

BEAUTY THROUGH THE AGES!



INDOMITABLE SPIRIT
ASMA NABEEL'S SURVIVAL SAGA

ARE YOU LIVING BUSY & LOVIN' IT?

ICE PRINCESS IN A HIJAB



THE FIGHT IN THE SHOWGIRL
KYLIE DEFIES CANCER

IDEAS on my own

Queen of the GAME

She may have spent 12 years in Africa before moving to Dubai in 2008, but Sakshi Nath will always be Indian at heart. The brains behind the Indian fine dining concept in Dubai, Tresind, she has taken her entrepreneurial zeal to the next level with two beauty salons. Sharon Carvalho speaks to the beautiful and driven woman

What inspired you to start your own venture?

I have always been very enterprising and like to spend my time wisely. Coming from a business background, I am good with running an organization. After getting married, my husband, Bhupendat Nath and I moved to Africa where I felt quite lost but he was very supportive and never let my passion die. Even after giving birth to my first born, I used to travel all over the world to get stock for the clothing and accessories exhibitions I ran. This led to me opening my boutique in Lagos, Nigeria. Having my family support me was very important. The marketing skills I gathered while doing my Masters came handy with Tresind as I was heading that division for the restaurant and was the face and spokesperson too.

Post the success of the restaurant, how did you decide to move to beauty salons?

After months of hard work, dedication and the support of a strong team, we created a new food concept in Dubai with Tresind. But, beauty was always in our cards. In fact, after working with fashion for the many years I was in Africa, when I moved to Dubai all I wanted to do was open a health and beauty spa. It took a lot of trial and error to find the right location and price but, I guess, everything happens when it's supposed to. For me, opening Queens Beauty Lounge and Real Beauty Salon is a dream come true. Having two locations is a big achievement and a bigger challenge all rolled into one.

What challenges have you faced while starting your business?

The biggest challenge was to create awareness among women. I want to create a brand, but more important is to inform women of a healthy lifestyle. For me, inner beauty is as important as outer appearance. I want to create a place where women can feel their troubles melt away. They should feel like a queen once they leave my spa. It wasn't easy to find a blend between the right staff, place, product and price to give women a five star feeling in a stand-alone spa. I believe that maintaining the high standard I have set is the biggest challenge. I cannot afford to compromise on it. But

we have to learn from our mistakes, deal with them and not repeat them.

What is most important in your beauty regime?

Keep it simple and healthy and make the right choices. Choosing a healthy lifestyle with clean food, exercise and resolving health and beauty issues is a must. For me, the most important part of outer appearance is your hair, hands and smile. We need to spend large amounts of money on brands but forget the smaller issues. Also, keeping my nails manicured is important because when I meet people and shake their hand, it's the first thing I notice.

What are your future plans?

I would like to get the license to run a clinic and address all treatments. I want to have my own brand products and exclusive services. And finally, I want to work with local faces that understand my passion and believe in beauty inside and out.

What are your thoughts on the beauty trends of the UAE?

People love beauty in this region. They spend a lot of time and money on their appearance. But sometimes, they don't have all the knowledge required to make correct decisions. I believe women need to take time for themselves and learn everything they can about their hair, skin and body.

Who influences your work ethic?

I have learned dedication and determination from my husband. I also draw a lot of energy from my children who are my first priority. I have also realized that you cannot do anything without the help and support of your family.

Flash forward 10 years, where are you?

I believe that life is beautiful, uncertain and unpredictable. I live for today and don't even think of tomorrow. I believe that God has a plan for me and whatever he has planned to me will come to pass. Where the business is concerned, I want to make every woman feel like a queen. ■



Photo: Mithy, Saranya/Hindustan



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