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# Australasia

OFFICIAL

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## Editor's notes

Our second issue for this year is one that stays true to our central focus on beauty pageants and the related industry. However, at Miss Australasia Official we are passionate about empowering women worldwide. It's only natural that we wish to share information that is beneficial to this cause, including some weightier issues that are of topical relevance.

It's a unique blend of content that shapes our autumn edition of Miss Australasia Official. It's a jubilant celebration of exciting new talent that is enhanced by articles that pay due attention to the important factors that affect us in society - and, in particular women.

We hope you enjoy reading it as much as our team did in creating it.

Patricia Higgins  
editor in chief

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## IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

MEET THE MAN WHO WAS ACCUSED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OF BEING AN INTERNATIONAL ARMS DEALER AND MORE DANGEROUS THAN

# THE MAFIA

# Character vs beauty

## WHICH ONE'S MORE IMPORTANT?

By: Jenny Aluning

Defining beauty as a concept is akin to holding sand in your hands. You can grasp at it and you certainly can seem to understand what it looks and feels like, but it is by no means solid. They say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and this cliché certainly holds true. Approach anyone in the street and ask him or her to explain their ideal of beauty and you will undoubtedly get substantial variations in response. What you might come to discover is that defining beauty is closer to "I know it when I see it".

It becomes very obvious then that defining beauty is as subjective as one's taste in music. The search for it has spanned centuries – a relief in the tomb of the Egyptian nobleman Ptahhotep (who lived around 2400 BC) shows him getting a pedicure. Cleopatra wore kohl, a precursor to the modern eyeliner. Incarnations of what is considered 'beautiful' has ranged from breath-stealing corsets in the 19th century to achieve a tiny waist to our modern day gravity-defying, ankle-threatening stilettos.

And that search is an expensive one! According to the National Geographic, in the US in 2015, \$6 billion was spent on makeup, \$8 billion each on hair and skin care. \$20 billion was spent on diet products and services, and billions more on health club memberships and plastic surgery.

But what for? Experts from all different fields have weighed in to define beauty and why we search for it. Studies by anthropologist Don Symons at the University of California at Santa Barbara, and psychologist, David Perrett at St Andrews University in Scotland, all show that men consistently showed a preference for women with smooth skin, larger eyes, fuller lips and a smaller nose and chin because "all these traits are reliable cues to youth, good health and fertility." Essential characteristics we instinctively know (honed over millennia) are vital for continuing the human race. However, that hard-wiring in our brain circuitry can be altered, especially by culture, according to Douglas Yu, a biologist from Great Britain whose studies for example, found that indigenous tribes in Southeast Peru preferred body shapes regarded as overweight in western culture. "A fuller, evolutionary theory of human beauty must embrace variation," says Yu.

So, who's been shaping the modern definition of beauty? That modern definition that has us worshipping Victoria's Secret models, A-list stars and beauty queens, and has us comparing our bodies to theirs? That has us modifying our eating habits that in an ever-growing number around the world, has resulted in eating disorders? That has us losing our sense of self-worth and self-esteem? It's so easy to blame the media – magazines, TV, movies – as the culprit. But who buys those magazines, watches those TV shows, goes to the movies?

We do.

In a twisted sort of way, we ourselves have been responsible. What we watch, what we buy has inadvertently shaped what modern society now considers beautiful. So, in recognizing that, can we then be the instruments of change?

I am an aunt to three beautiful little girls and I find myself sometimes terrified when I think of the challenges that face them when they grow up. I was fortunate enough to have grown up surrounded by strong, confident women and in that most essential stage – the teenage years, the high school years – when your perception of yourself in relation to others is shaped, I was blessed to have had a group of friends who couldn't care less what anybody else thought of them. They were proud in who they were and in the dreams and ambitions they had for themselves. After high school, I again found myself, in the form of my two best friends and the women in my Christian youth group, with kindred spirits whose values and integrity meant more to them than superficial cares. I look back at those women, grateful that I knew them, and praying that my nieces will have women like them who will stand steadfast against today's shallow perception of beauty.



