



BIOGRAPHICAL

INFORMATION

NAME Cyd Charisse BIRTHPLACE Amarillo, Texas BIRTHDAY March 8

HEIGHT 5' 6" WEIGHT 115 lbs. COLOR HAIR dark brown COLOR EYES brown

FATHER Ernest E. Finklea OCCUPATION Jeweler RESIDENCE deceased

MOTHER Lela Finklea OCCUPATION Housewife RESIDENCE Los Angeles

EDUCATED Amarillo Grammar School, Hollywood Professional School.

MARRIED TO Nico Charisse, 1941 in France. Divorced 1947.

Tony Martin, May 9, 1948, at Santa Barbara, Calif.

CHILDREN (Names & Date of Birth) Nicky Charisse, May 7, 1942.

Tony Martin, Jr., August 28, 1950.

CITIES LIVED IN Toured United States and Europe as member of the Ballet Russe.

Honeymoon with Tony Martin in England, Germany, France and Switzerland.

STAGE AND RADIO EXPERIENCE American and European stage as dancer with

Ballet Russe.

CYD CHARISSE

One of the dance world's outstanding careers has led lovely Cyd Charisse first to fame and popularity as a striking ballerina with the noted Ballet Russe, then, in Hollywood, to even greater successes as one of the screen's most talented dancing actresses.

On her toes since the age of eight, Cyd came to Hollywood from Texas when she was twelve to study ballet under Nico Charisse. Less than a year later, she was ready to audition for Colonel de Basil of the Ballet Russe. Signed immediately, she toured the United States with the Ballet for a year, during which time her father proudly saw her debut as a soloist.

A few hours before the troupe's departure for Europe, she learned of her father's serious illness. She left for his bedside and the company sailed without her. After his death, she resigned with the Ballet and at 16 was ready for their European tour.

"We saw the great capitals of the world," she recalls, "only through hotel windows."

Although the gruelling work of the ballet allowed little time for sight-seeing, it could not curtail romance. August 12, 1939, in France, the dancer married her teacher, Nico Charisse. With the outbreak of the war, the Charisses returned to Hollywood where May 7, 1942, their son, Nicky was born.

Three weeks after his birth, David Lichine, choreographer who had known Cyd as a fellow member of the Ballet Russe, introduced her to Gregory Ratoff. The latter signed her for a dance specialty in "Something to Shout About", followed by a brief dancing role in

"Something to Shout About", followed by a brief dancing role in "Mission to Moscow". It wasn't brief enough to escape attention of Robert Alton who spotted her for the ballerina in "Ziegfeld Follies" at M-G-M where, today, she is one of the studio's most exciting stars.

The smooth sailing of her career did not parallel that of her marriage and in 1947 she and Charisse were divorced. She lived quietly with her mother and son until a memorable dinner party at the Bel-Air Hotel when she was introduced to singer Tony Martin. They were married in Santa Barbara May 9, 1948, and spent their honeymoon traveling through Europe, giving the bride a chance to see the cities which were once hidden from her by lace curtains.

The mother of a second son, Tony, Jr., born August 28, 1950, as Mrs. Tony Martin she is the mistress of a white Colonial Bel-Air home, whose walls are lined with French originals, Degas prints and Tony Martin sheet music.

TINTYPE

CYD CHARISSE...of Scotch, Irish, French and English descent, has all the calm of the Orient...nicknamed Cyd because her younger brother couldn't say "Sister"...likes black coffee, shows, caviar and French poodles... doesn't cook but bakes delectable cheesecake...she's delectable posing for it...sleeps best when it's raining and wears silk nightgowns in pastel shades...dislikes Roquefort cheese, naps, sardines and hot baths...prefers to be busy, crowds every minute of spare time, but always has time for a swim, to buy soft-soled slippers and eat a hot dog.

PICTURES

- "SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT", 1942
"MISSION TO MOSCOW", 1943
"ZIEGFELD FOLLIES", 1945
"THE HARVEY GIRLS", 1945
"THREE WISE FOOLS", 1946
"FIESTA", 1946
"TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY", 1946
"THE UNFINISHED DANCE", 1946
"ON AN ISLAND WITH YOU", 1947
"WORDS AND MUSIC", 1948
"THE KISSING BANDIT", 1948
"TENSION", 1949
"EAST SIDE, WEST SIDE", 1949
"THE ADVENTURES OF DON RENEGADE", 1950 (Universal)
"THE WILD NORTH", 1951
"SINGIN' IN THE RAIN", 1951
"SOMBRERO", 1952
"THE BAND WAGON", 1952
"BRIGADOON"