Elizabeth Gracen

Elizabeth Ward Gracen (born Elizabeth Grace Ward) is an American actress who won the title of Miss America in 1982.

1 Early life, beauty and acting careers

She was born on April 3, 1961,[1] in Ozark, Arkansas, and raised in Booneville, Arkansas, the daughter of Jimmy Young Ward and Patricia “Pat” (Murphy) Ward. She later moved to Russellville, Arkansas with her family, where she graduated from Russellville High School in 1979. She won the titles of Miss Arkansas in 1981 and Miss America in 1982. She used her Miss America scholarship money to study acting at HB Studios in New York City before moving to Hollywood to pursue a film and television career. During this time, Gracen says she had a one-night stand with future President Bill Clinton.[2][3] She posed nude for Playboy magazine’s May 1992 issue.

She built an acting career, and in 1989, while filming Sundown: The Vampire in Retreat, she met actor Brendan Hughes and they married soon after. The couple divorced in 1994. Before that she was married to Jon Birmingham. She has since remarried and has a daughter.

She made her professional feature film debut in Three For The Road with Charlie Sheen. Her film credits also include a featured role in Marked For Death opposite Steven Seagal, Pass The Ammo with Tim Curry, and the CBS feature 83 Hours Till Dawn with Peter Strauss and Robert Urich. Gracen starred in Lower Level and Discretion Assured with Michael York.

On television, Gracen has appeared in Shelley Duvall’s Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Sidney Sheldon’s The Sands of Time and Death of the Incredible Hulk. She also appeared with a starring role in the series Extreme for NBC and the syndicated series Renegade and Queen of Swords.

Elizabeth Gracen’s best-known acting role has been as the character of the Immortal Amanda in the series Highlander: The Series, and its spin-off series, Highlander: The Raven. She is focused currently on writing and directing. Gracen made her directorial debut with a documentary short feature called The Damn Deal. The film is an intimate portrait of three young drag queens from her home state who compete in female impersonator beauty pageants.

2 Claimed affair with Bill Clinton

In 1992, rumors swirled that Gracen had had an affair with Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton.[4] At first, Gracen dismissed this claim. In Spring 1998 Gracen recanted her six-year-old denial and stated she had a one-night stand with Clinton in 1982.[5] After claiming this, Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, who was investigating Clinton in the Paula Jones lawsuit, issued a subpoena to have her testify her claim in court.[6] Gracen, however, eluded the subpoena[6] and was at one point able to avoid it because Highlander: The Raven was being filmed out of the country.[5] Paula Jones’ legal team was also unable to track down Gracen because she had made unscheduled trips to Las Vegas and the Caribbean.[6]

3 Voiceover work

After Highlander: the Raven was cancelled after the first season, Gracen was unable to find more work in acting and was soon in deep financial trouble.[7] In December 1999,[5] Gracen filed for bankruptcy protection. Afterward, Gracen was given a few television guest roles, and a supporting role in the made-for-television movie Interceptor Force 2, before taking a long leave of absence from her acting career in 2002. Gracen recently began doing voiceover work for Blue Hours Productions, which has revived the classic radio anthology Suspense, which airs on Sirius XM. In 2012, Gracen did a character voiceover in the Malaysian animated science fiction film War of the Worlds: Goliath.

4 Filmography

- Three for the Road (1987) Nadine
- Pass the Ammo (1988) Christie Lynn
- The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1989)
- Lisa (1989) Mary
- The Death of the Incredible Hulk (1990) Jasmin
- Marked for Death (1990) Melissa
- 83 Hours Til Dawn (1990) Maria Ranfield
- Sundown: The Vampire in Retreat (1991) Alice
• Lower Level (1992) Hillary
• The Sands of Time (1992)
• Final Mission (1993) Caitlin Cole
• Time Trax episode 7 (1993) Sydney
• Discretion Assured (1993) Miranda
• The Expert (1995) Liz Pierce
• Extreme (1995) Callie Manners
• Kounterfeit (1996) Bridgette
• Queen of Swords “Counterfeit Queen” (2000) Carlotta
• Charmed “Bite Me” (2002) Vampire Queen
• Interceptor Force 2 (2002) Adriana Sikes
• Coherence (2013) Beth

5 References


6 External links

• Elizabeth Gracen at the Internet Movie Database
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