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ST. LOUIS

APRIL 2001

MAGAZINE

Days of Our Lives'
Kevin Spirtas

CLASS ACTS

Meet Missouri's Most
Magnetic People

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APRIL 2001

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CLASS ACTS

Meet 20 of Missouri's Most Magnetic People

There are some people who just have it. The look. The personality. The brains. Maybe it's the way they carry themselves or the confidence in their step. These individuals know that this is their time and they've got it. Automatically, you want to meet them, to talk with them, to be their friend, or to date them. They are intriguing.

We've discovered 20 people—suggested to us by dozens of sources—whom we've named as some of the most charismatic people in the St. Louis and Missouri area. They impress us with what they are accomplishing in their communities and the excellence they strive for in their jobs and personal interests. You can see a certain intensity in their eyes, a soft-

ness in their smile. They've got the world on a platter—and a list of admirers.

Some of them, like the Blues' Jamal Mayers and University of Missouri basketball coach Quin Snyder, have chosen career paths that thrust them into the limelight, making them local celebrities. Others, like tri-athlete Brandi Lueken and loving mother Georgeanne Rosenblum, carry on their everyday lives but shine in the extraordinary ways in which they embrace life.

We invite you to meet these magnetic individuals and to tell us who you think should be added to the list. We'll even print your suggestions in an upcoming issue. We think that you'll agree that these are some of the most dynamic people around.

PHOTOS BY
R JONATHAN REHG
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

KEVIN SPIRTAS

Actor, "Days of Our Lives"

Kevin Spirtas is hardly the crafty and cunning Dr. Craig Wesley we love to hate on "Days of Our Lives." He's actually sweet, charming and passionate about acting and theater.

We all know that Spirtas is daytime's sexiest heartthrob, but what you may not know is that he's from St. Louis. But the L.A. spotlight hasn't lessened Spirtas' love for his hometown. Every year in October, Spirtas returns to Ladue High School to star in a performing arts scholarship concert. The show is produced by his high school music teacher and mentor, Jo Anne Smiley, and features Ladue graduates. "Jo Anne has been my mentor for 30 years," Kevin says with affection. "She has been very instrumental in helping me find my voice literally and metaphysically."

Spirtas may have gotten his start in high school plays 18 years ago, but since then, he's landed roles on Broadway and guest-starred on a slew of television shows—"L.A. Heat," "Silk Stalkings," "Quantum Leap."

"And I'm the king of slasher-film sequels," he jokes, with notable roles in *The Hills Have Eyes II*, *Friday the 13th VII* and *Subspecies II & III*. In 1999, *TV Guide* touted him for a "Best Supporting Actor" Emmy, and *Soap Opera Digest* nominated Spirtas for "Best Villain."

So what do you have in common with the ruthless Dr. Craig Wesley? "He's a man of great drama and love," he says. "He really does have a good heart, and I give him great spirit, even if he's scheming."

Oh, there's also that mischievous twinkle in his eyes and that alluring smile. We admit it: We've got a thing for bad boys.

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Alternative occupation: I love marine life and swimming with dolphins and sea turtles in Maui. The aquatic world fascinates me. But I'm doing what I love most—acting, singing and performing—and the minute that love leaves, I'm out of here.

What's your greatest asset? My capacity to be sensitive to others and my sense of perseverance.