

Is There a Doctor in the House?

Cheryl Woodcock, producer and commentator for *Entertainment Tonight* and *The Insider*, tells of a chance encounter in the loo, and sends big ups to the people who make her shows work like magic.



**CONFIDENTIALLY
YOURS**
Cheryl Woodcock

PATRICK IS A DREAMBOAT

It felt like stepping into a fairy tale at the Four Seasons last November, especially when McDreamy himself, Patrick Dempsey, showed up in the bathroom with me.

OK, let me explain. I was on the clock for *The Insider* interviewing the cast of Disney's enchanting feature *Enchanted* at the Four Seasons. Our crew was set up in a separate room, away from the rest of the press. I was in the bathroom doing a quick once-over when, suddenly, Dempsey appears like a vision right beside me. As we stare into the mirror, he says, "We both look great, now let's go do the interview." Ladies, he is exactly what you think he'll be: warm, charming, and every bit as dreamy in person as he is on *Grey's Anatomy*. He tells me he believes in true love and has a real-life fairy-tale romance with his wife, Jill.

Next up, Academy Award-winner Susan Sarandon appears to be sporting an opal and bone bracelet. We get to chatting about it, and I discover that those aren't bones at all—they're her children's baby teeth and molars. She tells me some of her family members think it's quite odd. But as a mother, I can relate.

Rounding out my day was an interview with fellow Oklahoman James Marsden, who plays handsome Prince Edward. We went to rival high schools, but that didn't stop us from swooning over the Sooner State.

THE BONNIEST BONNIE OF ALL

What an incredible day. Once again I have Bonnie Tiegel—our beloved Emmy Award-winning senior supervising producer for *Entertainment Tonight* and *The Insider*—to thank for setting it all up just beautifully. Without Bonnie, none of the above would have happened. All things good and great always lead back to Bonnie Tiegel. When my son was very young and had a repertoire of only 30 or so words, two of them were "Bonnie" and "Tiegel"—perfectly pronounced, I might add.

Publicists, often considered some of the toughest kids on Hollywood Boulevard, sing Tiegel's praises. In 2007, at the 44th annual ICG Publicists Awards, Tiegel won the Press Award, which honors outstanding journalists who cover the entertainment industry. A survey of A-list publicists reveals a deep admiration and respect for a woman I'm proud to call a friend.

Rogers & Cowan's Paul Bloch says, "[Tiegel] is professional, upbeat, creative, and more important, kindhearted. There is no one I enjoy more. I only wish there were more Bonnie Tiegels in the world." Bloch's colleague, Arnold Robinson, agrees: "When [Tiegel] is involved, I'm never concerned about how something will go. Her integrity is beyond reproach. There's nothing I wouldn't do for her."

According to Stan Rosenfield, who reps George Clooney, "Bonnie is the best of the best. She's a delight to work with. If you



get an answer from Bonnie—whether or not it's the one you want—it's always delivered in a timely manner with the utmost professionalism. For example, if the answer is 'no' you somehow get the impression it's 'yes.'"

Lexicon PR's Steve Rohr notes, "Bonnie is just one in a million. Her word is as good as gold. If she says it's going to happen a

certain way, it does. Period."

Our fearless leader at *Entertainment Tonight* and *The Insider*, Linda Bell Blue, says, "Bonnie is sharp, intuitive, and completely trusted by her colleagues and the entertainment community. It's no small feat given the competitive nature of this business." Blue, known for running one of the tightest and brightest entertainment newsrooms in the world, is no pushover... so high praise indeed.

Personally, I couldn't survive a minute in the Hollywood trenches without Tiegel. She never fails to give me a hug every day. Her famous hugs make us all feel we can conquer the world. But this wonderful lady also knows her stuff, and many look to her for guidance and a wise word. And she isn't the only Tiegel making news: Hubby Eliot Tiegel's groundbreaking book, *Latinization of America: How Hispanics Are Changing the Nation's Sights and Sounds* (Phoenix Books; \$37.95), is amazing. The tome details the ways in which the nation's exploding Hispanic population is influencing both English- and Spanish-language show business today.

Another of my heroes who, like Tiegel, can be counted on to guide us is Miguel Enciso, our show director (and a high school basketball coach). He's tall, dark, and handsome, and commands from the control room with a booming voice that sounds as if it's coming from heaven. I also want to note that my darling makeup artist on *The Insider*, Ing Ostrom, paints canvases as beautifully as she paints faces. My weekend show cohost Victoria Recaño hosted a private showing of Ostrom's work in December to great acclaim. What a truly fabulous artist. ★

TOP: Senior supervising producer Bonnie Tiegel. BELOW: Tiegel and executive producer Linda Bell Blue in the *ET* newsroom.