

CAST

ANGEL ASTOR-PAOLUCCI: Early 30's, socialite, spoiled, airhead, mother of two boys, devoted to Gino.

GINO ORLANDO PAOLUCCI: Host, early 30's, owns Gino's Family Jewels, proud Italian, devoted family man, idolizes "The God-father" concept.

MUFFIN ASTOR: Angel's older sister, 30's, streetwise, biker chick, in love with Gino, jealous of Angel, tough, rebellious, instigator.

SLY CORELLI: Gino's best friend and best man, early 30's, single and likes it, a man's man, cool, calm, collected, sensible, people person, peacemaker.

LESTER NORRIS: Gino's friend and usher, early 30's, total nerd, single but looking, shy, smart but no common sense, typical "pocket protector" guy, extremely frugal.

BUFFY ASTOR: Angel's younger sister and maid of honor, late 20's, sleazy flirt, man-crazy.

SENATOR HOWARD ASTOR: Angel's father, 50's, moral politician, never met a stranger, ridiculously wealthy, bumbling, good hearted but clueless.

LENA ASTOR: Angel's mother, 50's, kleptomaniac, society woman, loves her family, perfect posture, former beauty queen, classy, win at all costs.

ARLEN FOX: Senator Astor's Aide, 20 - 50, political genius, single and not looking, serious, high strung, always on edge, extremely focused.

HOMER CHEESEMAN: Angel's grandfather, Lena's father, 70's, widowed, fun loving, happy, simple farmer, unsophisticated.

PAULINE PAOLUCCI: Gino's mother, 50's, the "official greeter" at Gino's Family Jewels, single, dotes on Gino. Her idea of class is gaudy jewelry (Gino's) and a good vintage of Boones Farm.

FRANCOIS DUVET: Caterer, 30 - 50, hired by Pauline, flamboyant, effeminate, perfectionist, likes to be the show, drama queen, speaks fluent fake French.

BROTHER SAMMY WILSON: Evangelist, 30 - 50, loves money and convincing people to donate to his "worthy" causes, Pastor of House of the Rising Sun Congregational Temple, loves to be the center of attention, directs his Sisters of Salvation. Over the top, flashy, womanizer.

SISTERS OF SALVATION: Brother Sammy's back-up singers, 20 - 60, ex-bar girls, devoted to their church and Brother Sammy, appears to want to save all sinners but first help themselves to your wallet.

CHARITY CASE: Gino's sales clerk, 20's, very pregnant, working single mother to be, tries hard, always has problems, counts on Gino to help her out, black cloud follows her.

JINX VERONA (JON VINCENT): Gino's TV spokesperson, 30's, (a male character) and transvestite, attractive, educated, ambitious, gay and independent. (No one in the cast, except Arlen, knows she's a man)

BENNY "CLICKS" MORENO: Tabloid photographer, any age, wants to score the "big pie," sneaky, rat-like, will do anything for the pie, ruthless.

RICARDO SCHWARTZ: The DJ, 20- 40, lounge lizard, slick, egotistical, thinks he's stylish, lives in the wrong era.

ANGEL ASTOR-PAOLUCCI

Middle daughter of the Senator and Lena, Angel Martina Astor-Paolucci, is the mother of two boys, Gino Jr. and Santino. She is proud of her boys and prides herself on being Gino's Princess. She is a devoted mother, nannies and all. From a spoiled little rich girl to quite the airhead, Angel relishes in the attention anyone will lavish upon her, and quite often demands it. And then there is her jealousy streak towards her big sister, Muffin.

Angel tries to be the suburban housewife for appearances, attending the meetings she should, like the telethon for People Without Cats, the local women's Civil Defense League and the Society Against Unfair Advantages for Blonde People, or SAP, as it's known around the area. But when it comes to being a domestic goddess, she tends to fall short. After all, Angel had a maid while growing up and had everything handed to her. She loves Gino and basks in the glory of being dubbed "The Society's Most Perfect Couple," a title which the local newspaper bestowed upon her and Gino, due to daddy's influence. Angel is capable of being independent if she really had to, but daddy has always taken care of her and that's what she prefers. Now she has her Gino taking care of her and that suits her fine.

Angel and her sisters grew up in a life of privilege. The best clothes, tennis lessons at the club from the pro, ballet, and travel. These were all the things money could buy and Angel liked them all. She loved going to the club for lunch with mother, and listening to the other socially acceptable ladies discuss their husbands and their money. Angel was not affected by the money in the way one would think; she still could feel pity for anyone less fortunate.

Imagine having to go through life with a used Mercedes!

Mother Astor had prepared her daughter for a life similar to hers, arranging dates with the area's socially acceptable men. While she dated several of the best, always handsome ivy league types, Angel went more for the working type much to her mother's dismay. Enter the handsome, charming, hardworking Gino Paolucci.

Angel fell head over heels in love with him at first sight. That love grows stronger each day ever since she met him six years ago at a birthday party for her older sister, Muffin. Guess who was Muffin's date for the party? Yep, Gino. When Angel took one look at Gino her heart stopped. Mother was at the same party and knew the look. Lena knew there was nothing she could do but hide it from Muffin to keep her from killing her baby sister so, they dated secretly much to Angel's disgust.

