

Amazing Grace



Tall, beautiful and beyond graceful, *Insider* caught up with singing sensation Therese Neaime to talk about her passion for singing, what she looks for in a man and why she believes in setting no limits...

■ By Marie-Louise Olson

Your hair is so long and beautiful, but you must have a horror story about a bad haircut?

As a child, I had my hair cut completely short. Since then I've never had short hair.

If you had to get a tattoo what would you get?

I used to get henna tattoos on my lower back at Venice Beach, when I lived in Los Angeles. There was a tribal tattoo design that I particularly loved, so that's the one I would get.

If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life what would it be?

This might sound funny, but I love Thai soup. I make it at home sometimes.

Which of the Spice Girls do you identify with most?

Sorry, but I have to say none of them.

If you could have dinner with three famous people, who would they be?

My mother because she's not here anymore, and she has always been my hero. I don't really have any idols. There are people I respect enormously for what they've achieved. But to be honest, I'd prefer to have dinner with some of my relatives who are no longer here.

If you had to retire a celebrity, who would it be?

Paris Hilton, because I think she has never really done much besides partying. There are other celebrities who show up everywhere, but at least they use their talents and have done something interesting.

What's the most expensive piece of clothing you own?

I have a Versace dress which is probably the most expensive. It's white and floor-length. It's so beautiful and I love it!

What in your opinion is the greatest song ever written?

There are so many, but if I had to mention one it would be *Fields of Gold* by Sting. I used to sing it for my mother, so it has a special place in my heart. I also love *Ordinary Love* by Sade. She was the person who made me want to become a singer.



COFFEE
CHAT**What is the greatest movie of all time?**

It has to be *A Beautiful Life*. It might sound corny, but I used to watch it at Christmas with my family and I think it has such a great message. It's about how we're all connected and how each and every one of our decisions in life affects other people.

Which movie would you like to have starred in?

Grease. I used to watch it all the time when I was a kid.

Tell me your favourite quote or motto.

'Don't limit what you can achieve and there will be no limit to your success.'

What's your favourite joke?

Oh, I don't know!

What's in your handbag?

Armani perfume, make-up, Sony MP3 player, a CD with my single and my favourite bracelet made of pearls and stones.

If you had 10 minutes with George Clooney what would you talk about?

I would ask him about himself. I would like to know what's in his head and try to get behind his famous persona...

If you could have any super power, what would it be?

I'd have the power of healing.

What animal do you think you look like?

A cheetah, maybe.

What would you bring with you to a deserted island?

I'd bring a friend.

If you were the ruler of the world for one day, what would you do?

I'd make the world peaceful.

Tell me one thing that no one knows about you.

I have a little yellow stuffed dinosaur which my mother named AlGot (meaning 'everything good' in Swedish). It's my good luck charm!

What was your most memorable moment?

There are so many, but one of the most memorable was when my brother was born. There's 11 years between us. I always wanted a brother. He's the best! Other moments that are invaluable to me are times when people have told me they like my voice. Since I've really had to fight for my voice to be heard, it means the world to me.

Who do you prefer, men with a moustache or a beard?

Neither. But if I had to choose, I like men with three-day stubble!

What excites you?

Meeting someone with drive, who wants to achieve something in life. I love people with passion, because I think I have it too. I feel we owe it to whoever put us here to do our best in life. Sometimes I think we take for granted the fact that we're going to see another day and we really shouldn't. It's so important to just be thankful for our lives and not worry about the small things that don't matter. ☺

Name: THERESE NEAIME

Nationality: Swedish with Lebanese heritage

Profession: Therese Neaime is a singer who released the popular songs *How Could I?* and *The Future*, which reached No.13 in the US Top 40. Her first album is called *Living*. The singer performed at the Dubai International Jazz Festival this year and recently performed on stage with Simply Red in Europe. Therese is currently working on her second album to be released in September this year.