



Paula Molino: Proof you can have it all

Some people can't do things half way, and Lower Makefield's Paula Molino is one of them.

Read her resume and you need a nap. She's a business owner, a freelance writer, a lecturer and a QVC guest host. Did I mention she's married and raising two toddler boys?

Many women are surrendering to the wisdom that you can't have it all. Paula — petite, trim, with a head of dark, shiny curls — refuses to wave a white flag. After a successful retail career, she got married at 42, started her business at 44, gave birth to twins at 46.

Her attitude is summed up in the fact that she entered a Pond's contest last month: "Win your shot at fame and live the life of a Hollywood star. Pond's is searching for women in their 40s who are more beautiful and confident than ever."

She approaches all things with gusto, even leisure.

Her kiddie sewing hobby turned couture. When high school classmates made aprons in home economics, she fashioned her own formal gowns.

(These days, she's more apt to stitch curtains and Halloween costumes, but she's teaching others to sew in a Bucks County Community College continuing education course next month.)

When she took up gardening, Paula and her husband, Doug Wolff, designed a garden of 35 rose bushes and joined the Philadelphia and national rose societies, where they scooped up awards for their efforts.

When Paula took up ice skating at 42, she hired a coach, practiced tirelessly and performed in a holiday exhibition. Dorothy Hamill, eat your heart out.

When it looked as if she'd concentrated on her Manhattan retail career too long, and was too old to get pregnant, Paula wouldn't take no for an answer. It was an emotionally and financially draining medical ordeal. Then came the day she delivered twin sons.

Now she's raising them to the best of her ability, and you'd think that'd be enough to fill her days. It isn't.

Her other baby is 4-year-old Fashion Fix, a consulting, lecturing and personal shopping business that centers on Paula's number one passion — clothes, shoes and accessories.

"[Dressing well] isn't a luxury, it's a need," Paula says. The right color, the right cut, the right fit. When you look good, people think better of you. More important, you think better of yourself.

Her Web site is www.Fashionfix.com. Clients pay \$75 an hour to have her go through their closets, assess their needs and then shop with them. Her most recent call came from "a woman in a panic" who called on a Friday because she was starting a new job Monday with nothing to wear.

Recently, she landed a gig as a QVC guest presenter for jewelry. And, she hopes to teach a fashion design certificate course at the community college's Bristol branch in the fall.

Paula, do you sleep?

"I don't need eight hours," she says with a smile.

What she needs, she says, leaning forward, is a big break with this fashion-makeover thing. She was doing it for friends long before the reality shows, and she thinks she does it better.

"I want some national limelight. I'm ready to rake it in," she says with a laugh.

She concedes that her drive is part passion, part middle-child syndrome, but she makes no apology for wanting and doing it all. She's not making a statement, she's just living her life.

And if past performance is any indicator, we'll be seeing her make fashion fixes on "Oprah" any day now.

Kate Fratti, whose column appears on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, relates more to the gals who can't keep all the balls in the air, at least not with a smile.

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