

CONNIE SELLECCA
Biography

Talented and beautiful, Connie Sellecca is having the time of her life. She's a new mom ... daughter Prima Sellecchia Tesh was born June 2 ... recently completed two movies back-to-back ... "She Led Two Lives," co-starring Perry King and A Martinez for NBC-TV and "A Dangerous Affair," co-starring Gregory Harrison, which will air in January on ABC-TV ... and is producing "The Dolly Pagan Story," a movie she developed for CBS-TV.

Born in the Bronx, Connie moved with her family to the upstate New York town of Pomona at age 12. She became involved in student productions at Ramapo High School and with the encouragement of a speech teacher, who moonlighted as a commercial actor, decided to pursue an acting career in New York City.

After moving into an apartment with "four girls, one bedroom, one bathroom and one closet," Connie quickly garnered top fashion and commercial assignments in New York and in Europe to support her acting studies. Her first screen test yielded her first starring role in ABC's "The Bermuda Depths," with Burl Ives and Carl Weathers.

A string of television movies and series followed, including the highly rated "She's Dressed to Kill," with Jessica Walter and Eleanor Parker (NBC); "Captain America"; a short stint in the NBC series "Beyond Westworld" (inspired by the "Westworld" feature film); and starring roles in three other television series: "Flying High" (CBS), "The Greatest American Hero" with William Katt (ABC) and "Hotel" (ABC), in which she co-starred with James Brolin for five seasons.

Her portrayal of Christine Francis, general manager of the fictitious St. Gregory Hotel, won her praise from the critics, a loyal following and a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actress in a Television Series (Drama).

Connie also starred in two additional movies made-for television: "The Last Fling," a romantic-comedy co-starring John Ritter (ABC) and "Down payment on Murder," co-starring Ben Gazzara (NBC).

Following that, Connie traveled to New Zealand to film "Brotherhood of the Rose," a four-hour mini-series for NBC-TV, in which she co-starred with Peter Strauss and Robert Mitchum under the direction of Marvin Chomsky and in 1989 starred in NBC-TV's two-hour telefilm "Turn Back the Clock," a remake of the 1947 feature "Repeat Performance."

In 1991, Connie starred in "Miracle Landing," a CBS telefilm based on the true story of the Hawaiian airplane disaster and "People Like Us," a four-hour mini-series for NBC-TV, based on Dominick Dunne's best-selling novel of the same name. She also starred as Danielle Powell in CBS-TV's "P.S. I Luv U," a one-hour, romantic-comedy, adventure series.

The outrageous character she portrayed gave Sellecca the opportunity to display her considerable comedic talents heretofore kept under wraps. That same year, Sellecca launched a six-year deal with Montgomery Ward for her own line of clothing, jewelry, accessories and intimate apparel.

On April 4, 1992, Connie wed ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT host John Tesh. Immediately following their honeymoon, Connie left for Budapest to film "Passport to Murder" for NBC-TV. Immediately upon its completion, Connie returned to Los Angeles to produce and star in "House of Secrets and Lies" for CBS.

Most recently, she starred as Diane Benedict in "Second Chances," a romantic mystery drama series on CBS that was cancelled following the destruction of its production facilities and sets in the January 17, 1994 earthquake.

Connie is in her ninth year as National Spokesperson for Mothers Against Drunk Driving's (MADD) annual "Project Red Ribbon" campaign, which reminds people of the dangers of drinking and driving during the holiday season.

With Tesh, Connie hosted "Hidden Keys," an infomercial dealing with communication skills as a key to successful relationships. She is also the "S" in GTS RECORDS, Tesh's record company. Connie lives in Los Angeles with her husband, her son Gib from her previous marriage and her new daughter.