When I was researching this article, I decided to have a look at the dictionary's definition of beauty. According to Merriam Webster, beauty is:

- The quality of being physically attractive
- The qualities in a person or a thing that give pleasure to the senses or the mind.

Now that second part got me thinking... "qualities that give pleasure..." Isn't that a healthier way of thinking about beauty? I mean, something can be physically attractive or 'beautiful' but deadly like a poisonous plant, and in that same vein, someone can be stunningly gorgeous but be a horrible person inside. So, I think instead of aiming to be beautiful, we should aim to be attractive. I mean, let's face it, There is no way you can look like those models in the magazines. You know why? Because you don't have the same genes they do, It's as simple as that.

So, what do I mean about aiming to be attractive? Being attractive means that you're the sort of person people are drawn to – like two magnets being pulled towards each other. Not drawn to you because of how gorgeous you look, but because they actually want to spend time with you. They are drawn to you because you are a person with a good heart, whose confidence and positive nature is just as irresistible as honey is to a bee. It's a challenge, yes. And much more difficult for some to achieve than others but that's what my circle of strong, confident women taught me – that my heart is more important than my face. Because ultimately, when I'm at my most unguarded, when the only critic I face is me and I ask: "Do I love me?" and when I can say: "Yes"....that's when I feel beautiful.

WHY ARE WOMEN WAGING WAR ON GENDER

# Wage Gap?

By Jenny Aluning

When Patricia Arquette won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress last year, she used her time on stage to cast a glaring spotlight on the issue of the gender wage gap in Hollywood. Here's an example: Robert Downey Jr was Hollywood's highest-paid actor for 2015 when he earned \$80 million. Jennifer Lawrence, the highest-paid actress, earned \$52 million.

The truth is – Hollywood is not an exception. The gender wage gap is present throughout the entire workplace – from the top of the ladder to its lowest rungs. While the gap between what men and women earn has narrowed since President John F Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act in 1963, it still exists. The gap has many causes and contributors including differences in education, experience, the type of job or industry, and family responsibilities. But according to research by Claudia Goldin – a labour economist at Harvard University – the gap persists even after controlling for hours, education, race and age. "Female doctors and surgeons, for example, earn 71 percent of what their male colleagues make, while female financial specialists are paid just 66 percent as much as comparable men," says Goldin.

On average, in the US, women are paid 79 cents for every dollar paid to men (2014 Bureau of Labour Statistics). Today, women account for 47% of the labour force, up from 29% in 1948. Increasingly, reliance on a woman's income, either as the primary or co-breadwinner, is becoming more and more common. It's clear then that achieving equal pay in the workplace is now not only a women's issue but a family issue as well.

While this article has been, so far, focused on the US, the reality of the gender wage gap is worldwide. A report by the OECD or the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (made up of 34 member countries, it was established in 1961 to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world) showed that the pay gap in the US is currently larger than the OECD average. New Zealand has by far the smallest wage gap – 13 percentage points lower than the US, followed closely by Belgium, Norway and Denmark. Australia's wage gap is about 1-2 percentage points higher than that of the US. But while the gap in the US has plateaued since 2000, other nations have been working hard to close it during that same time. Japan is still the country with the largest wage gap (9 percentage points higher than the OECD average) but it has actually reduced that gap by one-third in the last 15 years. In early 2015, Britain introduced a plan requiring companies with 250 employees or more to publicly report their own pay gap. The move was echoed in a few other countries including Austria and Belgium. The disclosures "will cast sunlight on the discrepancies and create the pressure we need for change, driving women's wages up," said Britain's Prime Minister, David Cameron.

And it seems to be making an effect already. When international consulting firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers ran an internal analysis and voluntarily released its gender pay gap in Britain (joining other companies including accountancy firm, Deloitte and multinational pharmaceutical juggernaut, AstraZeneca), there were several results that surprised the upper echelon and prompted decisive action. For example, the percentage of women that have been promoted to partner has doubled since the findings' revealed that a big part of the pay disparity was the lack of women in senior positions.

