

I v a n s D e n

Nicole Iman Talks About Her New Title, Plastic Surgery and Her Life As A Woman!

In the three short years since Nicole Iman arrived in New York from her native Puerto Rico, she has transformed herself into the beautiful, talented performer she is today. I spoke with Nicole just a few days after winning the coveted crown of Ms. Krash USA 1997-98.

Ivan: What were you like when you first moved to New York?

Nicole Iman: When I came from Puerto Rico, I was a man, so when I moved to New York, I had a couple of surgeries. Right now, I live in New York, 24-hours as a woman.

I: How did it feel for you to win the Ms. Krash pageant?

Ni: Wonderful. I worked really hard for three months to prepare for the pageant.

I: Were you surprised when your name was called?

Ni: Yes, when I won three categories. I didn't expect to win the talent.

I: The question you were asked in the Q&A was how do you plan to uphold the title of Ms. Krash USA? For the readers who weren't at the pageant, why don't you explain what your goals are as the new Ms. Krash and what you're going to bring to the title?

Ni: When I am at Krash, I show everyone who Nicole Iman is. I'm going to display to the people who I am, including my faults and defects.

I: Had you entered other pageants before?

Ni: Yes, but this one was very important to me because I love Krash and everyone at Krash is very good to me.

I: Who choreographed your talent performance for you?

Ni: Francisco who is great. He's very talented and has worked with Martha Wash and other performers before.

I: Your performance was very elaborate. Overall, how much did the pageant cost you with all the costumes, dancers?

Ni: It cost me about \$13,000. My dress was made in Puerto Rico and I had to fly down there about three times for fittings and to pick it up. Plus I had to pay Francisco and all of the seven dancers. When you do the pageant, you need a lot of money to look your best.

I: Do you know the other contestants you were competing against, and how do you get along with them?

Ni: I only know Victoria Lace and Lorena St. Cartier and we all get along great. We all work together very well.

I: How did you get your start when you came to New York? You came as a boy, what made you decide to live your life as a woman?

Ni: Because I didn't have a life as a boy. I didn't have love, didn't have fun. This is much better for me. I look like a woman, which is very easy for me.

I: How does your family feel about your life now?

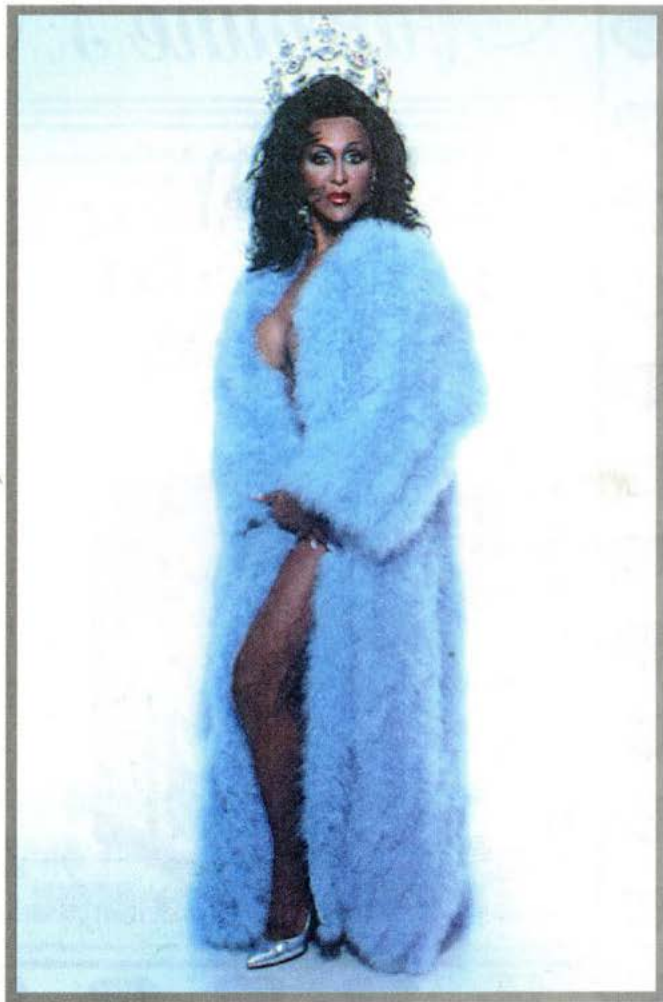
Ni: My mother and sister live in Connecticut and they enjoy my life now. When I was a boy, I was very feminine and my mother didn't like that. Right now she says it's okay because when we go out together, everyone sees me as a woman.