Muffin has not liked her sister since that ill-fated birthday party. But Gino is a different story. Angel has caught her sister flaunting herself at Gino and flirting with him more times than she'd care to remember. Muffin still has a huge crush on Gino and Angel knows it. But Angel is quite the flirt herself and has a secret of her own. What if Muffin ever found out that secret?

Though mother and daddy were a little disappointed when Angel told them she was marrying Gino, they couldn't be more proud. They had hoped for the crown jewels, and what they got was the "Family Jewels." They accepted her decision and have tried to welcome Gino and his family into their own. And what would be better for the Senator's image than to have his "perfect Angel" and her husband renew their wedding vows in front of the society crowd.

GINO ORLANDO PAOLUCCI

Gino is everybody's favorite and everybody is Gino's favorite as well. One could compare him to E. F. Hutton; "When Gino Paolucci speaks, people listen." He's a man's man, a business man, a family man, and a one-woman man, much to the dismay of many women. At one time, Gino was considered a ladies' man as well, until one night when Mama Pauline's girlfriends gave her a special night out for her birthday, a trip to see the Italian Stallion Male Revue at Big Johnson's Wonder Bar. Little did Pauline know that her son was the Featured Stallion of the Evening. Shades of Gino's father, Salvatore, made Pauline see red. After that day, and "the talk," with Grandpa Paolucci, Gino promised to honor and respect the family name the right way. When he laid eyes on Angel, his rough edges softened a bit. He is as faithful as they come. Gino's a cross between "the boy next door" and "Don Corleone." He'll give you the shirt of his back but disrespect him or any member of his family and hell hath no fury like a Paolucci scorned.

Gino was raised an only child by his mother, Pauline, with the help of her parents. As a young boy, most of the neighborhood kids thought he was a little weak because he didn't have a father. But after the first fight, whipping the kid that called him chicken corrected that. Mama had taught him to fight from the beginning. By the time he was a senior in high school, Gino had made his mark in the neighborhood. You wanted anything; you went to Gino Paolucci. He had hung around Grandpa Vinnie's bar long enough to get a taste of what went on behind the swinging doors. He wanted to run a legitimate business on the up and up. Mama Paolucci wanted him to go to college but Gino didn't think he needed college to make his mark in the business world. He wanted to make it on his own and make it happen fast. Gino had always liked the gold chains that all the guys around him were wearing, so he thought why not sell it to the m. The idea for Gino's Family Jewels was born. Starting with a line of necklaces, he expanded to include jewelry with gemstones and diamonds. He sells tacky, gold jewelry at rock bottom prices. Tending to be on the gaudy side, Gino designs all the merchandise himself. Gino doesn't have a good eye for jewelry design. Some things are a bit cheap looking... and a bit cheap. If you are not completely satisfied, he will return your money, but expect questions.

As his reputation and business grew, the local newspaper ran an article on the jewelry store, and gave Gino the title of "The Town's Most Swinging Bachelor." Mama wasn't happy. It was time for grandchildren. She was ready for Gino to find a nice Italian girl to settle down with. Gino had made his Mama a promise to honor the family name and Gino Paolucci is a man of his word. Especially when it comes to family. He dated several girls from the neighborhood but they were only after Gino's "Family Jewels." And then, by accident, an "Angel" floated into his life, and Gino was in heaven. He's been there ever since. Mama Pauline wasn't too happy at first. This girl wasn't Italian and Pauline thought Angel was just interested in all the diamonds Gino could give her. But Vinnie saw something else in his grandson's eyes. It was the same look he had, when he met his beloved Lucille all those years ago. Vinnie was still the patriarch, and over the years he had taught Gino everything about life. Vinnie got out a bottle of his homemade wine and sat Gino down.

Gino brought Angel to the neighborhood to live after they were married to be near his

mother and grandparents. They lived with his family for a short time until the “palace” he was having built for his Angel was complete. Vinnie had given his only grandson the vacant land next to the family home and insisted he build his home on it. Angel wasn't thrilled about this arrangement, especially having to live with his family for a while, but Gino is the boss and assured her that he knew what was best. Gino knew there would be several fringe benefits to this arrangement. At least once a week he could sneak home for grandma’s homemade pasta, because Angel still can't figure out the difference between manicotti and marshmallows.

He enjoys being the man of the house and showering Angel and his boys with everything he owns. Life is perfect for Gino...or so it seems. Mama drives him a bit crazy but he understands. His in-laws can infuriate him but he respects them as Angel's parents. He tries to fit in with the white bread Astor family, but has a bit of trouble especially if he mentions that the Senator should where more gold. Last Christmas, Gino got Howard a set of gold neck chains, complete with a big gold dollar sign. It was something he was sure that all the Senators on the hill would want.

After five years of marriage, Gino wanted to give the love of his life something she'd remember for a lifetime and what better way than an anniversary party to say I love you all over again. He wanted her to remember her wedding day just as it was five years ago. Everything except their wedding night. Despite an occasional argument with Angel regarding Muffin, which was the only thing they argued about in five years of marriage, he knew life couldn't be better. Gino was right about one thing- this would be a night Angel would remember for a lifetime.

MUFFIN ASTOR

Muffin had dated Gino for about a month before the ill-fated birthday party. She was in love with Gino from the moment she saw him. Every girl was. Now she wants him more than ever. Muffin has never married and is three years older than Angel. She smokes, drinks vodka and tonic like a marine, and looks at men with the eye of a butcher. They are good for one thing only and that's to mow the lawn ... except for Gino. Muffin can be a little salty at times and is a bit of embarrassment for Lena Astor, although she does like her grandfather Homer though. The last man she dated turned out to be gay.

