THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

THE BEST DAY

Departing Y&R star Tammin Sursok reveals that while she was sad to say goodbye, lying in a coma in her final scenes was the most fun she's had in ages!

The demise of Colleen Carlton is one of the best kept secrets in The Young And The Restless' history. In this TV SOAP exclusive, Australian actress Tammin Sursok talks about what precipitated her watery exit from the show, Colleen's final scenes and what is the next move in this multi-talented performer's career.

You had a great end to your run as Colleen, but have you noticed the greatest material is when you're about to exit a show? "I know! I was like, 'This is fantastic, this is an awesome storyline', but it was a joint decision. There were not that many stories being written for me. I took the time out to do a film and the result was no material for the character of Colleen, so we sort of parted ways. It was very amicable and I loved working there, and I have a lot of friendships from it."

What was it like acting brain-dead with tubes in your mouth? "All that tube stuff I did in three hours in one day. For me, it was the best day of my life. I always thought it would be a fantastic storyline if you were in a coma, because everyone is talking about you, but you get to work and lie down all day. What a fantastic job!"

Did you know how the show planned to kill off Colleen? "No, not really. I always like a big dramatic ending, so I was excited that I got to do that. But I didn't think I was going to have more work than I ever had in the two years I've been there! It was bittersweet because then I wanted to keep going. It was hard to leave by the time I had to say goodbye. I'm glad Colleen didn't get written out by having her go to another city to meet her grandmother, or go into the pantry and never walk out. That would be weird!"

Colleen had the most touching goodbye with her best friend, Lily: will you miss working with Christel Khalil (Lily)? "She's the closet person to me on the show... she and Vail Bloom (Heather), and it was hard to say goodbye knowing I may never act with her again. I know in my life I will be seeing her, but it was sad to say goodbye on set.

How was kissing Thad Luckinbill recently in scenes between Colleen and JT? "I have known him for so..."
OF MY LIFE’

What have your folks in Australia said about your decision to leave Y&R? Were they supportive of your decision?
“"My parents have been great! This world is very transient and vapid, and to have such strong support from my family is a blessing and amazing. They have been through it all with me. They have been very supportive of my decisions and I am very lucky.”

What's happening with your music career?
“I actually have a resurgence in myself to do it again. I'm writing and playing the guitar, because I feel there is a hole in me that I am not expressing. You know, hopefully, maybe I will get to do Broadway one day, or get to release an album down the track. Music is always a part of you and you’re either born with that or you are not. It's part of who I am!”

Would you ever consider doing another soap opera?
“No, I don’t think so. Not because I didn’t enjoy being on a soap, but for me I need to change and develop, and it would not be something I would do again. I get lazy with it and you rest on your laurels a bit. For me, I need to be a little afraid, and that is not what normal people gravitate towards. But I need the yearning and aspiration, so I need to keep going. Like I said, I am grateful to Y&R.”

Will you go home to Australia now?
“I will go home in two months for a month. I am going to be reviving myself and spending time at home. There are some Australian projects that I would love to sink my teeth into. My ideal life would be to shoot something in the States and in Australia.”

Of the Australian projects, who would you like to work with and on what?
“Everyone would love to work with Cate Blanchett or Russell Crowe, but I have an Australian friend, Nathan Phillips, who did Wolf Creek. He is a phenomenal actor - and he's my mate! I would love to do something with him.”

Are there any artists out there who epitomise your style?
“Yes, Adele. Her album is fantastic and that is the type of music that I would like to do. I like music that makes me feel something, whether it’s love or pain. That’s why I love singer-songwriters, because it’s coming from the heart.”

Did you watch the funeral of Colleen?
“I did watch it on YouTube because I wanted to see how it looked and how people responded to it. I thought they shot it well, and it did what they wanted it to do, but it’s a sad goodbye and it’s a new beginning for everyone.”

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long and Colleen has a long history with JT. I have never played that out on camera. I get nervous whenever there is anything like that, because Colleen was supposed to be nervous. It wasn’t a hard job to kiss Thad; that is what I get paid for!”

You also had a bitch fest with Victoria (Amelia Heinle) over JT before you left the show.
“I think that one of things I’m best at as an actor is confrontation. I love it and I think Amelia is fantastic. I think her story with Thad will go very far.”

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