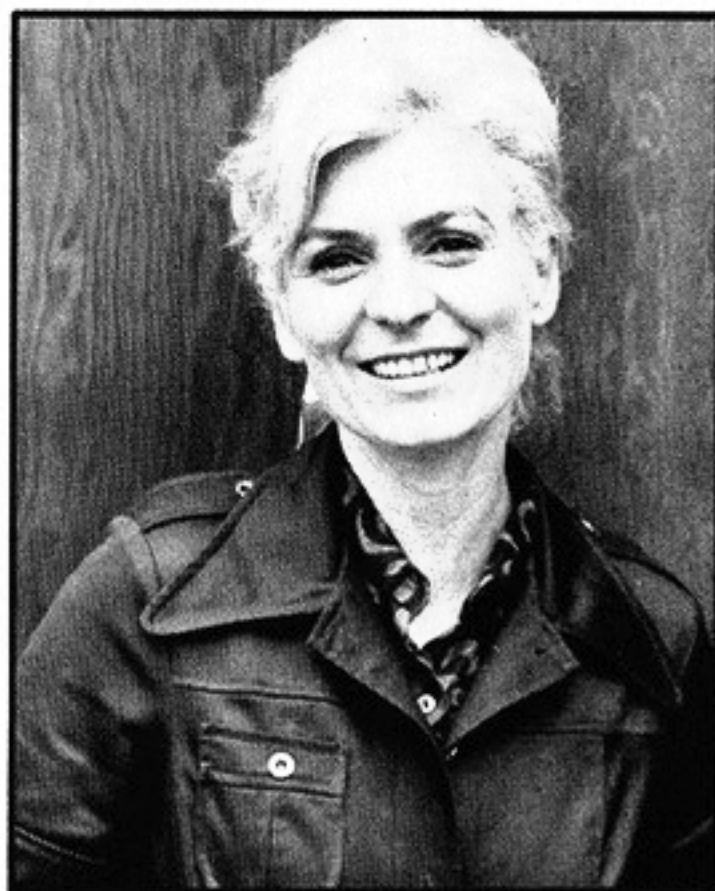


FaVE has received sacks and sacks of mail asking about the different careers in show business other than being a STAR! Letters asking about getting into costume designing, script writing, camera work, song-writing, music recording—the list could go on for miles! We at FaVE couldn't ignore those letters, so this column is dedicated to those who want to work BEHIND THE SCENES IN SHOW BIZ! If you have a particular show biz career in mind and you want to know more about it, just write to: SHOW BIZ CAREERS, c/o FaVE Magazine, 7060 Hollywood Blvd. #800, Hollywood, California 90028. FaVE promises to deliver the information and facts you want and need!

# BEHIND THE SCENES IN SHOW BIZ



## "PARTRIDGE FAMILY" COSTUMER

"It started like a fairy tale!" Those were the surprising first words that Aggie Lyon uttered as she began to talk about her work as costumer for the women and girls on the "Partridge Family."

"I had always done office work, but one day a relative of mine suggested to a friend of hers, who was working at Columbia Studios, that she give me a chance at the job."

Aggie's energetic smile seemed to make note of the fact that she was glad those unusual circumstances had come about, just over seven years ago.

"I met with the star of the television show that my friend was working on, as well as the producer, who just happens to be the same man who produces "Partridge Family," and the head of the entire studio's wardrobe department. Well, they decided to give me a chance."

### HOW WERE YOU TRAINED ON THE JOB?

In one week's time I learned everything. I had to or I would have fallen flat on my face! I learned to

break down a script, read the script and know just what kind of costumes are called for, do the budget and finally to do the show.

### WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASSET A PERSON SHOULD HAVE TO BECOME A COSTUMER?

From my own experience, I would say an eye for clothes. That would be the most important to be starting out with. It's something like a talent or a skill you are born with.

I didn't have any training at all. I had to learn right there and then on the job. So I know that my eye for clothes is what helped me to catch on and to have such good luck for the last seven years.

### WHAT ABOUT THE GIRL WHO IS THROUGH WITH SCHOOL AND IS READY TO GET THAT FIRST JOB?

There are very few places between Hollywood and New York that don't have anything to do with television and motion pictures, but if you live out here in Los Angeles, or want to live out here, there is a place that would be a good training ground.

I would go to Western Costuming, a huge storehouse of every kind of costume, that has been used by every studio for wardrobing their actors and actresses in every kind of movie you could imagine. A young girl would start in stock work. She would hang and size the clothes.

Later she would be able to help a customer like me pick out the required costumes for a period piece, a movie or show that took place in the past.

### AFTER THE YOUNG GIRL COMPLETES HER TRAIN-

### ING WHERE SHOULD SHE GO NEXT?

The studios are the best place. But it's not that easy. As everyone knows, business is very slow now and there aren't that many jobs open at the studios. But the local costumers' union can help. The union acts as something like an employment agency to help you know when there are jobs opening up at the different studios. Some may be for television and others may be for films.

### HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR JOB?

It's been good to me. The hours are long and I have to create all the time. You have to pick a costume that looks up-to-date but one that won't look out of style when the show is done in reruns.

You are part of a team. You work with every other behind the scenes person on the set. You meet lots of famous people but it's just a reminder that they are people like you and me. I think I work with nice people.

It's very rewarding. You are the one responsible for how everyone looks. You know that just like the President of the United States, you can't please everyone. But you have to know that what you decide on is right.

You have to be familiar with what looks good on who. You really have to know what not only women but men wore in all the different periods of history. Costuming pays good wages and we like to be treated like professionals.

### WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR JOB?

I have to be able to improvise whenever the director decides to ask for a costume that isn't called for in the script. I have to think fast and come up with it even though it was unexpected.

### WHAT WOULD YOU ADVISE ANYONE LOOKING INTO THIS FIELD?

Never say, 'I don't have whatever you asked me for.' Use your imagination and think up a way to provide what the director has requested. Never say, 'I don't have it,' because there is someone waiting in the wings who can do the job.