Muffin loves being the tough biker chick. She loves annoying Angel even more. Especially when she flirts with Gino every chance she gets. Ever since the sisters were young, Angel always got the best of everything. The better grades, the better clothes, the better hunks and more attention. Angel never hesitated to rub it in her face. So, when Muffy met Gino, and asked him to be her date at her birthday party, she knew she finally had one over on her sister. She couldn't wait to throw it in her sister's face. But that wasn't the case. Angel was dressed in her finest that night and poor Muffy was crushed when Gino and Angel's eyes met from across the room and she witnessed the sexy wink he sent Angel's way. Once again Muffin was second best and once again mother Astor took Angel's side.

She has never forgiven Angel for stealing Gino away from her but had big plans for getting back at her sister on her wedding day. She assumed she would be the maid of honor at her sister's wedding. She knew her mother would see to it. What would it look like to people if Angel's older sister was not the maid of honor at the biggest social event of the season? Somehow her perfect sister, Angel convinced mother Astor that it would not be good for the family or daddy's career if Muffin were to be a part of the wedding. Lately, she had become a bit of an embarrassment to the family. Angel sweetly protested to her mother, "The bridal party is on display and gets a lot of attention. If we keep Muffin in the background, it would be much better for the family's image." If the truth be known, it would be a cold day in hell before Angel would ever let Muffy be her maid of honor, or let her get within two feet of Gino. She had to boot her out. And boot her out she did. Once again, Angel got the best of her. Muffin left the wedding reception early stating she was ill. Angel was ecstatic that she was gone. Little did anyone know that she was responsible for ruining Angel and Gino's wedding night by pulling the fire alarm at their hotel-once an hour. Muffy finally had the last laugh as she sipped her bottle of vodka listening to her mother console Angel on the phone for hours.

She has one thing on her mind at this party; instigating trouble for her little sister, Angel, and letting Gino know just exactly what he's missing.

SLY CORELLI

Sylvester "Sly" is Gino's best man. He is Gino's closest friend and confidant. Sly is a man 's man, tough but gentle, understanding but firm and a little set in his ways. He likes Angel and thinks what they have as a family is awesome. He would do anything to protect their relationship. He has never been married but has dated many beautiful women. They flock to him. He is handsome and charming, but never appears on the make.

Gino and Sly were in high school together. They were on the same baseball and wrestling teams, and took sisters to the senior prom. When Gino and Angel were married, Sly was there as his best man.

Sly works as a new car salesman at the Wheeler Dealer Cadillac Showroom. He is a successful salesman and very popular with the lady buyers. He met his last steady girlfriend at the dealership. She came in to buy a used pickup for her brother and walked out with a new Eldorado ... and Sly. That lasted three weeks, but she loved the car. He likes the attention he gets from the ladies.

He was born Sylvester Luciano Corelli to a big Italian family. He didn't go to college because he didn't think it was necessary. So far, he feels he made the right choice. He was top sales-man last year. Where else can you make good money and drive a new Caddy home for free?

Sly does have one strange quirk; he has an odd hobby; he likes to collect Wizard of Oz memorabilia. When he was around six years old, he got the chicken pox. Since he couldn't go to school, his mother put him on the couch and all he could do was watch TV. It just so happened that The Wizard of Oz was on and he instantly became hooked. Some of his buddies think Sly's obsession is a little weird, but after one guy in high school called him a sissy when he saw a Wizard of Oz lunchbox in his locker, Sly took care of the guy and got suspended for three days. Nobody said anything after that.

Sometimes Sly uses his obsession to his benefit with the ladies. His prized possession is an autographed copy of the Wizard script signed by who else but Judy Garland. Imagine what Francois would say to that!

BUFFY ASTOR

Buffy is looking for a man, and she doesn't care which shelf he comes from. She sees something sexy in every pair of pants and doesn't care who knows it. She is the Senator and Lena's baby, and is treated so. She is constantly corrected by her parents; "Tie your shoes, Buffy, sit up straight, Buffy, eat your vegetables, Buffy, don't grab the nice man there, Buffy." She is aware of her mother's problem and it distresses her because she is afraid it is catching. Buffy is two years younger than Angel has never married, and dates most men she meets only once, maybe twice if he has a nice car.

She and Angel gel along well and Buffy loves her nephews and likes Gino quite a bit. There are many nights where Muffy will receive a call in the middle of the night from Buffy wanting her to come bail her out of some situation she got herself into. Buffy knew that she had people who would always lake care of the bad situations for her. That's why she never bothered to learn from any bad experience.

Rumor has it, that on at least one occasion, Muffy took care of a "situation" and Buffy's date never came around again. And when Muffy wasn't around Buffy could always call Arlen Fox, daddy's boring Aide. She knew that Arlen would do anything to keep a scandal out of the papers for the Senator's sake. Whenever the need arose, good guy Arlen would come to the rescue. Just last night, Buffy caught a glimpse of Arlen giving money to some guy named Bruno Bates. Bruno was Buffy's date for the evening. Everything was going totally awesome until Bruno asked her for a favor. Turned out he worked for the local tabloid and wanted a certain kind of "favor" from Buffy in return for keeping his mouth shut about Mrs. Astor's latest shoplifting indiscretion. Buffy agreed then excused herself and went to the ladies' room.