The actions of PricewaterhouseCoopers is evidence that simply by making the wage gap more transparent can hugely contribute to making the pay checks of men and women more equal. But are there other facets to the gender wage gap? When Jennifer Lawrence spoke out about male-female pay discrimination in Hollywood (she published an open letter in Lena Dunham's 'Lenny' newsletter), she later added that the matter raised as many questions about her own assertiveness as it did about the bias in the film industry. The 25-year old admitted that she was less aggressive when negotiating movie deals for she feared being labeled a "spoiled brat." Indeed, she was vindicated as one headline called her letter a "bratty display" to which Lawrence said: "Thank you for completely making my point...I just don't see a man being called a brat."

Lawrence's fear of being demanding is actually echoed in the real-world workplace. Linda Babcock, an economist at Carnegie Mellon and co-author of the book "Women Don't Ask" has found "that men are four times more likely to ask for a raise than women are, and that when women do ask, we ask for 30% less."

Though we've been concentrating on the monetary side of the gender wage gap, I think what should not be forgotten is that, that paycheck goes hand-in-hand with the woman's perceived value to the company. Is her work, skills and effort considered worth less than the men's? Is that the message being given to women? It is therefore extremely beneficial for companies to establish a reputation of paying fair value to attract and retain the strongest talent, regardless of their gender. It will not only make for a productive and satisfying workplace, but enhance the company's bottom line.



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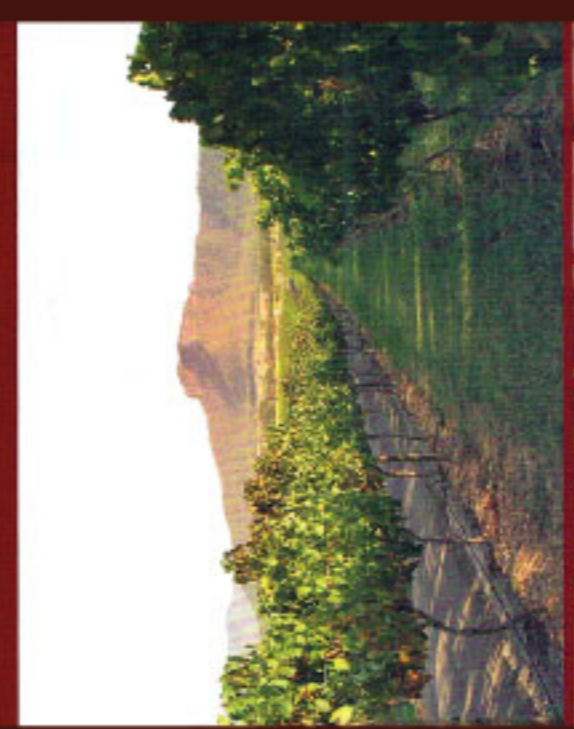
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FIND OUT MORE ABOUT

# JASMINE Henry

By Jenny Aluning

Yes, she's just 11 years old and yes, she's barely in her first year in high school. But young Jasmine Henry has not let that stop her from already making a name for herself in the Australian music industry. First taking to the stage at 7 years old, Jasmine has since then been a prolific performer, never failing to impress her audiences with her powerful and soulful voice.

Her time on stage fuels her love for performing. She enjoys it "when my audience connects with me and I can feel their presence when I am singing." She's shared the stage with some of the Philippines' biggest artists such as Piolo Pascual and Martin Nievera, and earlier this year, she was one of the opening acts for YouTube megastar, Gabe Bondoc. In February last year, Jasmine wowed a crowd of 5,000 when she sang the Australian national anthem at a Sydney Kings home game at the QANTAS Credit Union Arena. Sydney Kings' general manager, Rod Harys and administration manager, Lorraine Landon said: "We are happy to have Jasmine. What a great voice for someone so young!" But what she considers her most memorable performance so far is her birthday concert last year which was held at the Parramatta RSL where she performed Broadway theater star and The Voice Philippines judge, Lea Salonga's iconic song: 'On My Own' from Les Misérables.

