

Joanna Barnes

Carsia

'Up above the world so high'

Joanna was born in Boston and raised in the same home that her family has occupied since the 1630s. Shortly after her graduation, she was offered an acting contract with Columbia Pictures.

Her movies include 'Spartacus', 'The Parent Trap' and 'The War Wagon'. She was a frequent guest star on many TV shows, including her memorable performance as the beautiful, deadly and ambitious chimpanzee, 'Carsia'.

Joanna actively supports the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Direct Relief International and Camerata Pacifica. She is also a distinguished novelist and journalist. Her books include *The Deceivers* (1970), *Pastora* (1980) and *Silverwood* (1985). Her books have been published in Italy, France, England, Sweden, Portugal and Brazil. Her syndicated column, "Touching Home," was for many years carried by *The Chicago Tribune* and *New York News Syndicate*.

How did you get the part of 'Carsia' in the TV episode "Up Above the World So High"?

It was all very straightforward really. My agent called and said the producers were interested in my doing the part. I went along and met them, they liked me, and that was that!

When you were approached to play 'Carsia', was the subject of 'psychological pressures' (of being confined within full make-up for many hours at a time) discussed, and, if so, at what length?

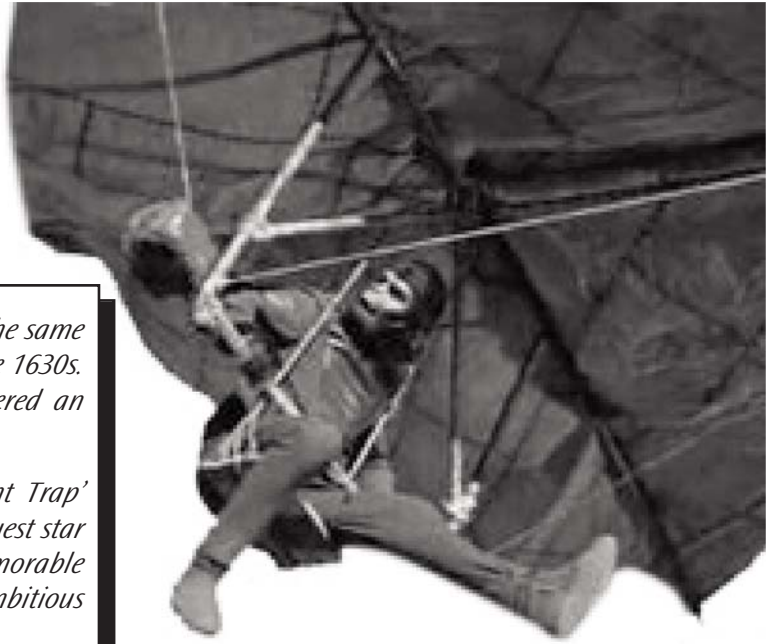
I was forewarned - but oh, it was a trial! Poor Roddy McDowall! And afterward, at the end of the day, the glue under the appliances had to be removed with alcohol - think of that! After ripping off the appliances a layer of skin was damaged... everyday!

Are there any difficulties for one actor relating to another when wearing appliances?

Yes, it's difficult to read and/or project facial expressions. Everything had to be exaggerated in order to come through the make up and read on the screen. Roddy was a master!

Can you tell us anything about what it was like to work with Roddy?

He was such a dear man, a true professional and a real joy to be with at work - or anywhere else, for that matter.

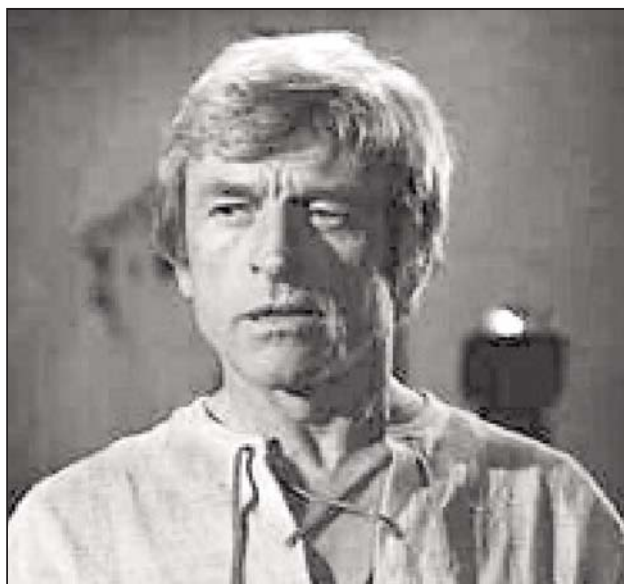


Joanna, above as herself, and below - with a face only a Yorkshire Terrier could love - as the scheming Carsia





With Roddy McDowall
"A true professional and a real joy to be with"



The late Frank Aletter as 'Leuric'



Martin Brooks as 'Konag' treats Joanna
to an impression of 'Animal' from 'The Muppets'

You also shared screen time with Booth Colman, Mark Lenard and Frank 'Leuric' Aletter. Did you enjoy working with them? Had you worked with any of them prior or known them beforehand?

I'd only ever worked with Frank before on a pilot he made. It was great fun then and also to see him annoy the "apes".

Can you recall any off-camera practical jokes during the recording of 'Up Above the World So High'?

Sorry - no! They had to turn those shows around so quickly there was very little time for horseplay. However, it was a pleasant set to be on and the cast and crew were usually in good humour

Do you have any 'behind-the-scenes' stories from the episode?

Yes! I was delighted to discover that my pet dog, a Yorkshire terrier, still recognised me, even beneath all my chimpanzee make-up!

Where were 'Up Above The World So High' scenes filmed?

Everything would have been filmed in or around the 20th Century Fox Studios.

Sadly, the TV series was 'cut-short' after only 14 episodes - if the series had continued - were there ever any plans for your character 'Carsia' to appear in future episodes ?

Not that I was ever made aware of. She was a solid character however and I think they should have certainly, at least considered, re-using her. I suppose it would have all been down to the writers.

Do you have any thoughts on why 'Apes' has proved to be so enduring ? Is there a central message or theme that you think sums it up ?

Role reversal is always an entertaining premise for a story. It's also food for thought when we find the proverbial shoe is on the other foot.

Are you recognised by Apes fans?

Occasionally, but you must remember I didn't even recognise myself as Carsia! So maybe the odd fan and the occasional Yorkshire Terrier (laughs).

What is Joanna Barnes doing nowadays and how do you relax?

I'm currently working on my sixth book but have stopped recently to move to Northern California.

Ms Barnes, thank you very much indeed!

You're quite welcome!

Interrogator: Dean Preston