She called Arlen. In his mind's eye he could see the headline in bold type; "Senator's Daughter ...Money for Sex." He dropped everything and flew to the rescue once again. Seems a little money was all it took to shut the guy up. Arlen drove Buffy home just in time for daddy to see his baby girl get out of Arlen's car. He assumed they were out on a date. He was always urging Buffy to go out with Arlen much to her dismay.

Buffy is a material girl. She went to college to major in fashion but only lasted one quarter. She's had more jobs than you can count on both hands. If Buffy doesn't feel like going into work she just doesn't. This week she works at Leather and Lace, a sexy lingerie and adult toy store. Of course, mommy and daddy are not aware of this. They still think she works at Taking Your Tots, a day care center that the Senator and Lena support. Arlen sees to it that Buffy shows up there twice a week for appearances sake. She figures she owes him for all the jams he's gotten her out of. If daddy only knew!

LESTER NORRIS

Lester Norris is a typical nerd. He is a card-carrying geek. Lester went to high school with Sly and Gino. Gino befriended him and tried to help him become more like him and Sly. It didn't work. Lester was and is hopeless. He is destined to live life as a pocket protector sad sack. Lester was asked to give a toast at the anniversary party. He would rather have his hair cut by a tree trimmer with a dull pruning shear than talk in public. Gino and Sly have a way of making their friend do things he doesn't want to.

Call it coercion, threats or just force, Gino and Sly have helped Lester leave his mommy's side and become the computer programmer he is today. They even set him up on his first date with Sally Mumford. Sally was a cute, shy girl with pig tails and braces and a reputation as being a bit easy. Perfect for Lester. Gino and Sly arranged the date. After dinner at the local Burger Barn, and a screening of The Net at the dollar movie, Sally made Lester "see the light." At least that's what Lester said. Gino thinks she may have just hit him with her shoe for being so cheap. Lester does have his frugal side and likes to save money in odd and varied ways. Reusing aluminum foil, washing paper plates, recycling his chewing gum, are the traits that make Lester what he is to the boys and their families. He is still searching for the perfect woman. Maybe he will find her over the internet. That's the place where he is in his own little world.

Even though he is frugal, he has a good job as a computer software designer. He went to college at Carnegie-Mellon in Pittsburgh and was top in his class. The biggest problem is that for graduation, he forgot to wear his pants under his robe. It wouldn't have been so bad if he would have remembered his underwear. He's much better now. Gino and Sly see to that.

SENATOR HOWARD ASTOR

The Senator comes from old money. He is a good man with the best intentions. Sometimes overwhelmed by some events in his life, he tries to work above it. He is full of political spirit and is constantly stumping for votes and waving the flag high. He is dedicated to his wife, Lena, and three beautiful daughters, Muffin, Angel and Buffy. He is in his first term as a Senator. He was vice president of his late father's bank, until Arlen convinced him that his country needed him. Now he is protected by Arlen Fox, his right-hand man, as he makes a run for the White House.

He is considered by many to be a blowhard with little real issues in mind. The Senator is convinced he is the best thing for this country. Most people like him and usually want him to like them. The Senator was raised in a rich neighborhood in suburban Cleveland. His father owned a bank and mother was a lobbyist for the political action campaign known as CLETA, Cleveland Ladies for the Ethical Treatment of Asses, that little known wild donkey protection league. Howard gets his activist side obviously from his late mother, but his money from his late father. Howard's father's most memorable saying was, "Power without power, is like a car without gasoline." Howard remembers that and lives by it. He's not exactly sure what it means, but he lives by it. Howard's favorite saying is, "Gasoline without a car, is like a car without power." He's working on his oratory. He has a brother, Melvin, that gave up money and society, and now lives in a commune in Nebraska. Howard cannot figure out why anyone would do such a thing. He loves the social setting of political prominence. The back slapping, back-room deal making and back stabbing that keeps this country running are what Howard thrives on now. Mommy would have been so proud. Daddy would have understood and made sure he knew what that quote meant. Howard and Lena live in the family home in Cleveland, a huge 20-bedroom mansion that looks a little like the Beverly Hillbillies house. The Senator and the Mrs. are quite happy here and he can't understand what his Angel sees in Gino, but he likes him and supports him. He is especially proud of his two grandsons and uses them politically whenever he can. They are typically plastered on his campaign signs right under his latest slogan, "A vote for Astor is a vote for these two smiling children." Catchy huh?

MRS. LENA ASTOR

Lena is a devoted wife and mother who looks up to the Senator as "The Senator." Happily married, Lena loves to pamper Angel and her sisters and provide them with what she did have. She has just one problem she likes to shoplift. Not that she can't afford things, she just feels compelled to take them. The Senator is unaware of his wife's problem, but Arlen is quite aware and has had to fix the indiscretions of his boss's wife several times. The last time was at the local mall. Lena accidentally slipped a box of Godiva Chocolates into her coat pocket as she was leaving her favorite department store. The store manager knows the problem, called Arlen, and he handled the situation. Not an eyebrow was raised. This problem developed when Lena was a child in her hometown. Raised on a farm in Idaho, far from middle class, Lena would "borrow things" to get by. First it was toothpaste, soap, chewing gum, then clothes and dishes. Her father, Homer Cheeseman, would find the loot and return it to the store, unless they were out of soap and then that would be overlooked. As she grew up, the tendency lessened a bit, but she still had the urge to steal at times. Now it is second nature.

