in Las Vegas, Los Angeles and London. She reports back to the London production following completion of the movie.



## Matt Kelly Negro History Program



Matt Kelly elementary school held its annual Negro History Week Program and Parent-Teacher's meeting February 15. The story of the Negro's heritage, achievements and works of outstanding Negroes was vividly depicted in dance, poems, and film successfully capturing the "Spirit of Negro History."

Grades three-six worked together for this excellently presented program. Upper photo is a scene from "What Africa means to me" featuring the fourth grade dancers under the direction of Mrs. Birdia Moten... Photo left is a scene from playlet "The Spirit of Negro History" by the third grade, directed by Mrs. Annie Norwood, Mrs. Stella Parson, Mrs. Ida Grier, and Mrs. Delores Musgrave. Players pictured are Terri West, left, and Patrice Crockett.



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