

Kevin Spirtas

(ex-Craig, *DAYS OF OUR LIVES*, 1997, 1998-2003, 2005)

At the party honoring the 40th anniversary of *DAYS* last November, Kevin Spirtas was especially celebratory. He had a good reason: The actor had just learned that he would be appearing as Corny Collins in the Las Vegas company of *Hairspray*. Now, the actor is living in the city of blinding lights, performing in 10 shows a week at the Luxor hotel.

"It's just great," he raves. "We started rehearsing on December 27. We learned the show in three weeks. Harvey Fierstein is reprising his Tony Award-winning role and is fabulous. We've had so much fun."

Living in Vegas has its perks, he reports. "We had a visit from Jerry Lewis," Spirtas relates. "He came to the stage and sat down and we all sat around him and we told stories and we laughed. The producers of our show arranged for us to see Celine Dion and several of the Cirque du Soleil shows, and I have friends who are actually in different venues and shows out here, so it's like my new frontier, Broadway West. It's really exciting."

And he's had many fan encounters there. "Every day or so, someone has followed me out to my car at Walgreens or somewhere else and said, 'Excuse me? Are you Dr. Craig? Why are you here in Las Vegas?' It's amazing to me that people still remember. Dr. Craig lives on."

Not content with his stage work alone, Spirtas recently released the CD *Night And Days*, a recording of his one-man show at L.A.'s El Portal Theatre in October 2005 that was a benefit to raise money for Hurricane Katrina victims. The CD includes standards as well as selections from *The Boy From Oz*, which Spirtas appeared in on Broadway. "I'm so proud of it. It's on iTunes, it's on amazon.com. It's so exciting. Live theater is where I thrive, and I love being with an audience and I think it comes through," he says. The CD is available at www.kevinspirtas.com and www.kritzerland.com.

The actor has a one-year deal for *Hairspray* and says he wouldn't mind popping back in to *DAYS*. "I let it be known to the powers-that-be if they ever need me to fly back for any business in Salem, then I'm more than willing," Spirtas smiles. □

JOHN PASCHAL/JPI; INSET: ARLENE RICHIE/JPI



Vegas, Baby!
The actor on the opening night of *Hairspray*.



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