Lena is the picture of the proper political wife. She sits like a charm school graduate with perfect posture, as if she is ready to balance a cookie plate on her knee and serve tea. Always smiling, Lena is a rock. Just as her days as a beauty queen, Lena can smile through just about anything. Lena was Miss Tator Tot back home in Hill City, Idaho, and went on to the state Tator Queen contest losing to a red head from Boise. She did win Miss Congeniality.

Lena is tried and true. Just don't let her alone in a jewelry store. She may make herself at home. Lena met the Senator while touring the states representing the Tator Queen, who accidentally fell while rehearsing a speech for a conference. It's a good thing Lena was standing right behind her. She knew the speech by heart and was able to immediately fill in for her fallen comrade. The conference was a meeting of bank executives including Howard Astor. The two met at a luncheon during the conference and the rest is history.

Howard fell in love with Lena at first sight. She instantly admired the dapper man from Ohio and lovingly called him Mr. Astor from then on. He wanted to take her away and lavish her with his wealth. She wanted to be taken away and lavished so it worked out well. Lena finished high school and went to junior college getting her associates degree in secretarial skills. Howard and Lena had Muffin after a year of marriage, then Angel three years later, and Buffy two years after that. Lena is the political smile behind her man.

ARLEN FOX

Arlen is a true political genius. He started the Senator's campaign and is dedicated to the man he serves. His goal is to get this man into the White House come hell or high water. A wedding problem is nothing for Arlen to handle, but enter in a drag queen, a fraud priest, and a father-in-law that thinks the South won the war, and he definitely has his hands full. He has made Senator Astor who he is but doesn't let people know it. Arlen is not married and has no interest in relationships. He is simply the Senator's guardian trying not to appear flustered at the attempts by the press to expose the Senator for something slightly askew, like his wife being a kleptomaniac. When not protecting the Senator's reputation, Arlen takes on his Secret Service persona to ensure his physical safety.

Arlen graduated from Harvard Law and signed on as Howard Astor's Legal Aide at the bank soon after graduation. Now let's guess where the idea to run for Senate came from. He is a focused, driven, hardworking man. He comes from a middle-class family and went to Harvard on a track scholarship. Arlen never thought he could run for office himself, although that was his desire. He figured the way to power was to latch onto someone like Howard Astor and then guide the process the way he wants.

He is young and unattached, although women would like to change that. Arlen continues to focus on the objective at hand; a White House cabinet post. His mother always told Arlen that to show someone the way is the quickest way to salvation for yourself. Arlen didn't get the true meaning of mother Fox's advice.

While he is as honest as the day is long, he is extremely careful about the appearance the Astors portray to the public and will cover blemishes like a good bottle of Clearasil. Sure, it's still there, but it's hidden and someone or someone is fixing the problem.

Arlen got more than he bargained for when he signed on with the Senator. Sometimes he feels more like a babysitter than an Aide. Keeping the Senator's wife and two of his three daughters out of any kind of trouble that could sabotage the Senator's career, is a full-time job in itself. But he just knows it's part of the job. He's always willing to do anything for the Senator and his family. Except for maybe one thing; it seems that the Senator keeps pushing Arlen and Buffy to go out on a date. Nothing would make the Senator happier than to see his baby girl settle down with the right kind of man and of course it wouldn't hurt his career. He believes Arlen is perfect for his Buffy. Arlen, however, just humors his boss when he brings up the subject. The bookworm at the local library is more his style. Then again, stranger things have happened.

HOMER CHEESEMAN

Homer is a backwoods type of guy. Fun loving and happy, He is the proverbial grandpa. Always ready to compliment his granddaughters and especially his great grandchildren. He is quick witted and pretty agile for his age. Homer likes to party and doesn't get out much. His dress tells his background, simple yet trying to keep up with his daughter and her high falootin' lifestyle. He admires his son-in-law, the Senator, but is usually at odds with him to his face.

Homer grew up i n rural Idaho. He raised his only child, Lena, with the help of his late wife, Doris, on a farm growing potatoes. His wife died suddenly ten years ago. His family line goes back into the deep south. His father moved to Idaho in 1900 when his worm farm got washed away in a rare Tennessee hurricane. He loved the southern traditions of his mammy and pappy. They taught him to be respectful, work hard, read the Bible and always own land. Homer did just that. He may sound a bit southern when he wants, like when he's making a point. Other times he sounds like what he is; a simple Idaho farmer.

PAULINE PAOLUCCI

She is Gino's mother. Pauline loves her Gino, her only child, and dotes on him like no other. Her husband, Salvatore, left them before Gino was born, so Gino doesn't know anything about him. Pauline just remembers him for the louse that he was. Don't stand too close to Pauline or she will come at you with pictures and stories of her Gino. She is very Catholic and wants you to know it. Respect Pauline and she will love you to death. Cross her or her children and she will kill you or have it done the old-fashioned way.