For someone so young, Jasmine possesses a mature, sensible and humble attitude with a strong belief in her faith. Strongly supported by her mother and her brother, she says "my mum inspires me to be a better person every day. She believes in my visions and dreams in life."

There is absolutely no doubt that Jasmine's music career is taking off. While she is currently working on her album (produced by TrueAmerican Music), Jasmine admits that there has been challenges – "finding the right materials is not easy for a young teen like me. They kept saying it has to be age appropriate." She is also adding songwriting to her resumé and hopes to include at least one of her own compositions in the album.

But while her time in the spotlight seems to be ramping up (she has a massive following on both Facebook and Instagram), Jasmine admits that "my studies comes first. I have few amazing offers from here and abroad but then my mum keeps saying take it slow and one day at a time." Even at 11, the half Filipino/half Australian songbird already knows about the darker side of the music industry. She knows "that haters will hate hate hate" and that she has to remember "that I am beautiful inside out...I have to stay loyal to people who were there from the beginning and never to forget where I came from...I consider beautiful when the person is honest and loyal. Because you know they won't hurt you and will be with you no matter what. By then, I see Jesus in them."

Multi-talented Jasmine Henry (who incidentally not only sings, but can make her own soaps, hair care products and lotions using natural ingredients) is a young girl with big dreams in and out of the music industry. She's expressed that she wants "to be a politician one day so I can help our country especially those who suffers in different forms of abuse and help build a better future to the new generations to come," and would like to "start my own brand of clothing for kids and teens because I love fashion." Within music, her album's release would be a dream come true as well as performing in the Philippines. Another dream is a chance to work with Justin Bieber – "he is a great artist and my ultimate crush. I dream one day to be on stage with him."

It is distinctly clear that the sky is the limit for this extraordinary young lady. Jasmine Montemayor Henry is definitely one name to watch out for!





# Katherine

It was one of her best friends that encouraged busy mother and career woman, Katherine Geering to join the inaugural Mrs Australasia Official Beauty Pageant last year – "I think it's a great opportunity to challenge myself and also help the organiser to raise some money to build a kindergarten in Philippines. I wanted to try my best to help people in need especially kids. They are our future." It was a piece of advice that Katherine was glad to have taken for she ended up being named the winner – Mrs Australasia 2015. She was also named 'Best in Gown' that night.

Organised by Maryrose Salubre of Salubre Models International, the pageant was held at the Swissotel in Sydney, Australia on October 24 last year. The event was held to benefit the Bunga National High School in Leyte, Philippines (a school that was heavily damaged during Typhoon Yolanda in 2013) as well as other various research programs. The night was a great success and afforded Katherine the opportunity to experience something new. She was able to meet "a lot of amazing women and made many new friends. I also greatly improved my confidence on the stage and public speaking."

Outside of pageantry, the Chinese mum of 2 leads a very busy life. With a Bachelor's Degree in Business/Commerce, Katherine is heavily involved in investment banking and funds management and she is currently working as a Managing Director at the Gold Stone Investment Group and at KG Capital. Not only that, she runs the award-winning Nightingale Wines in the Broke Fordwich area in the Hunter Valley. The 22-hectare property not only encompasses the vineyard but also a host of luxury villas and a restaurant. She is also very active in her Chinese and local community. "I'm a very hard-working and easy-going person... I have a great team to work with and I'm always very excited to create something new."

Because beauty pageants were a new arena for Katherine, her participation in the Mrs Australasia pageant became a family affair – "My husband and my kids all helped me choose my outfits to join pageants. My daughter even helped my practice how to walk nicely and professionally on the stage. My son made me relaxed on the stage. My family helped me build my confidence to face the audience and judges." That combination of family solidarity, impressive work ethic and passion shows exactly why Katherine Geering became 2015's Mrs Australasia.



