

Wendy Stuart Kaplan

Clothing Engineer



Wendy Stuart Kaplan discovered Milford PA 15 years ago. Right after 9/11, she had met Richard Snyder who owned an amazing llama farm in Milford. He invited Wendy, her husband and daughter to visit. Wendy was instantly drawn to the beauty of the area. She sat on the porch of his farmhouse and imagined owning a home there. Eight months later, the house across from him had just put a for sale sign up – that was Saturday morning and by Sunday afternoon her bid was accepted and the house was hers. It was part of the balance. Although she travels for work to NYC and beyond, three days a week or more, she is in Milford and Milford is her heart.

Wendy works with major designers and manufactures to make their clothes fit real people, not just young models on the runway. As an average American size 8, she is a Fit Model. Her job entails helping designers achieve the perfect fit for their clothes. She often calls herself a "clothing engineer." She works with companies like Eileen Fisher, Nina Mcemore and Michael Kors Outerwear, as well as private labels for stores like Neiman Marcus, Dillard's and Walmart. Wendy loves knowing that she is helping to create clothes that make women feel good when they wear them. She specifically addresses the needs of baby boomers. They don't want to look like their daughters when they dress but they do want to feel hip, sophisticated and gorgeous.

In addition to fashion Wendy also works in TV – infomercials, pilots, film and a lot of hosting are her forte. Wendy created a travel/ecotourism platform called "Model With a Mission." Two weeks out of every year she travels globally to tell the stories of endangered wildlife and people. Her most recent shoot was traveling to Ethiopia to the Omo Valley to depict life among four different tribes and show their sense of fashion and beauty. Last year, she wrote her memoir: "She's The Last Model Standing." It is her story of coming to NYC to pursue her dream of becoming a model and everything that happened along the way.

How do you balance it all?

I have a daughter who just graduated college, a husband who is a painter and photographer, two English Angora rabbits, a cockatoo, and a chihuahua. I work over 40 hours a week, and in Milford I volunteer for everything I can. That includes the Upper Delaware GLBT, where I'm a board member, support person, and Pride March Coordinator. I volunteer at the Milford Enhancement Committee Welcome Party, and The Advisory Board of Blackbear. I donate time or whatever I can to many of our other organizations. That includes a scholarship program at GAIT, contributions to Safe Haven, Pike County Humane Society and our wonderful museum; the Columns. My mother always said "charity begins at home" and Milford is my home.

What is your philosophy? Words you live by?

My philosophy is is very clear. Go for your dreams. Never give up, and give back as much as you can whenever you can. If I do that, I will be in balance. And if I'm in balance, then I can balance everything in my life. If I'm in balance I can affect and touch the people I meet – whether on the other side of the world, or here in the Poconos. Because giving back has no boundaries. It has no borders. And the personal rewards? They're huge!

How do you measure success?

The measure of success for me is being able to see that I have positively affected someone's life; that is my motivation.

What is coming up for you both professionally and personally?

I'm working on my film short about Ethiopia tribal beauty. Everyday working with my fashion companies so that their great fitting clothes will lead to great sales. I'm looking forward to the Upper Delaware GLBT event The Ally Prom at The Best Western, with this year's theme "Old Hollywood" (I love dressing up in costume). More book signings and readings as they are an inspiration to people who hear about this girl from the Bronx who had big dreams.

What would you tell your younger self?

I would tell my younger self, "stop worrying about what if and just go for what you want in this life." Why did it take me so long to realize that?

Who are your role models?

My role models are not typical because most people have never heard of them. But these are my role models: A girlfriend who had a terrible head injury and had overcome so many obstacles to be a brilliant writer and performer. A man in the desert in Northern India who organized the farmers in his town to plant seed for over 6,000 endangered migratory cranes who would have otherwise died from exhaustion on their travels. Two women who run an elephant sanctuary in Thailand – they have protected over 84 Asian elephants, while creating jobs for the people who live in that village. The many people I've met in Milford who get out there every day and make a difference.

For more information about Wendy Stuart Kaplan visit her website wendystuarttv.com

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