Pauline was raised by Vinnie and Lucille to be Italian. Their only child, Pauline was spoiled by the family and all the relatives. She is used to getting what she wants and will make it happen if she doesn't. She went to work for her father in the bar as soon as she was old enough to pour liquor. She knew about the back-room operation and respects her father enough not to bring it up. Pauline liked the bar business and would like to have kept it going. Then Salvatore walked in through the swinging doors. Tall, dark and handsome, Sal was the Antonio Sabato of his day. Pauline was hooked. She could think of nothing else. They were married in a month. Vinnie liked Sal because he was Italian. Lucille liked Sal because he could eat like a horse. Sal liked everyone, especially other women. Pauline overlooked the first indiscretion, then Vinnie found out. He was not pleased. Then Vinnie found out Pauline was pregnant. He was really not pleased. Sal left before his son was born. Rumor has it that Vinnie told him to leave on his own or in several boxes by UPS. Pauline took back her maiden name, raised her son under the Paolucci name, and Salvatore's name was never mentioned again.

Pauline tries to control every aspect of her life and Gino's. She protected him from everything and pushed him to be the best he could. She will occasionally use big words that are inappropriate. Pauline hired Francois, Caterer to the Stars, because she wanted a high-class party. Francois astounded her with his sophistication and elegance. She keeps one eye on Lena's reaction and one on Gino. Bring in the gold lions and crepe paper, Pauline is ready to throw a swanky affair.

FRANCOIS DUVET

AKA Frank Davidson {Franc}

Francois is the caterer that everyone wishes they could have arrange their parties. At least that is what Franc thinks. He is a bit taken with himself. The party he throws isn't necessarily for the host, but for Franc and you better not mess it up. He calls himself the "Wizard of Food, " because Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz is his favorite movie. He prides himself on his ability to dance the dance of the world, although poorly, and speak in the language of culinary arts with fake French thrown in for color. His "Flaming Spanish Buffet" is his trademark, although it usually consists of rigatoni and chicken.

Frank Davidson was born in Toledo and lived his life fighting on the streets to survive. He is not the tough street kid now. He enjoys what he calls, the finer things. He is ready to serve you and is always looking for ways to improve his party Just don't get in his way once the ball is rolling. Frank didn't graduate from high school. He learned to cook at Luigi's House de Rigatoni on Toledo's east side. He started out washing dishes and soon graduated to fry cook. The chef at Luigi's was Harold, a former marine cook, that took Frank under his wing and taught him everything he knew about cooking. Frank soon learned how to cook spaghetti for a platoon of 125 and meatballs for a setting of 400. After Luigi's burned to the ground, Frank was out on the street with a little experience and not much else.

He soon learned that to do well in the restaurant business he needed to be flamboyant. Being a bit that way already, Frank became "Francois," and was hired at a trendy Italian restaurant as a waiter. Learning the business from table to table, he was figuring out what people wanted. It turned out that it usually wasn't what Franc wanted. He knew he could do better and began to order for the customer, much to their dismay. One day a wealthy businessman came in and luckily Franc was working his table. Franc told the man he would order fettuccine with clams. The man told him no. Five minutes later the man said it was the best fettuccine with clams he had ever had. That same customer was so impressed with Franc's fortitude that he asked him to work for him in the catering business. Franc jumped at the chance. He created food and party ideas and eventually took the business on his own and is now the "Wizard of Food. "

Franc still likes to order for people and now he gets to. His panics are spectacular, if not a little odd. Is Franc 'gay'? Yep. One must admit that his passion for purple and Judy Garland is a little extreme.

BROTHER SAMMY WILSON

Brother Sammy is the founder and Chief Financial Officer of the House of the Rising Sun Congregational Temple and pool hall. Brother was saved when he finished his MBA, and found that he had a gift for saving and spending other people's money. Brother Sammy is a licensed marrying preacher and the Sisters of Salvation are his witnesses. While his flock is growing, he hopes that his big break will be on TV right after the morning business report, and before Matilda 's Sewing Room on public access channel 94. He met Father Michael at a fundraising seminar and they have been acquaintances ever since.

Sammy is definitely a last resort as a replacement for any priest. He grew up wondering what having money would be like. He dreamed of the day he could drive that new Lincoln Continental have plenty to spend on women and fun. His mother and father were middle class working people. Sammy was raised in a happy home with most of what he needed to survive. He wasn't poor but he always could have used more. On his tenth birthday, Sammy was given a new bicycle. It was the red standard bike with coaster brakes and a banana seat. While he took the bike and rode it to the pleasure of his mother and father, he secretly desired that black BMX bike Billy Thompson had down the street. That was the ultimate. Someday, Sammy thought, he would have that BMX bike.

Being the middle child in a family of three, Sammy waited to reach the point where he would have that freedom and power to do what he wanted, when he wanted. It seems that the Lord showed him the way, and "the way" was the way Sammy thought it should be. Sammy is still after that BMX bike, and he plans to have it soon, "Praise the Lord!" Remember, "You don't need to worry about the Devil when Brother Sammy's near." Amen! He'd be no match for Brother Sammy.

SISTERS OF SALVATION (ESTHER IRIS, etc.)

The Sisters of Salvation are Brother Sammy's backup. Saved from a casino in Reno, these former showgirls were saved by his limo on a street corner in the rain. Ever since they have followed Brother Sammy. They view him as their leader, such as a big brother. They are loyal followers and know that Brother Sammy has the best intentions on saving sinners and helping the helpless.

