

TV fans may remember her best as "Miss Beadle," the schoolmarm from Little House

on the Prairie, appearing throughout the series run from 1974 – 1978 on NBC, but veteran

actress Charlotte Stewart has enjoyed a lengthy show-business career in many other unforgettable, iconic and outright quirky projects. The California-born beauty's early credits include 1968's Speedway starring Elvis Presley and 1970's The Cheyenne Social Club, a comedy/western starring Academy- Award winners James Stewart, Henry Fonda and Shirley Jones, and directed by Gene Kelly. She went on to more acclaim, when in 1977, David Lynch cast her as Mary X in Eraserhead, in which he made his feature film directorial

debut after making short films; Lynch also wrote the surrealist horror. Thirteen years later, Lynch cast her again in the 1990 – 1991 short-lived cult classic, Twin Peaks, as Betty

Briggs. Over her five-decade career, she has guest-starred in countless TV classics

(Gunsmoke, The Waltons, Bonanza, My Three Sons, Hawaii Five-O, Matlock, McMillan &

Wife and more recently, The Office).

Never one to slow down, Stewart gathered with her 1990 Tremors co-stars Michael Gross,

Finn Carter and Conrad Bachmann for a 25th anniversary celebration of the cult classic

at Louisville's International Festival of Film last October.

Fans of the western monster film attended a special screening followed by a Q&A with the stars. Next year, she reprises her role as Betty Briggs as Twin Peaks continues as a Showtime miniseries, along with original-series stars, Kyle MacLachlan and Sherilyn Fenn, and new cast members Richard Chamberlin, Tim Roth, Naomi Watts and Laura Dern in a top-secret pivotal role. When she's not acting or connecting with Little House fans, she designs her own bags.

HFH sat down for a brief interview with Stewart as she prepares to release her memoir.

HFH: How did you get your start in Hollywood and how what was your experience on

Little House on the Prairie?

CS: I started in theater when I was 17 at the Pasadena Playhouse. Got my first union

job on The Loretta Young Show in 1961. I did years of episodic television before Little House. It was a great family show on air and on set. Michael Landon was the whole enchilada - producer, writer, director, star, father, pal, friend. I loved him and it was

devastating when he died so young.

What is your fondest memory of 4 seasons on Little House?

I loved working with the kids and I liked the children who grew up to be best friends. I travel with Alison Arngrin and Karen Grassle often to Little House events. The first time I attended a fan event, I was blown away. There were a thousand men and women and children cheering us. I cried! Living in LA, no one showed any respect for us or our

show but the fans were out there. God bless them!

How were you cast in Eraserhead? What was it like to work with David Lynch?

As a working actor in Hollywood, I always made myself available to student filmmakers.

I met David Lynch and thought I could toss off a few days for his project, Eraserhead. Little did I know it would be 4 years!

You've played many memorable characters in iconic projects. Do you have a favorite?

As far as a favorite role, I loved Betty Briggs on Twin Peaks, the eternal optimist who wore a "happy face" button to Laura Palmer's funeral.

What can you tell us about you and the new Twin Peaks mini-series?

I will be returning as Betty Briggs in the new show, but that's all I can say.

Tell us about your line of bags.

My "Beadle Bags" started as a fundraiser for a cancer wellness program here in Napa where I live now. They feature pictures from Little House. Fans can reach me on Facebook or soon on my website charlottestewartbook.com

You've written your memoir to be released on June 1, 2016. What can you tell us

about it? What was the hardest part of your life to write about?

My memoir LITTLE HOUSE IN THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS a Bad Girl's Guide to Becoming Miss Beadle, Mary X and Me will be out on June 1st on Amazon and

on Bear Manor Publishing. It's a tell-all to say the least. I tried to be honest about my life, my loves, my mistakes and my recovery.

Entire contents copyright, 2016 by Northfield News Publishing, LLC. Individual articles, artwork, photographs and quoted matter are also copyright by their attributed authors. All rights reserved.