I: You mentioned earlier that you had a few surgeries. How many have you had?

Ni: Nine. I've had nine surgeries all together. Two nose jobs, two breast implant surgeries, my chin, forehead, Adam's apple, cheeks and liposuction.

I: That must be very painful.

Ni: Yes it is, but I like it. Like I said before, I came as a boy, and I was unhappy. Now I'm happy.



NICOLE IMAN CROWNED Ms. KRASH USA 1997-98

By Ivan [REDACTED]

On Saturday, November 29, 1997, Krash was transformed into an elegant pageant hall as it hosted the Third Annual Ms. Krash USA Pageant, complete with huge floodlights outside, tuxedo clad employees, and runway stage.

Former Ms. Krashes Michelle Mitchells and Noby Rivera opened the pageant dressed in beautiful Egyptian gowns and headdresses, escorted by two gorgeous and shirtless men. The introduction of the contestants was next as each of the lovely ladies took the stage in a white gown and introduced themselves to the audience and panel of judges. Devorah Sabena, Jessenia Ross, Nicole Iman, Lorena St. Cartier, Tyra Allure and Victoria Lace would all be vying for the title, but only one would win the coveted crown.

Mistress of Ceremonies, Ms. Jessica Foxx introduced the panel of judges which included Eric [REDACTED] Cora, Stacey [REDACTED] lenna, Janet Sylvia [REDACTED] and Fred [REDACTED] before bringing hustle champions Kenny [REDACTED] and Nellie [REDACTED] to the stage to wow the crowd as Mr. [REDACTED] flipped and twirled Ms. [REDACTED] like a baton.

The first category of competition was the Swimsuit Competition, which was led by Devorah Sabena in a blue one-piece followed by Jessenia Ross in a black one-piece. Nicole Iman showed a blue swimsuit a la Wonder Woman while Lorena St. Cartier wore a fabulous leopard bikini

and sun hat. Tyra Allure modeled her figure in a simple black bikini before Victoria Lace showed a blue and white one-piece.

While the contestants were gearing up for the Talent Competition, Michelle Mitchells performed the Spanglish version of Celine Dion's "All By Myself," and Noby Rivera performed a medley of "The Lover That You Are," "I'm Not Giving You Up," and "Things Just Ain't The Same." First to perform in the talent portion of the evening was Devorah Sabena who, along with her dancers, danced to a medley of Gloria Estefan hits. Jessenia Ross did a portion of the musical "Cats" and sang "Memory." Nicole Iman's elaborate performance included many dancers in a very "safari" motif, as she performed to Diana Ross's "Eaten Alive" and "Swept Away." Not to be outdone, Lorena St. Cartier's performance was equally as elaborate as Lorena and her dancers transformed themselves into the Superfriends with Lorena leading the bunch as Wonder Woman. Tyra Allure performed a scene from "The Little Mermaid," before Victoria Lace performed a skit from Waiting To Exhale and danced to "Who Do You Love." Michelle Mitchells closed the talent competition with a performance of Lisa Stansfield's "The Real Thing."

After a brief intermission the ladies were ready to strut their stuff in the Evening Gown competition. Devorah Sabena wore a beautiful black velvet and gold dress with rhinestones. Jessenia Ross wore a

lovely lavender satin dress with a black lace wrap to cover her shoulders. Nicole Iman came dressed in a gorgeous powder blue sequined gown with a matching fur wrap. Lorena St. Cartier wore lime green and black, while Tyra Allure modeled red satin. Victoria Lace walked in black sequins and rhinestones.

Ms. Jessica Foxx, who did a wonderful job as hostess of the event, presented the evening's sponsors before Noby Rivera took the stage in her farewell performance of "Because You Loved Me." With the anticipation mounting, the Category Winners of the evening's events were announced. Tyra Allure walked away with the Congeniality Award, while Nicole Iman swept the Swimsuit, Talent and Evening Gown Categories. Jessica Foxx was presented with the first-ever Sasha [REDACTED] Award. The Question and Answer portion was the final competitive event of the evening with each contestant explaining how they would go about upholding the title of Ms. Krash USA 1997-98. Victoria Lace took home the award for Best Question and Answer.

After a brief intermission to tally the scores the winners were announced. The second runner-up was Victoria Lace. Lorena St. Cartier took the first runner-up spot and Noby Rivera crowned Nicole Iman as Ms. Krash USA 1997-98. Ms. Iman looked radiant as she took her first runway walk as the new Ms. Krash, ready to fulfill her obligations with pride and grace.

