

THE BEAUTY WHO ENVIES HER TWIN SISTER'S LIFE IN THE SUBURBS...

By Brian Haugh

ACTRESS Linda Hamilton, the beauty of *Beauty and the Beast*, has it made. She's young, good-looking and starring in one of the few new hits of the season.

But, with it all, she admits she's just a wee bit envious of her twin sister, Leslie Yeager — who has two kids and a house in the suburbs.

"I look at my life and the fast, breakneck pace of it, and compare it to hers," says Linda. "It's solid, you know, with children.

"I would trade places with her sometimes, just to get a touch of that."

Explains Linda: "Both of us acted in high school, but then in college, she took up nursing. I don't know that she ever made the conscious choice not to pursue acting as a career."

Her own choice was very arbitrary, says Linda.

"I realized in my second year in college that I was very serious about acting," she says. "So I took my money and went to New York and trained. I said, 'Well, if I'm going to do this, I should do it.'"

And although she says she's tempted by her sister's lifestyle, Linda knows each of them made the right choice.

"Both of us have chosen very wisely," she says. "We're doing what we should be doing with our lives. And just like I would trade with her and give up all the rush-rush stress, I think that Leslie would like her life to be a bit more glamorous.

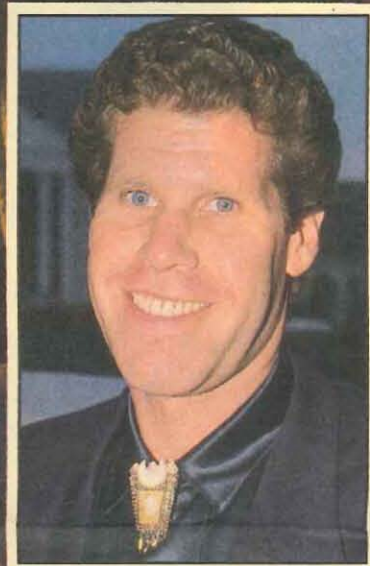
"Changing 50 diapers a day between two babies, I'm sure she'd like to trade with me sometimes.

"She keeps wondering why people don't recognize her, since we are identical twins. But I know she's thrilled for me."

But now that she's 30, Linda says she's definitely ready to be a mother



Linda Hamilton is tempted by the family life of twin sister Leslie Yeager (inset).



Ron Perlman as Ron Perlman (above) and as The Beast (top).

...AND THE BEAST WHO'S KEPT HIS UGLY SIDE SECRET FROM HIS KID

just like Leslie. "I am totally, totally ready for a baby," says Linda, who's been married for almost five years to actor Bruce Abbott, 32.

"I want a baby, and I want to really be a mom for a couple of years, to be with that child, not just go right back to work."

And she's not worried that the success of *Beauty and the Beast* will stand in her way.

"If I'm going to be doing this show for the next five years, I'll say right now: I don't want to have to wait to have a baby. So we'll have to find a way to work it in, or they're just going to have to let me go.

"It's a bit of a challenge," she adds, "but emotionally, I'm ready." □

RON PERLMAN has made a career out of playing monsters — but he's keeping it a secret at home. The star of *Beauty and the Beast* says his 3-year-old daughter, Blake, hasn't come face-to-face with her daddy in disguise just yet.

"She hasn't seen me in person in the makeup," explains Perlman, 37. "But she has seen photographs of it.

"My wife (fashion designer Opal Stone) decided that she wasn't ready to show her the pilot yet. Perhaps with enough time, and enough explanation, we'll sit her down and show her that. Once we've done that, I'll bring her to the set one day with me, and she can see me in the flesh.

"If she freaks out, I'll spend \$80,000

on therapy. But that's a father's lot in life, anyway."

Perlman's part in *Beauty and the Beast* is his third outing in disguise. He first played a caveman in *Quest for Fire*, then followed that up with the part of a disfigured hunchback in *The Name of the Rose*.

"But I think that this is the project that I have been waiting for all my life," he says of his *Beast* role. "I was a kid who was sort of awkward, gawky and overweight. It made for a great deal of anger and resentment on my part for being passed over.

"It's a feeling that's stayed with me throughout my entire life. It's put me closer in touch to the beast inside of me than to a lot of other people." □