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# Marija

For 18-year old Marija Marinkovic, being in the limelight is not a new experience – "I've been dancing and performing in front of audiences since I was 4 years old doing jazz, tap, contemporary and also traditional Serbian dancing since I was 8." And then for 8 years, she was a member of the prestigious Sydney Children's Choir – Sydney's most well-known vocal program for young singers of school age. The choir is most recognizable for their involvement in a series of commercials for QANTAS where the children are filmed singing 'I Still Call Australia Home' in various stunning locations all over Australia. Marija's time with the choir saw her perform at the Sydney Opera House, Sydney's St Mary's Cathedral and during World Youth Day celebrations in July 2008, she and the choir sang in front of an audience of thousands who had gathered to welcome Pope Benedict to Sydney.

Now half Australian/half Serbian Marija is ready for a new challenge and hence her decision to participate in Miss Teen Australasia Official to be held on April 9 at Club Marconi. "Pageants provide me with great opportunities to meet new people and learn new skills. I also enjoy looking my absolute best... I've also enjoyed learning about poise, grace and posture..." Though she admits to being "quiet and shy", Marija joined the pageant to "help me build my self-confidence. I'd also like to strengthen my communication and leadership skills by being confident with public speaking." Being able to make a "difference in the community by supporting charities for the greater good is also important to me."

That philanthropic spirit extends to her choice in career. Marija is currently a full-time university student studying "to become an Early Childcare and Primary School teacher because I'm passionate about giving all children an equal opportunity to a good education. I love children because they are funny and honest and consider everyone as equals as they know no different."

With her lovely personality, talent and beauty, there is no doubt that Marija's future will be a bright one.



# Australasia Official

By: Jenny Aluning

Beauty pageants have long been labeled as 'irrelevant' and 'shallow'; that they are shows that put more importance on appearance

than substance and no value or redeeming impact on the real world. Well, Miss Australasia Official is definitely one pageant that does not fit that stereotype. Making its inaugural debut in 2015,



Miss Australasia Official not only celebrates the beauty of each of its participants, but empowers them to help others in need. Established by Maryrose Salubre of Salubre Models International, the pageant aims to raise funds for a variety of worthy causes, chief of which is to help Bunga National High School (BNH) in Leyte, Philippines rebuild after being badly affected by Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in 2013. When Maryrose traveled to Bunga with the much-needed funds and supplies, one of the mothers pulled her aside to show her what the room for the children in kindergarten looked like,

# BEAUTY PAGEANT for a cause



Miss Australasia Official is definitely one pageant that does not fit the stereotype



To Maryrose's shock, the room did not even have walls! There were only 4 supporting columns and a roof – leaving the children vulnerable to the environment's whims.

No stranger to adversity, Maryrose, a breast cancer survivor, is a veteran when it comes to raising funds for deserving causes which has included breast cancer research and brain tumour research (BRAINSTORM) at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Camperdown, Australia. So, it's no surprise that she will use those skills to help her school in her hometown. BNH, a school of over 500 students ranging from kindergarten to high school (33 of which are in kindergarten) with at least 35 teachers (whose salary is paid by the government), is located in the Eastern Visayas region of the Philippines and is one of the larger schools in the region. Last year's Miss Australasia Official pageant not only raised funds for badly needed repairs, it also helped launch feeding programs as well. This year, the pageant aims to reach its goal of raising \$5000 AUD (\$1500 of which has already been raised via other sources) to help BNH finally build a proper classroom for its kindergarten class. With last year's glittering event and outstanding success, it would be no surprise to have that achievement echoed this year.

# HOW TO PICK THE perfect pageant FOR YOU

By: Peter Sereno

We all have our reasons for joining pageants. Some do it to make friends, others to network, some to gain more confidence and others a motivation to get fit and look the best they can possibly be. But deep inside every girl who has entertained the idea of competing lies that dream that they would one day be "the next Jennifer Hawkins".

