

DEVIL IN DISGUISE

By **ROBIN MIZRAHI**

WE'RE taking back the brand, man!" When former "Charlie's Angels" star Kate Jackson uttered those words on stage at the Emmy Awards during the tribute to the late Aaron Spelling, few in the audience knew what she meant.

But The ENQUIRER has learned the 57-year-old actress plans to sue Spelling's billion-dollar estate, claiming she helped create and name the hit '70s TV series.

Kate, along with former "Angels" co-stars Farrah Fawcett, 59, and Jaclyn Smith, 58, reunited for the first time in years at the Aug. 27 award ceremony.

But while the actresses were all smiles on camera, the action behind the scenes told a less friendly story, according to an inside source.

"Farrah and Jaclyn had no problem reuniting for the show, but Kate was another issue," the source told The ENQUIRER.

"Kate has a lot at stake financially, and she's analyzing every move she makes."

Kate was the first of the three actresses to sign on to the "Angels" project and worked with Spelling before the pilot was made. Spelling had wanted to call the show "Alley Cats," but Kate, who played "smart" angel Sabrina Duncan, suggested naming it "Charlie's Angels" after she noticed a picture of three angels hanging on the wall of his office.

The ABC show has been shown in reruns, released on DVD, and spawned two feature-length films starring Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz and Lucy Liu.

"The possibility of a financial windfall for Kate is very real, and she's very determined to see it through," said the source.

Before the Emmy tribute, Kate proved too difficult to deal with for the show's producers, the source said. She fought over the wording of her script and even threatened not to go on stage.

But despite warnings from producers, Kate "ended up doing



Kate Jackson, center, feels her career was derailed by Aaron Spelling, left

ANGEL KATE SET TO SUE SPELLING ESTATE OVER SHOW

exactly as she pleased," ignoring the speech on the teleprompter.

Although it's been reported that a prompter malfunction was the reason Kate improvised, the source said that's not true.

"The prompter was working fine. But Kate was on a mission to tell the world about the integral part she played in the formation of 'Charlie's Angels.'"

Jaclyn was the only original "Angel" to stay for the show's entire run. Farrah left after one season, and Kate after three - but only after losing the big-screen role in "Kramer vs Kramer" to Meryl Streep because Spelling wouldn't let her out of her contract.

"I think that Kate's animosity

toward the Spelling estate stems from her feeling she truly deserves partial ownership," said the source.

"But she also must feel some bitterness because Aaron prevented her from taking what could have been a career-making movie role."

But it was Kate's outburst about "taking back the brand" during Jaclyn's tribute speech that left insiders stunned.

"We were all shocked that Kate actually had the nerve to say that on camera. The other two are not involved in the tug-of-war

with the Spelling estate.

"They don't think they're owed any more than what they already got from the show - fame and a career jumpstart."

