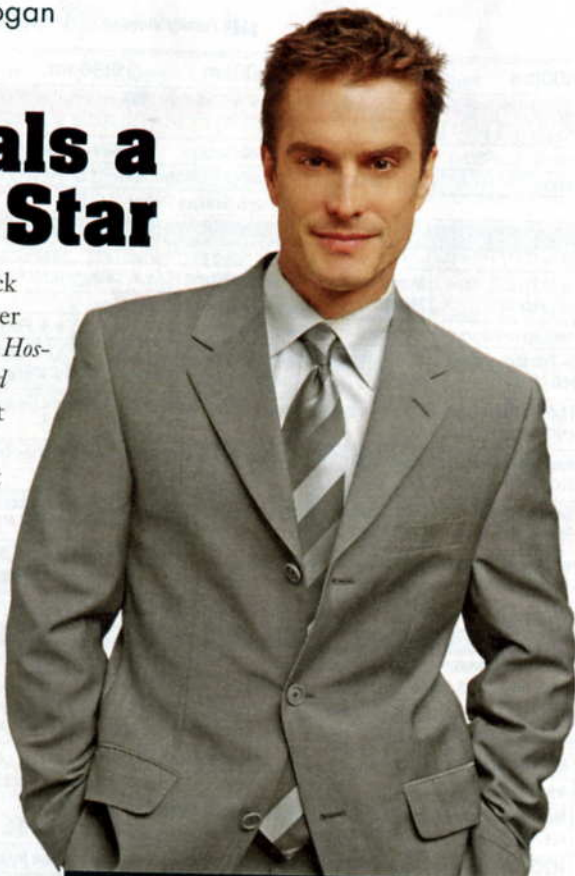


# B&B Steals a Hospital Star

Three-time Emmy winner Rick Hearst has left his role as lawyer Ric Lansing on ABC's *General Hospital* for a gig on CBS' *The Bold and the Beautiful*. Hearst hadn't intended to make the switch, but ABC took him off contract to trim the budget and made him a recurring player. CBS offered him a long-term deal. On *B&B*, he'll again be seen as fashion PR man Whip Jones, a role he played in 2002 before joining *GH*.

"It's not a big stretch," Hearst says with a laugh. "I'm going from a fast-talking, scheming attorney to a fast-talking, scheming publicist." The *B&B* offer came so suddenly that *GH* didn't have time to script a proper send-off. So, says Hearst: "Ric just gets in an elevator with an 'I'll be back,' full-on Terminator-style."

In his first *B&B* stint, wily Whip wed Brooke (Katherine Kelly Lang) to hide the fact she was pregnant by her son-in-law. This time around, he'll strike a deal with control-freak Stephanie (Susan Flannery) who wants him to woo Brooke and make her forget her obses-



"Was I saddened and disappointed *GH* took me off contract? Absolutely," Hearst says. "Was I surprised to get the call from *B&B*? Totally."

sive attraction to Ridge (Ron Ross). "Whip knows it's inevitable that Brooke and Ridge will get back together," Hearst says. "But hey, it's an opportunity and Whip's an opportunist! He's gonna play both ends against the middle. He's no schmuck."

Hearst's final *GH* episode airs on June 25. He hits *B&B* July 17.

## QUICK HITS



Donna comes on down for a spin with Drew

- Drew Carey appears on *B&B* June 17-18 when bitchy rivals Pam (Alley Mills) and Donna (Jennifer Gareis) try to become contestants on *The Price Is Right*.
- Peter Simon, one of daytime's best actors ever, is back on *Guiding Light* as Dr. Ed Bauer June 23. The good doc will be consulted by the seriously ill Phillip (Grant Aleksander). Expect more former faves to return before *GL* ends its CBS run in September.
- *The Young and the Restless* has a new Adam. Chris Engen, who allegedly quit rather than play

a same-sex kissing scene with actor Yani Gellman (Rafe), is last seen June 24. Ex-*Veronica Mars* star Michael Muhney steps into the role June 25. Engen, denying he's homophobic, gives a rather odd, vague explanation for his exit on his official MySpace page.



## EMMY WATCH



Maxie and Spinelli

• **BRADFORD ANDERSON** is the last guy you'd imagine becoming a soap star, and maybe that's why he's so damn popular. The young character actor is currently nominated for a supporting Emmy as *General Hospital* nerd Damian Spinelli. "When my manager told me I had an audition for *GH*, I thought it was the most ridiculous thing ever," Anderson says. "I was like, 'Yeah, right. *That'll* happen.' But look at us now!"

And how. Not only is Spinelli almost always in a front-burner plot, but he's snagged himself a hot blonde—Maxie Jones, the saucy, neurotic Kewpie doll played by Kirsten Storms (a nominee as outstanding younger actress). Alas, they're not exactly a couple yet—Maxie is also addicted to a naughty mob boy—and they've only hit the sheets twice in the last year. Both times it was an emotional disaster. Anderson reports that things start to steam up again in late June after Maxie catches Spinelli in a clinch with the nanny, Mercedes (Chrissie Fit), and gets jealous. "He and Maxie almost have sex but he puts on the brakes and insists on a proper courtship." Fans are OK with the slow burn, he adds: "They like the heartache. They're savvy enough to know a happy couple is boring."

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