The Sisters are good women who have reformed from their wicked pasts. They are thoughtful, loving and always ready to lend a hand to those in need. While they do enjoy Brother Sammy's limousine, they know that the House of the Rising Sun Congregational Temple is their home.

The Sisters are good singers. Occasionally, they give even Brother Sammy a line he can't believe. They are true to their calling, but sure enjoy a new sequin dress. The Sisters love each other and rely on one another for strength. They use biblical quips like, "Snake in the Garden," and "Put that apple back on the tree, Brother." Sometimes, they don't make a lot of sense but they do make a point somewhere. At a recent revival meeting, Esther and Iris both got so taken by the spirit that they started singing so loud they nearly knocked the front pew over. Brother Sammy took hold and directed their "feelings" to a proper place, the collection plate. That day they set a record for the most money in one passing. That record still holds today. Halleluiah!

CHARITY CASE

Charity is very pregnant. She works for Gino at the jewelry store, as a salesgirl. Charity grew up in the same neighborhood as Gino and is considered a nice girl. Maybe a little too nice. Obviously, she doesn't know who the father of her child is. Her name, as one can imagine, has been a joke since she was child. Her father, Jimmy A. Case, and her mother, Pat A. Case, thought Charity was such a beautiful name. Only later did they hear the problem after it was a little too late.

Charity has no other children and just survives on her meager salary. Gino is good to her and tries to give her what he can, when he can. Charity is not well educated but handles herself well in the store. Customers like her and ask for her when they come in. She lives alone in a small apartment downtown. It is nice and clean and has an appearance that Mary Ann from Gilligan's Island lives there. She is looking for a husband for her child, or at least looking for the father of her child. Who knows what she will find. She would love to be married and live in a neighborhood like Gino and Angel. A little envious of Angel, a little envious of what she has, and maybe she would like to see it be hers.

Charity wouldn't dream of coming between Angel and Gino. She feels lucky to have a boss like him and continuously is trying to find ways to thank him. He always helps her out when she's in a jam, which is often. It just seems like she always ends up being misunderstood. That has always happened to her. Charity is not depressed by her situation. She thinks being a mother is an exciting prospect. Her big dream is to have a nice house with a white picket fence and yellow roses, just like Angel and Gino. But until then, she'll manage and will be the sweet little pregnant girl with the black cloud hanging over her head.

JINX VERONA/JON VINCENT

Jon Vincent was raised in the neighborhood and was a best friend of the gang. He played sports with the guys, ran around with friends and dated girls. But he always felt something was missing. The four guys were pals to the end. Gino remembers the time they set Jon up with Sly's sister, Rosie. They seemed the perfect match. Both loved theatre and movies, both loved art museums and galleries, both loved antique stores and both loved Tommy Wilson, the quarterback of the football team. Rosie and Jon became the best of friends and confidants.

One day, when Jon was home alone, he found his mom's makeup case. As he experimented with the lipstick and rouge, a new persona was being born. In her closet, he found the blue Givenchy gown. As he tried it on, the transformation became complete. Jinx Verona appeared. He was fifteen. Jon told Rosie about the gown and asked her to help him with his hair.

Rosie married and moved to Europe, but they still stay in touch. She has never told Jon's secret. Jon went to college and during that time, he, Gino, Sly and Lester began dancing at Big Johnson's Wonder Bar. The Staying Alive strip number was a big hit with the ladies. After college, Jon left the neighborhood for the lights of the big city. A communications major in college, Jon thought Paris sounded intriguing. He felt the further away he was the better and the more free he could be. He still loved his friends and kept in touch through email but never let them know about his other persona. When Gino was to be married, Sly contacted him. Jon came home to be in the wedding, but left Jinx in Paris then immediately returned abroad. After that Jon never returned to the old neighborhood. Gino and Sly wondered why Jon had become so reclusive and rarely kept in touch.

Jon began to grow tired of his European life and decided it was time to move closer to home and come out of the closet. He wanted to keep his move quiet until he was established. One day, while searching for jobs on the internet, he found an advertisement for a television spokeswoman on the Shop From Your Couch Network. He applied as Jinx and was called for an audition. To "her" surprise, she walked in and there was Gino and the network people. She paused, waiting for a response from Gino, then realized he didn't recognize her. Should she tell? Did she dare mention her double life? No way. There would be a time and place for that. She just wanted the job and she got it.

Jinx Verona was the new spokesperson for Gino's Family Jewels World of Tanzanite, on public access channel 93. When the anniversary party was planned, Jinx was even consulted about the arrangements. She does have exquisite taste.

So, Jinx will be at the party to celebrate a wedding "she" was a part of five years earlier. Funny, everybody wonders what happened to Jon Vincent. They are about to find out.

BENNY " CLICKS" MORENO

Clicks is a close friend of Francois. They work together exclusively. Actually, they know each other better than anyone. Clicks knows when to capture Franc in his frame and when not to. Clicks' greater claim to fame is his work with the Midnight WORLD Leader, the tabloid paper that usually tries to get pictures of aliens. If none are available, they create some. If no alien creators are available, they buy pictures of celebrities in precarious positions. Today his target is the Senator and whatever he can get from him. It's been a slow month and Clicks needs a shot. He will be ready, but of course he wouldn't forget his friend Franc. He has to get pictures of the "Flaming Spanish Buffet" for the 150th time!

