

Vanity Fair Interview

NEW ALBUM IS CALLED Resurrection. And one of the songs is about “broken wings” and “wonderful scars”. Anastacia, marvelous hit songs voice like I’m Outta Love, is familiar with scars. She discovered her breast cancer eleven years ago (she was 34), just when her career was at its top. She found it out by chance, while going to the plastic surgeon to get information about breast reduction. She cured herself, she recovered.

Not enough. Last year cancer got back. More tears, more treatments and a double mastectomy, but now she is fine and thinks she was lucky. And she tell you, with her own words (many words, she’s a chatty) and with the glances of those who, despite everything, possess expertise on those essential branches of life about which we generally prefer not to talk about.

Fear. Uneasiness. And fear again. But still, here she is, in a Los Angeles hotel bar, breathless since she arrived a few minutes later. As everybody else, she rages against the traffic. Unmistakable sign that she’s back to her everyday life.

During your illness, you also kept an online video diary. Few people have the bravery to share such moments.

“I chose to become a singer myself, I am a personality and I think it was my responsibility to share the whole event. I hope this helped other women to get more knowledgeable about cancer”.

What did you learn instead?

“Before, for me, breast cancer was a deadly illness that used to hit smokers or those who were genetically suitable. I thought that would never happen to me and, as soon as I heard the diagnosis, I thought I would die. Nowadays, I know that it can happen to everybody and that you can recover. And that, even though you can’t exactly foresee it, it can be treated in advance”.

What do you think about Angelina Jolie’s precautionary mastectomy?

“A brave choice. Instead of staring at her death sentence, she took her life in her hands”.

After so many troubles, do you think you grew “better” or more tolerant?

“I don’t know. But I have to say that I never felt that anger like ‘Why did this happen to me?’. An awesome doctor followed my treatments, I learnt how to be patient and confident. Between surgical operations I started writing songs again, that was cathartic. I hadn’t been writing songs since 2008. I may not be as successful as Rihanna or Miley Cyrus, but I feel amazing. Both physically and musically. It took some time, especially to get my body back, to accept the idea that it wasn’t sick anymore but yet hurt, and I can’t say that was easy. But I did it”.

Among all this, you also divorced from Wayne Newton, your former bodyguard.

“Yeah. For good measure, I took the whole package! I am single now, but sometimes I see someone. Double mastectomy doesn’t remove the sex appeal: I would like to reassure all women about that”.

Aren't men a bit scared of dating such a woman, a tiger who survived everything?

"They used to be scared already! After all, everybody knows men are fearful and hypochondriac. If babies came out of their bodies instead of our, human kind would be extinct already".

You are 45 and have no children. Do you ever think about that?

"I've always thought about adoption, but my former husband has two children and that's the reason why, at that time, I gave it up: too many drawbacks. From now on, I think that my priority will always be my job, and I'm not into adopting a baby and leaving it to the nanny all the time".

How many times a day do you practice your voice?

"Not a single minute. I don't even make warm-up exercises before performing".

Really?

"I tried to stress my voice when I was younger, I thought that if I were able to sing as Mariah Carey or Celine Dion I would find a job. Success came anyway, with my own means. But I still had the doubt. So, in 2001, when I sang at Pavarotti & Friends, I asked big Luciano if that was wrong, if I had to do something, if she had any advice to give me. He answered me that I didn't have to try to fix something that was good enough already. Easy, isn't it?"

Translation credits: Anastacia Fanclub Italia

www.anastaciafanclub.it