



Judith McConnell

Judith McConnell is a naturally happy person. After playing a dazzling series of bitches on *Another World*, *As The World Turns*, and *General Hospital*, she's grateful to the producers of *Santa Barbara* for allowing her at last to let her true good nature shine through.

"Sophia is so *nice*," Judith explains, "and that is the challenge in playing her: to take a character who is genuinely good and kind and yet manage to keep her 'zappy' and interesting." It is no secret that most actors consider villains easier and more fun to play. However, Sophia's ongoing rivalry with Gina gives Judith a chance to cut loose from time to time and keep from getting caught in a "niceness" rut.

Hating does not come easily to Judith, who grew up surrounded by a large and loving family. It's a tribute to her talent that she can play a villainess so effectively. Asked to describe herself, the real Judith McConnell, she answers with a hearty laugh and the protest, "Oh, I *hate* that question! I really don't like to talk about myself." But, when pressed she volunteers, "I am a very curious person. I have a thirst for knowledge; I know a little bit about most everything. And I want to learn much more. I like to keep learning."

Her main fault? "I wish I were more organized!" Asked to name her secret desire, Judith insists that she cares little for material things.

"My desire would be to help those who are less fortunate. But if I had to accept something for myself, I do have a great love of art and sculpture." ▲

by Freeman Gunter