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Dating Jungle

Kasia Iglinski

A single woman's adventures through the dating jungle.

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New York matchmaker heads across border



Hatcher

Like fashion, dating trends come and go, but sometimes old favourites seem to make a comeback. Despite its hefty price tag, online dating and speed dating seem to be making room for traditional matchmakers.

Even celebrities are embracing this established form of dating help with *Desperate Housewives* star Teri Hatcher having recently joked about needing such services to help her with her love life and *American Idol* judge Paula Abdul letting Dr. Phil play matchmaker to help her find a mate.

But this recent resurgence in matchmaking didn't start in Hollywood. Lisa Ronis has been running Lisa Ronis Personal Matchmaking out of New York for six years and has been responsible for many happy long-term relationships and marriages.

"A lot of babies are born because of me," Ronis says. Her approach is tough, but it gains her the respect and the results she wants.

Now, Ronis is taking on Canada's dating scene with Manhattan Matchmaker, a new show that airs tomorrow at 9 p.m. on W Network as part of the network's dating and relating series. On the show, Ronis brings her knowledge of dating to the forefront to help singles find a relationship.

"I give my clients (on the show) the confidence to get up and out," says Ronis, a former fashion executive, adding this often takes a makeover and a lot of internal work.

Part of her work is figuring out what a person is looking for in an ideal mate.

"I make every client have their must-haves and their deal-breakers," she says.

Although Ronis is used to dealing with fast-paced New Yorkers, she does enjoy our more relaxed nature. "People are much more laid-back here. They want a relationship as badly as they do in Manhattan, they're just more laid-back about how they get it."

But just like the differences between New Yorkers and Canadians, Ronis does believe opposites can attract. Her only caveat: "There are always compromises (in a relationship), but if you have to compromise everything then that's too opposite. Some commonalities are vital. Your values (on family and money) have to be the same."

dating tips from matchmaker lisa ronis

For women:

- Don't wear anything too sexy on a date. Be classy and a little sexy, but do it in an elegant way.
- Don't give out too much information on the first few dates. Guys are turned on if the woman is a bit mysterious.
- Feel fabulous. If you don't feel you're worth it, why is he going to think that you are?
- If you say thank you for dinner on the date, you don't have to call him or e-mail him tomorrow to say thank you. Once is enough. If he's really interested, he'll call you.

For men:

- A man should show up with a dinner reservation.
- Be a gentleman. If her drink is almost finished ask her if she'd like another.
- Let her order first always.
- Guys should be well groomed. If you have a comb-over, shave your head or get some gel.
- Don't wait a week to ask her out again because it loses its thunder.

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