

SEXY-GENARIAN!

Meet the 60-year-old former Studio 54 fixture who hasn't lost her girlish figure — or her job as a model

BY DOREE LEWAK

In the modeling world, 17 is ripe, 27 requires a famous boyfriend to keep you interesting, 37 is mature, and at 47 you don't walk the runway — they haul you down it on a stretcher.

But model Wendy Stuart Kaplan is 60 and still going strong after 45 years as a maverick matriquin. She stands five-foot-8 1/2 and weighs 135 pounds, just as she did in the '70s and '80s when she partied at Studio 54.

In fact, the sexy sexagenarian with enviable dimensions — 36-28-39 — is as busy as ever.

"A lot of people my age have hung up their tap shoes already," says the lively blonde, who recently self-published her memoir, "She's the Last Model Standing."

"I'm still going for it!" Kaplan says, speaking to *The Post* from the Eileen Fisher showroom, where she works as a fit model, helping designers see how clothes fit on a perfect size 8 body, like her own. "I have the average American body," she says proudly, "but with no cellulite."

Kaplan still clocks 30 hours per week modeling everything from Michael Kors outerwear to Walmart undies. She's maintained her looks thanks to good genes and 75-minute workouts four days per week, and she says never gone under the knife.

"Everybody mistakes me for a lot younger," she says. "I've just done fillers — but you can only fill for so long."

The Bronx native began modeling in her teens, though her beauty-queen mother wanted her to stay away from the profession. Mom hoped her daughter would take a wholesome job at a telephone company.

"But [I] was not going to AT&T!" says Kaplan.

She started hitting the pavement at 15, when she showed up at the door of the Ford agency and was asked, "Where's your mother?"

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Longtime model Wendy Stuart Kaplan in a L'EGGS pantyhose ad (above) and at Studio 54 in 1982 (left).

ra, at the bar with her head tilted back. In her early 20s, she was in love with a Jewish dentist. They spent five years together, and was working toward an Orthodox conversion to please his family.

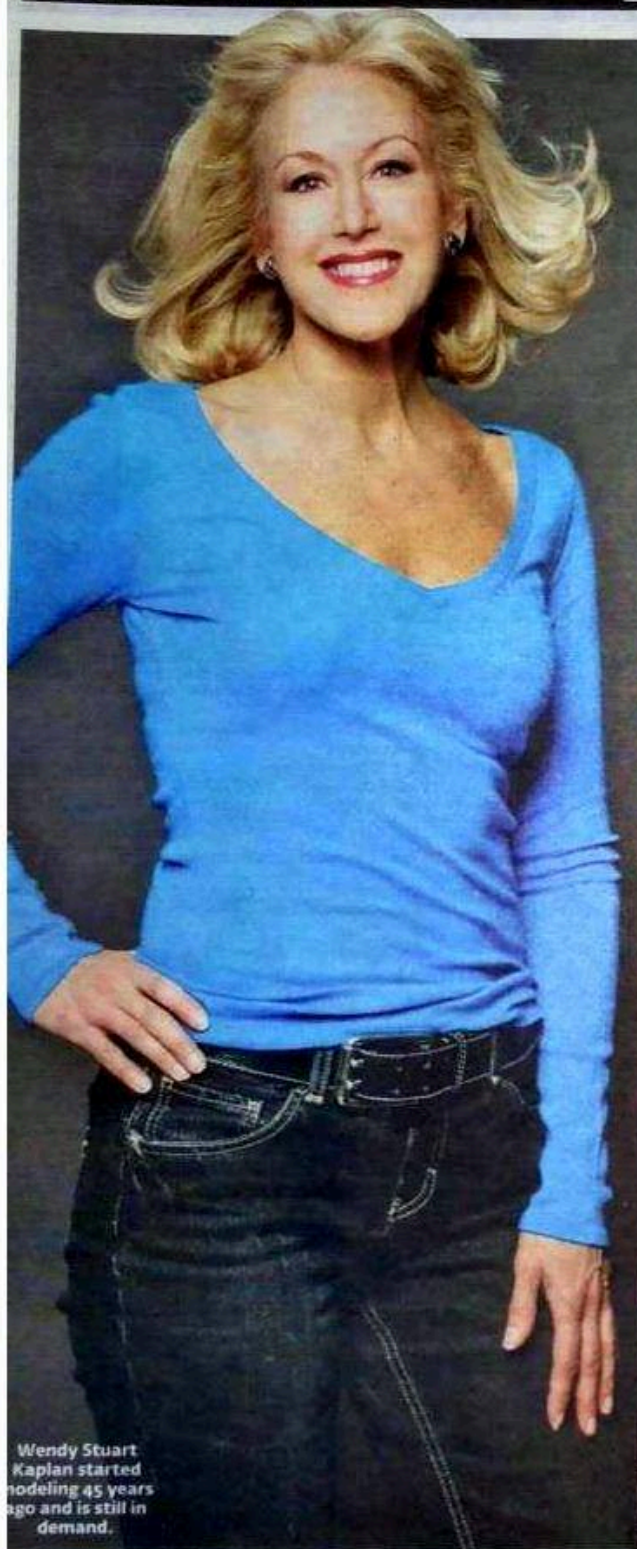
"I started leading a double life," she recalls. But ultimately, she realized she'd rather spend Friday nights at Studio 54, not synagogue, and the romance fizzled. "I would never be Jewish enough for him," she says.

And while she did eventually marry a nice Jewish guy — photographer Alan Kaplan, with whom she has a daughter, Kyle, 22 — she hasn't hung up her dancing shoes. She recently had a raucous night out at the Stonewall Inn in the rainbow, off-the-shoulder Betsey Johnson top she's been wearing for decades. "I'm a traditional mom," says Kaplan "but one who goes clubbing with my daughter."

Perhaps Mom was right: to be worried about what modeling would lead to. Kaplan partied on Fire Island with Calvin Klein, danced in disco clubs until sunrise and even appeared in *Page Six*.

A September 1982 column gushed about her: "Willow Wendy Stuart often darts out to Studio 54 at midnight, alone, with her miniskirt cut up to her thigh, attracting the boys on the corner."

"It's been a wild ride. I came here from The Bronx with \$800," says Kaplan. "I was dancing next to Liza Minnelli and hobnobbing with Andy Warhol," she reminisces. "Liza was just fabulous — she had that au-



Wendy Stuart Kaplan started modeling 45 years ago and is still in demand.

PHOTO: ANDREW LARRY