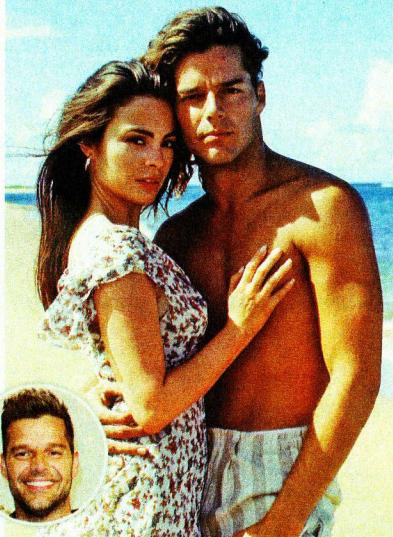


RICKY MARTIN 1994

Five years before Martin's world got *loco*, he was teen dad Miguel for a season. "He was already a Latin American star, but this was a big acting challenge," *GH* casting director Mark Teschner tells *Us* of Martin, 41. "He threw himself into the role!"



As ABC's medical drama hits 50, show insiders open the files and fill *Us* in on its most famous residents

BY BRADLEY JACOBS

GENERAL HOSPITAL

BEFORE THEY WERE STARS!

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With reporting by Cara Sprunk & Marisa Sullivan

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DEMI MOORE 1987

From day one, GH's team wanted Moore. "Demi walked out and said a line in that voice — scruffy and sexy. Everyone's head turned!" relates stage engineer Sandy Masoni. Then age 19, Moore ditched her journalist character Jackie (a brief love of Luke, played by Anthony Geary) after only one season. *St. Elmo's Fire* opened two years later!



JACK WAGNER & JOHN STAMOS 1983

"At first, Jack was like, 'I'm good-looking, and I'm a great actor,'" recalls Masoni of Wagner, 53, GH's charismatic Frisco on-and-off since 1983. But one day (cue the striking music!), Wagner went too far. "I said, 'Cut the swagger, we're family here.' He sent roses and we



were pals." Among Frisco's bandmates: a foster kid named Blackie — played by a fresh-faced John Stamos from 1982 to 1984. "Blackie was supposed to be really tough," explains Masoni. But when the actor, 49, "would screw up his lines, he'd smile and turn all red!"

RICK SPRINGFIELD 1981

The Aussie, 63, checked in as Dr. Noah Drake in 1981, the year "Jessie's Girl" topped the charts. He left in 1983, but has returned over the decades — and sang his big hit on the April 8 episode!



AMBER TAMBLYN 2001

At 12, she beat out hundreds for the part of drug-abusing, cancer-stricken teen Emily. Tamblyn, 29, who starred from 1995 to 2001, "had something special," says Teschner. "We knew it!"



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