



Staff photo — Patrick Springfield

Waco native Russell Patrick Latham has moved from behind the hairstylist's chair to in front of the camera, such as in this "The Young and the Restless" scene, in his career.

STYLING THE SOAPS

Waco native goes from hairdresser to actor for daytime drama 'The Young and the Restless'

By **CARL HOOVER**
Tribune-Herald entertainment editor

"Hair today, actor tomorrow," Russell Patrick Latham might have quipped to his high-profile clientele a year or two ago and events would have proven him right, although to be accurate one would have to throw writer in with actor.

And if something like that only happens in soap operas, well, that's exactly where it happened to the young and restless Waco native.

Latham, whose variegated resume encompasses stints as a hairdresser, theater wigmaster, actor and writer, presently pens the chatty "Coif-y Talk" column for the more than 1.3 million readers of *Soap Opera Digest* magazine and has written several magazine pieces on soap opera personalities and programs.

The 1974 Richfield High School graduate is back in town, returning in March

after the death of his sister, Mary Kathleen Latham. He's stayed since then to care for his mother, Lucy, whom many in Waco remember for her years with Cox's Department Store and its book department.

Though removed geographically from his friends and contacts in Southern California and New York City, Latham, 41, is keeping in touch via faxes, e-mail and phone calls while he's preparing his current project, a book with the working title *The Divas of Daytime 1998*.

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