But the sad reality is, not every Miss University can be a Miss Universe.

As much as we have a new pageant popping up every week, promoted by every man and his dog on social media, many believe that all are carbon copies of Miss Universe and how it's run.

Nothing can be further from the truth.

Those who have followed pageants for years know that no two pageants are the same. There are similar formats but each pageant has a strict tradition (especially the older ones) that follow not only a rule, but a formula, and if you don't fit that mould now, you never will.

But just because you're not right for one particular pageant doesn't necessarily mean you're not perfect for another.

Where pageants such as Miss Universe, Miss Grand, Miss Supranational and Miss Earth are primarily aesthetic based, others like Miss Humanity and other charity run pageants are merit based in which one is selected based on how they meet the fundraising and awareness goals set by the organisers.

Others like Miss World, Miss Globe and Miss Grand toe the line, and then you have glitz pageants like Miss Galaxy where movement, choreography and styling is so precise that you are judged on the way you turn, the way you hold your head and how your feet are even placed while walking or posing. Held by many to be the purest form of pageantry, it has since developed quite a stigma thanks to the bad PR received by Toddlers and Tiaras. Glitz is all about glamour and excess.

On the other side of the spectrum are the 'natural' pageants, where contestants are encouraged to wear as little make up as possible with simplified styling for hair, while in the case of cultural pageants, it is not the outside beauty of a contestant that is judged, rather, her ability to promote her culture to an international audience.

Aesthetic based pageants often have unwritten and unspoken rules. While publicly we encourage diversity and inclusiveness, the reality is, if you fall short of 5'7 and don't have the body of a Victoria's Secret model, then you have just about as much chance of winning Miss Universe as I have of marrying George Clooney.

Zlich.

Sure there are the exceptions. Shorties like Olivia Culpo, Ximena Navarrette and Australia's Courtney Thorpe have won their competitions but another thing they have in common other than being short is their perfect facial beauty. You cannot take your eyes off them. Generally, I tell young women who want to compete for Miss Universe is "if you are short, then you have to be perfect - your height already works against you, don't give them any other reason to not pick you."

You also need to know and be realistic about what you are getting yourself in to. Look at last year's winner and ask yourself "if I was competing against her, would I win?"

If your answer is no, then you're probably right.

Friends and family members who encourage young women to compete when in their hearts they know the person they are encouraging to be a contestant has zero chance in winning is doing their family member or friend a great disservice. In fact, it can even be classified as cruel. Im sure the intentions are from a good place, but as they say, the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

The greatest gift you can give another is the gift of reality.

The reality seems cruel, but in REAL life, not everyone can be a doctor. Not everyone can be a singer (those who have seen Idol auditions will know what I'm talking about). Not everyone can be a dancer. Not everyone can be a carpenter, or pilot or an accountant. And not everyone can be Miss Universe.

But just because you don't fit a certain mould doesn't mean you are not beautiful. One should never seek self validation from others. Do your research. Find a pageant that best serves your purpose and fits your kind of beautiful. By doing so, it makes the experience so much more memorable and positive and it could open doors that can lead you down career paths you never would have expected.

# Reproductive Rights

## WHY IT'S CURRENTLY A MAJOR ISSUE

By Jenny Aluning

The issue of reproductive rights came under a glaring and heartbreaking spotlight in 2015 when a gunman, Robert L. Dear killed three people – a police officer and two civilians – and engaged in an hours-long standoff in a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs. His reason? "To protect the babies!" he cried.

Reproductive rights, and in particular, the issue of abortion, has never rested easy in the open arena of public discussion and this is in spite of most of the population being in favour of it. But while abortion grabs the headlines, a larger, more important issue is being ignored – an issue I feel, that if more openly addressed, might negate the need for a debate on abortion in the first place.

