

Dear Andrea,

Andrea's words to live by...



My Dancing QUEEN Theory

It's time we find the dancing queen that's inside all of us.
By Andrea Patrick Forte.

"You can dance, you can jive, having the time of your life. See that girl, watch that scene, diggin the dancing queen."

Swedish pop group, Abba, big in the 70s and 80s, released a series of dance tunes and romantic ballads which quickly became a huge part of the soundtrack of the lives of those like me who were dancing right along through that decade. Dancing was my life, my passion and my creative outlet.

Today, I see so many of the young models I represent studying dance, which I feel is a benefit to their modeling and pageant careers. Dancing helps you to be graceful, coordinated and self confident, all of which seem to apply to being able to walk the runway and to have beautiful lines when being photographed.

"Night is young and the music's high. With a bit of rock music, everything is fine."

The musical, *Mamma Mia* has been seen by over three hundred million people and translated into eleven languages. To me, seeing this movie produced was another affirmation that women my age and older need not be overlooked in our industry or in life. We can rock it with the best of 'em! And just recently, Estée Lauder announced

that they had chosen not one, but four women to represent their new scent. Elizabeth Hurley, 43; Gwyneth Paltrow, 35; Caroline Murphy, 32 and Hilary Rhoda, 21. The idea was to represent women of all ages in their 20s, 30s and 40s. This is progress.

"You're in the mood for a dance. And when you get the chance... You are the dancing queen..."

You can even see Carmen Dell'Orefice in a Rolex ad and she is in her 70s. Until recently, a fashion model and a carton of skim milk had a lot in common - not enough fat and a short shelf life. Models who are 25 and older are now being referred to in our industry as 'classic' and 'sophisticated'. And it seems it is the fastest-growing area, which is a first for the industry. I for one am very proud to be in the 40s grouping. Right now, you can open up any fashion magazine and you'll see models over 35. Linda Evangelista, 42, is smiling for Prada, Christy Turlington, 39, is now in ads for Escada, Claudia Schiffer has campaigns for Ferragamo and Chanel and Naomi Campbell, 38, just replaced Kate Moss as the face of Yves Saint Laurent's fall print ads. This summer's big hit on TV Land, *She's Got the Look* focused on searching for a supermodel over the age of 35. Kim Alexis, who hosted the show and who graced hundreds of magazine covers in the 80s, is now 47 years old.

So, my dancing queen theory is this: You should never stop dancing your dance. Always treat yourself like a queen and sooner or later others will recognize the true beauty that's been there all along... regardless of the number on your driver's license. Because beauty should be seen and celebrated at any age.

Patrick Talent Model, Kaitlin White



"I will not stand to the side and allow the music in my heart to fade away and die. I will dance to my own life song and I will be seventeen again and again and again!"
~ Andrea Patrick Forte

Artful, Bombshell, Camera-ready, Dancer, Energetic, Flamboyant, Gleeful, High-stepper, Impressive

Dear Andrea,
This summer I moved my two daughters to NYC for auditions. However, we went back home several times for dance classes. Did this help us or hurt us with our agent?

Debbie
Asheville, TN

Dear Debbie,
Well, I can understand how important dance is to both of your daughters at this stage in their lives. When I was their age, I lived and breathed for dance alone and modeling wasn't even something I was thinking of pursuing.

I feel it would have been in your daughters' best interest to keep them in one place. The agency would feel that you were serious and your daughters would start to receive momentum with their castings. I think one way that you could handle this the next time would be to have your daughters take some dance classes in NY while pursuing their modeling full force and this way they won't be missing out on either. It is only for three months and great things can happen in a short time.

Dear Andrea,
As a model, should I always tell my real age?
Kristina
Lakewood, FL

Dear Kristina,
I recommend that all models should tell their agents their exact age and this gives their agent the room to judge what your 'age-range' should be. Some 30 year olds look like they are 20 and some 25 year olds can play teens. However, it can go the other way. It is as individual as the model is.

I do think that when you lie too far below your true age, it results in a couple of things. Not looking like your photos when you show up in person will be the kiss of death and you may miss out on casting opportunities when clients are looking for someone your 'exact' age. My theory is that we should all embrace who we are no matter what age we are, but I know that is not something everyone is okay with doing. So, it is up to you.

"Life is a dance from one stage to the next."
Thanks for being my teacher, Lorraine!
~ Andrea Patrick Forte

"Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, but she did it backwards and in high heels."
Thanks for being my partner, Richie
~ Andrea Patrick Forte

Patrick Talent Model, Alexandria White



So all you dancing queens out there, remember...

Andrea's anecdotes

"You are the dancing queen, young and sweet, only seventeen. Dancing queen, feel the beat from the tambourine."

I want you to dance like there's nobody watching and just:

Feel the Beat - Get in the Swing - Dream a Dream - You are the Dancing Queen!

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

GOTTA QUESTION? You need to write me! I want to talk to you! I am so proud to be affiliated with such a prestigious publication and delighted to offer to other models what I have learned as a way of giving back to an industry that has been so good to me.

E-mail me anything related to modeling that you would like to ask me to: andrea@patricktalent.com.
And, your questions just might get answered in the next issue of SU!

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.