

TAMPA TALK

by Angela Rubino

We're Talking About.... AMY LEAH AXELROD Veteran TV Shopping Host Shoots for the Stars (and Steven Spielberg)



Amy Leah Axelrod

Photo by Tim Boyles

With a warm, quick wit and engaging style that have captivated viewers across the nation, Amy Leah Axelrod exudes a joyful, trustworthy confidence that is hard to resist.

“ The idea that laughter and kindness beget laughter and kindness is irresistible to me, and TV is such a global platform” she says, her green eyes twinkling.

“ I’ve always tried to infuse my shows with joy and positive energy. Someone watching may be in need of a bit of inspiration or comic relief. Bloopers are the best. If I get uncontrollable giggles or hiccups at an inappropriate moment or fall off an inversion table with my skirt over my head, I’m in heaven! “

After logging more than 8000 hours of live, unscripted TV and selling more than \$200 million of merchandise as a host and product spokesperson for the Home Shopping Network during an 11-year tenure, she’s taking on new challenges.

Since leaving HSN in February 2008, Amy Leah has worked in commercials, infomercials and even an independent film.

“I never intended to be a TV host,” she said. “My goal was always to be a character actor, either in film or on TV. When the HSN opportunity unexpectedly came along, I took it to get on-camera experience and the chance to be on national television. I just *knew* that Steven Spielberg would have insomnia one night, channel surf onto my show and cast me in the female version of ‘Indiana Jones’. I guess Mr. Spielberg has better things to do than buy shmatas and gadgets on late night TV!”

But Amy Leah is one determined gal who makes things happen. Not only is she writing a screenplay based on her foibles on HSN, she’s heading to Los Angeles to pursue work in film.

She is absolutely sure that Steven Spielberg will cast her in one of his movies one day.

“Why not believe in the miraculous and shoot for the moon? You’ll certainly have great adventures along the way and with a lot of faith and hard work, you may even land on a star.” Or on the set of Mr. Spielberg’s next movie.

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