That subject is reproductive rights. The United Nations defines 'reproductive rights' (a definition globally accepted) as "rights [that] rest on the recognition of the basic rights of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. It also includes the right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence." The arm of the United Nations that advocates this is UNFPA – the United Nations Population Fund (established in 1969, they are present in 150 countries and territories). While the US bickers about abortion and what constitutes sex education in schools, UNFPA deals with countries that openly practice female genital mutilation and child marriages, etc. Clearly, the issue of reproductive rights goes way beyond one woman deciding to continue her pregnancy or not.

UNFPA's mission is: "to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled." They work with local agencies and governments establishing policies to protect women and give them access to the professionals, support and education they need regarding their reproductive health. They train health workers to deliver quality family planning services, train midwives, educate about HIV and STD's, provide age-appropriate sex education, counseling and many more. Ironically enough, Planned Parenthood in the US also provide many of the same services as the UNFPA, not just abortions – a fact often excluded in the media.

America's stance on reproductive rights is fairly liberal compared to the rest of the world. Most American women have access to a variety of birth control methods such as contraceptive pills, IUD's, condoms, even the morning-after pill. It is a far different, often tragic, situation in many other countries. Romania, for example, has the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in Europe. Women in the Democratic Republic of Congo are not only subjected to the systematic gender-based violence as a form of warfare, they are often victims of female genital mutilation. In late 2014, an article in the Wall Street Journal brought to light the existence of government-sponsored sterilization "camps" in India where women chose to undergo the procedure because of the lack of access to other birth control options. Also, since boys are considered of a higher social value than girls, it is not uncommon for women to abort female fetuses to increase the chances of delivering a son. India has one of the lowest ratios of men to women in the world.

It is a situation similar to China and its strict "one-child" policy. While the law has been "relaxed" to allow two children instead of one, incredibly, women still do not have the right to choose the size of their family. South Africa is more proactive than other countries in that it has legalized abortions and various birth control methods are also widely and legally available.

Tragically though, Sub-Saharan Africa has some of the highest maternal mortality ratios (the death of the mother per 100,000 live births in women aged 15 to 49) in the world. So the value of education and access to professional help cannot be overstated. The World Health Organisation (WHO) states that maternal mortality rates in developing countries is 239 per 100,000 live births versus 12 per 100,000 in developed countries. Pregnancy and childbirth is the leading cause of death among adolescent girls in developing countries. Sadly, these mothers are dying from preventable and treatable causes such as severe bleeding, infections, high blood pressure during pregnancy, complications from delivery and unsafe abortions.

I concede that the subject of reproductive rights will never be a simple one. It is dealing with the creation of another life after all. I also concede that it is a topic that will never be debated without emotion or bias – even if religion wasn't involved. I cannot think of a choice more personal to a woman than her decision to become a mother, or one that has more impact on her life and her future. And whether she wants it or not, that choice will become a lens through which others will view her. A young teenager decides to keep the baby – condemn or applaud? A businesswoman decides to have an abortion – condemn or applaud? A woman who already has multiple children chooses to put her latest baby up for adoption – condemn or applaud? I believe, there is no harder choice than this.



# PEOPLE AND FACES

1. Brittnee Sheath at the Fashion Mandu green carpet event

2. Brendon, Maryrose, Rissa, Anjelica, Mike and Alex at Mardi Gras International Queen 2016.

3. Maryrose and Brendon with the Miss Teen Australasia Official candidates at Rydges

4. Fashion Mandu models at the Fashion Mandu green carpet event

5. Archana, Kiran and Brittnee with Lions Club officials

6. Miss Teen Australasia candidate Tamara with StarCentral magazine's Mike Ilagan

7. StarCentral magazine male model winner David Delaney with his partner Jersay and Anjelica



Archana, Kiran, Brittnee, Rissa



Fashion Mandu models



Miss Teen Australasia Official candidates



Mike with Tamara

"Get to know who's who in the social scene down under"



Jersay, David and Anjelica



Brittnee Sheath



Mardi Gras Queen 2016

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