

HAMISH PATRICK IS SUITED FOR SUCCESS

by SALLY BROWN

HAMISH PATRICK, alias Dr. James Leigh, the new arrival at *General Hospital*, has got a great morale booster to help him with his bedside manner. It is Paul McCartney's suit.

Patrick, 27 and custom built to become a television matinee idol, lounges around in jeans and T-shirts when he's at home in West Hampstead, London, but he needed a suit for those heart-fluttering ward rounds. Languishing in the TV wardrobe department was a suit Paul McCartney wore in his recent show. Smart, the right size (as you can see here) and only one previous owner. Patrick is hoping that the secret ingredient for success will rub off on him.

General Hospital is Patrick's first television work, and the opportunity comes just one year after leaving the Central School of Speech and Drama, in London—a year in which he has been working in provincial theatres.

"I was playing the part of Milington in *Conduct Unbecoming*, at Cheltenham," he explained. "And, unknown to me my agent had asked a casting director to come and see me. Between the matinee and the evening performance I saw her talking to another actor and I thought, 'hello, that kid's away, lucky for him.' I had no idea there was anything in the air until I got a call about this part the following Monday."

Getting this part has meant that



Patrick and his wife Jane have been able to take a tiny flat which they intend to decorate.

The Patricks have managed to minimise their time apart during Hamish's year of provincial wanderings.

"Jane has been pretty clever about that—she came with me to places like Edinburgh, Oxford and Cheltenham, but gave Billingham and Newcastle a miss."

Attractive, dark-haired Jane Patrick is an American from Pittsburgh. The couple met while both were reading philosophy at Pittsburgh University. "I was very lucky," said Patrick. "Because during my three years at the Central, Jane worked as a secretary to keep me. She's taken a holiday for the past year while I've been working but now she wants to find a job she can enjoy. I couldn't, nor would I want to, ask her to just tag along. That would be terrible."

With a name like Hamish Patrick, he must come from Scotland. "But I've spent my life in all sorts of different places. My father is a minister in the Church of Scotland. He's a bit of a gipsy, and we lived in Guernsey, Nassau and Canada before Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania."

Patrick is the eldest of four children. "My parents made no demands on us at all. We didn't even have to go to church. I did vaguely think about making a career in it when I was 18 or so because there was something about the simplicity of some of the religious writing that attracted me, but it was a passing thing."

Now he's an actor, Hamish Patrick is glad that he doesn't have a run-of-the-mill name.

"But when I was a kid I used to ask my Dad if there were any other Hamishes in the world. You don't come across many of them in the Bahamas."