

Husband David Cassidy made her fight for part

By Bob Thomas
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HOLLYWOOD — Kay Lenz, who calls herself a “working actress,” draws inspiration from someone else in that category: Sally Field.

“When she won the Academy Award, Sally was asked why she would appear in *Smokey and the Bandit* as well as *Norma Rae*,” Miss Lenz said. “She didn’t reply directly to the question, but she said, ‘When you’re an actress, you take the best of what comes your way.’”

The same with Kay Lenz. She made an impressive film debut as William Holden’s young love in *Breezy*, directed by Clint Eastwood. Three years elapsed before she appeared in another feature.

In her latest film, *Fast-Walking*, a crime drama, she plays an underworld figure who becomes involved in a plot to assassinate a militant (Robert Hooks) in a state prison.

“When I read for the part, I admitted, ‘I’m surprised I’m here,’” Miss Lenz said. “I usually play victims — the receiver of someone else’s aggression. At some point in the films I’ve done, I’m usually grabbed and shaken.

The actress wasn’t sure she could handle such a different role. She expressed her doubts to her husband, David Cassidy, who was once the heartthrob of *The Partridge Family*.

She said that Cassidy told her: “I don’t know if you can do it, either.”

Said Miss Lenz: “He knew I was stubborn, and that would make me fight for the part. I fell for it hook, line and sinker.”