

Resplendent, Stunning, Twinkling, Unconventional, Validated, Wowed, exuberant, Young-again, ZZZZ

Dear Andrea,



Andrea's words to live by... (and how she felt 28 years later!)

A Lesson in Believing



The Miss USA pageant has a long history of making dreams come true. My company, Once Upon A Dream was also created to help make dreams come true. A few months ago, the Miss Universe Organization granted me the opportunity to sponsor a dinner during the Miss USA week for the 51 contestants that were competing.

This was the beginning of a whirlwind of preparations and excitement leading up to the April 2nd dinner and purple carpet event at Maggiano's Little Italy in Las Vegas. The theme of the evening was "On Top of Cloud 9" and a special shirt highlighting that theme was designed by Once Upon A Dream for each of the contestants to wear to the event. I know from personal experience that each girl that gets to compete at the Miss USA level experiences many cloud 9 moments that she will never, ever forget.

The night of the dinner, numerous media outlets gathered in front of the purple carpet. It was thrilling to meet all 51 contestants on the carpet and Miss USA 2007, Rachel Smith! I couldn't wait to go inside and get to know the girls more. I knew it was going to be a great night since it was also a fundraiser

for Once Upon A Dream's charity, the American Diabetes Association.

I was looking forward to sharing my thoughts with the girls and halfway through the evening, I had this to say to my guests:

"I chose to wear a 'Never Give Up' shirt this evening because I know that all of you never gave up to get here tonight. And even though I didn't win Miss USA 28 years ago in 1980 when I competed as Miss Pennsylvania, I never gave up on my dreams. Before I went to Miss USA that year, I received a letter that said to bring your tap shoes if you have them for a production number. It turned out the guest star my year was Donny Osmond and I got to tap right next to him! He was my teen idol and little did I know years later, I would be married to another teen idol of another generation, Fabian. It's funny how life is. At this year's Miss USA pageant, Donny returns as the host. Bob Barker was the host of the pageant my year and today I have placed models from my modeling agency on *The Price Is Right*. These are just a few examples of life coming full circle."

The only thing missing the night of the Dream Dinner was my mom, Gladys. She's my inspiration for Once Upon A Dream and the reason that the American Diabetes Association is the charity of choice for Once Upon A Dream. She passed away from diabetes complications one year ago.

However, the day before the Miss USA final night, something happened to me that made me realize that her spirit is still with me. Fifteen years ago, my mom and I celebrated my birthday in Las Vegas by playing the slot machines. She was playing a red, white and blue machine and decided to leave it. I asked her if I could play her machine. I put three more coins in and I won \$10,000.00! Every time I pass this kind of slot machine, I think of my mom.

So, on Thursday, April 10th, I went down to lunch and spotted a red, white and blue machine. I decided to play. I was down to only \$12.00 and I hit \$10,000.00! It was as if my mom was sitting right next to me! I believe in my dreams because this could only happen in my wildest dreams. I know that all of the wonderful events that week were because of her.

Appreciative, Bubbly, Contemplative, Different, Euphoric, Flirty, Glowing, Hospitable, Inventive

Finally, on to the final night of Miss USA and would I meet Donny again? After watching an incredible show and seeing the amazing women who I had gotten to know at our dinner, I was invited to the after party. I was thrilled for Miss Texas USA, Crystle Stewart because she never gave up in her quest to be Miss USA and I was enjoying seeing everyone at the party.

One of the production staff members knew my story about Donny and came up to me to let me know he was there. I walked up to him. He was surrounded by people wanting a photo with him. I caught his attention and introduced myself. I said, "My name is Andrea Patrick Forte and we met before in 1980 when I competed at Miss USA." His eyes lit up and he said, "Wasn't that in Biloxi, Mississippi?" I shared my story of tap dancing with him. He had a big smile on his face. I then told him I was married to Fabian. His expression was priceless. He told me to please tell him he said hello.

But, the most genuine moment happened when I told him about the Dream Dinner and our charity. I wanted him to know that I knew what it felt like to lose a parent and that my thoughts were with him and his family. He looked at me and said, "You have no idea how much I appreciate you saying that to me." And with that, he grabbed me and hugged me for what I thought felt like an eternity. Moments... cloud 9 moments. It's what we have, what we remember, what we look forward to in life. I am blessed to have many.

It's Never Too Late

Never Give Up

Believe In The Impossible

Dear Andrea, I read somewhere that a shirt from your company was going to be auctioned off for charity. Is that true and where can I get details about this? Chassidy Morgantown, WV

Dear Chassidy, Yes, this was one of the main parts of our Dream Dinner. We asked all 51 of the Miss USA contestants to sign our "Cloud 9" shirt and Rachel Smith, Miss USA also signed it front and center. We are auctioning it on eBay and will announce how much we raised for the American Diabetes Association on our website in the next few months.

My mom passed away from complications from diabetes and so that is why we chose the ADA as this year's charity. We also produced two calendars this year for 2009. A portion of the proceeds of the calendar sales will also be given to the ADA. For more info on this, visit our website at: www.what-is-your-dream.com.

So, never forget your cloud 9 moments in your life because...

Andrea's neccdots

Everything is a once in a lifetime opportunity. "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take." - Wayne Gretzky
Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the CLOUD 9 MOMENTS that take our breath away.

I want you to:

Relive Old Memories - Make New Memories - Never Give Up & Always Believe 'In Your Dreams'

Everything I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my heroic angel Mom! Andrea

If you have a question about our Dream Dinner or the American Diabetes Association, please write to me. I would love to hear your stories about how diabetes has affected your life or someone you love. I was so honored that so many of the Miss USA contestants shared some of their personal stories with me and I invite them to get in touch with me to partner with Dream and the ADA this year to fight the fight. I am also so proud to be affiliated with Kim and Supermodels Unlimited and will always be grateful to her for her unconditional, once in a lifetime friendship. E-mail me at: andrea@patricktalent.com.

Andrea Patrick Forte is the CEO and owner of Patrick Talent Agency - a national leading provider of television show hosts, models, spokesmodels, and top entertainment. Magazine model, Hollywood actress and a former finalist in the Miss America and Miss USA pageants, Andrea has proven that having a dream and working hard to achieve it shows that dreams really can come true. For further information, visit: www.patricktalent.com.



Quick-thinking, Philanthropic, Over-the-moon, Notable, Mischevious, Leader, Known, Justified