Clicks attended NYU to study photography. His dream was to become a respected photo journalist. Now he crawls through the mud waiting on rude celebrities or drunken politicians. Those dreams still exist, they just don't pay the bills.

Clicks would lure a tiger with a baby to get a shot if he had to. His last job was with the local newspaper. After a month, he decided he needed more excitement. Now he follows ambulances and policemen. Clicks' favorite saying is, "Keep the motor running, this shouldn't take long." it usually doesn't. He gets the shot and leaves. He always gets his man. He got a tip from an unnamed source, (rumor has it, that it was Muffy) that if he wanted a juicy picture and a great scoop, this party was the place to be. Clicks knew that every perfect couple with a Senator in the family has skeletons in the closet. And tonight, he was determined to crack those bones.

RJCARDO SCHWARTZ

Ricardo calls himself "The Professional Entertainer." He is a man born in the wrong decade. He loves the standards of Sinatra, Dean Martin, Tony Bennett and loves to put that special "Ricardo touch" on all the songs when he sings at the local karaoke bar.

Ricardo is divorced and does not date at present, choosing to focus on his expanding career. However, he will never pass up a good time with the women. He plays music for the local clubs and bars around town. The bar crowd knows Ricardo can spin 'em with the best. He is best described as a lounge lizard. From his crushed velour suit jacket to white shoes, Ricardo knows he is stylin'!

He met Gino when he was spinning the tunes at Big John-son's Wonder Bar, where Gino was a regular dancer. He always felt he should be up on stage because he thought he had the moves of a dancer. Ricardo and Gino became friends and one, night after hours, Gino stayed and taught Ricardo one of his dance routines. Unfortunately, he never got to perform.

He does well with his business. According to Ricardo, "People know quality." Others say it's because he's cheap and first in the phonebook, AAAA Ricardo's Entertainment.

He is slick, hip talking, overblown and egotistical. He has worked with Francois before and the two don't get along. Don't be surprised if they start fighting at some point. Ricardo demands attention and that doesn't bode well with Franc.

Ricardo thinks he will be discovered at one of these parties. After all, he was hired for the society event of the season. Maybe tonight will be his big break.

VINNIE PAOLUCCI

(Optional Character)

Vinnie is the Italian patriarch of the Paolucci family and Gino's grandpa. He is rigid in his beliefs on marriage and family and would hear no mention of living together without being married. He raised his only daughter, Pauline, to be a tough, loving woman and is proud of his accomplishment. Born in Montenero, Province of Campobasso, Italy, Vinnie was raised in the mountainous regions to be a hard-working laborer of the land. One day when he was fourteen, he met his beloved Lucille while he was tending to the sheep. Both families thought it would be a perfect union. When Vinnie was sixteen, he immigrated to the United States and told Lucille he would be back for her. Speaking no English, he began doing odd jobs. Soon after, he established a bar, The Paolucci Palace, in an Italian neighborhood. When he

was eighteen, he went back to his homeland, married Lucille and brought her to the states. A year later, his only child was born.

Today, Vinnie is retired and recently sold the bar, much to the dismay of the family. He taught his family never to discuss the part of the business that functioned in the backroom, behind the swinging door. They were aware of it, but when Vinnie says, "You respect what I tell you and keepa your mouth shut, capice?" The family listens. Papa wanted to train his only grandson to take over that part of the business, but Gino wanted to be a legitimate, respectable business in the community. When Vinnie found out that Gino was the "Featured Italian Stallion" at Big Johnson's Wonder Bar, he was furious. Rumor has it that he kept his grandson in the back room for twelve hours that day. Lucille says in over fifty years of marriage, she never heard such Italian words that came out of her husband's mouth. From that day on, Gino's wild days were over, and that day behind the swinging doors was never mentioned again. To this day, only Gino and Vinnie know exactly what happened for those twelve hours. Vinnie taught his grandson to respect his family and his possessions.

For the most part, Vinnie's work is done and he enjoys his retirement. The ideal day for him is spent stopping by Gino's Family Jewels then coming home to a good old-fashioned plate of Lucille's homemade manicotti.

LUCILLE PAOLUCCI

(Optional Character)

Lucille is the proverbial Italian grandma married to Vinnie forever. They don't know what one would do without the other. She wonders where Vinnie goes each day since the bar closed,

but doesn't worry because he is always home for dinner. She totes on her great-grandchildren as a great-grandmother would and is especially proud of her grandson, Gino. She likes Angel and helps her try to become more Italian so she can be part of the family. She made it her mission to teach her non-Italian granddaughter how to make Gino's favorite meal, her homemade manicotti. After five years of their marriage, she is still teaching her.

Lucille is an old world Catholic Italian woman. When Vinnie brought her to the U.S., she brought three things: her rosary, her Bible and her favorite pasta bowl. She didn't speak much English but Vinnie and Italian ladies in the neighborhood taught her. Lucille is content making Vinnie happy and not getting involved in the family business. She would follow Vinnie to the ends of the Earth. They have lived together so long they often begin to say the same things at the same times.

Lucille doesn't like to dress fancy. Plain black with a black veil and black shoes is her style. She is nice, genuine and caring. She would love to have everyone over for homemade manicotti and probably will.

