A photograph of a woman with short brown hair, wearing a red jacket, sitting on a bed in a rustic cabin. She is smiling and holding a ginger cat. The background features a stone fireplace with a fire, three red stockings hanging from a mantel, and a decorated Christmas tree. A silver fruit bowl sits on the mantel to the left. The scene is warmly lit, creating a cozy holiday atmosphere.

celebrity home

Patti LuPone comes

The Broadway star invites McCALL's to her cozy Connecticut cabin.



BY LISA ARCELLA
PHOTOGRAPHED BY
DAVID MCINTYRE

Most roaming bands of holiday carolers don't include the star who originated the title role in *Evita* on Broadway belting out the best version of "Jingle Bells" ever heard. But that's just the kind of sweet treat Patti LaPone likes to give her neighbors in rural Litchfield County, Conn.

"Our neighbor is a farmer, and we all climb on hay bales in the back of his truck and ride around singing carols throughout the neighborhood," the Tony Award winner tells *MCCALL'S*. "It's so much fun."

Fun is what the holidays are all about for Patti, her cinematographer husband, Matthew Johnston, and their ten-year-old son, Joshua. "We entertain," says Patti. "I like to do all the cooking, and the house is usually filled with people." ▶

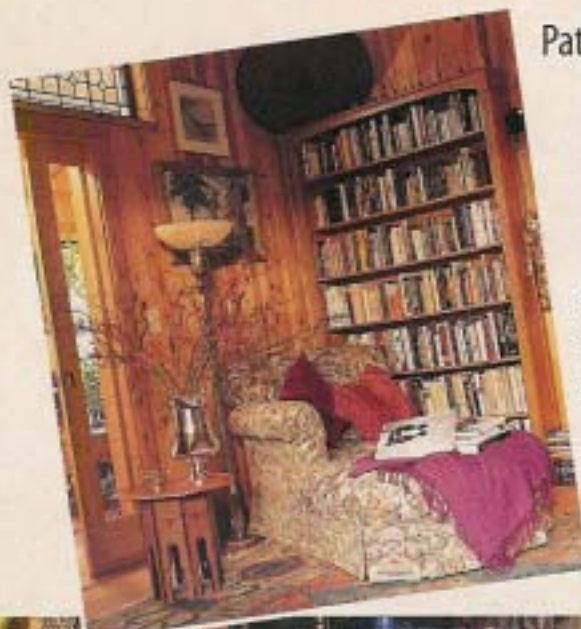
Patti and Lucky relax in the living room, left, among antique Persian rugs. The oak dining room table displays the family's collection of Fiestaware and handblown Venetian glassware.

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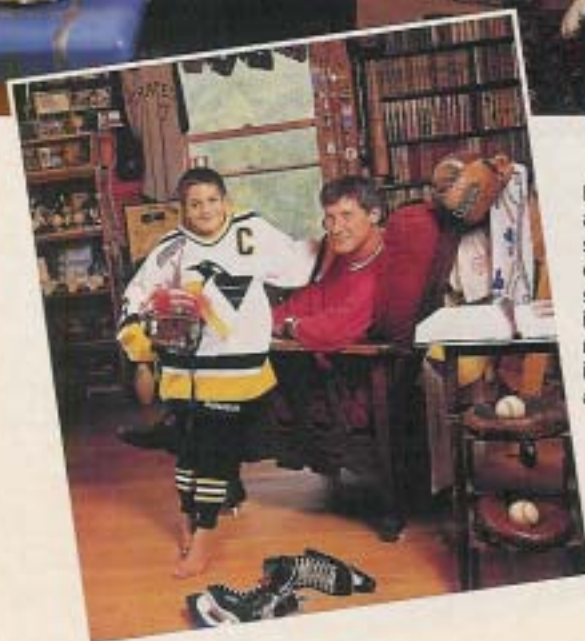
home

Patti LuPone comes home (continued from p. 39)



Patti's study, left, is a haven for antiques gathered while traveling. A Burmese table is part of the mix.

A holiday treat for Indiana, below. Patti's cozy kitchen holds her collections of chicken figurines and folk art.



Patti's husband, Matt, and hockey-loving son, Josh, are also collectors. The two spend hours together in a room of baseball memorabilia that includes over 200 autographed balls.

That sense of welcome begins as soon as you turn into her winding driveway, which is flanked by white birch and pine trees. At the end, on top of a small mountain, sits the rustic Adirondack-style cabin that Patti and her husband designed themselves. "I always wanted a log home," she says. As she walks, Indiana, a yellow Labrador, and her cat, Lucky, trail closely behind her. "We like to call this place the Lazy Lay Ranch and Spa. There's a tepee, a swimming pool, a fishing pond—it's like a camp. Kids love it here. It's just a fun place to be."

And a restful one, a world apart from New York City, where Patti began her career. After attending the prestigious Juilliard School, she landed her breakthrough role as Eva Perón in *Evita* in 1979. Since then, she has juggled roles onstage, in films and on TV, where she is probably best known as the mom on the long-running series *Life Goes On*. More recently Patti has played edgier parts, like the Bronx beautician in last year's *Summer of Sam*. This month she costars with Sarah Jessica Parker in the David Mamet film *State and Main* and she can be heard in concert at New York's Lincoln Center in her own show, *Matters of the Heart*.

Patti's career has taken her around the globe, and during her travels she alternates singing with hunting for the diverse antiques and collectibles she displays throughout her 15-room home. "I have lots of masks from India and Africa and musical instruments from all over the world," she says. "I think of this as an eclectic cabin in the woods that reflects our travels."

Collecting is a passion she shares with her husband, whom she met in 1986, when he was a camera operator and she was starring as Lady Bird Johnson in *LBJ: The Early Years*. "We stop in as many antique stores as we can. I search for kerosene lamps that we use all the time," Patti says. "When it snows and the power goes out, we light them. It's quiet and serene and just beautiful."

There are some 25 chickens, roosters and guinea hens wandering around the property, and Patti's biography even describes her "other job" as "chicken farmer." Patti relishes her role as a country girl. "I grew up on Long Island when there were still a lot of potato and horse farms. I guess it was a childhood memory that I wanted to relive," she reflects. "We never kill our chickens, though. They all have names, and we've become attached to them."

The one thing you won't see a lot of around the house is memorabilia from her career. "That's all locked away in a room in the basement," Patti admits. "I think it's ostentatious to keep that stuff on display. It's not to say that I don't love what I do, but my life is not my career." ■