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WARNING: Dangerous Curves...the Tour! Ahead --by Latisha Monique

Curvy, Confident and Empowered!!! This describes the plus size beauties who will be dominating the stage of The Sheraton LaGuardia East on November 29, 2003. Why? Because Dangerous Curves...the Tour! will feature graceful, current, hip and traditional fashions for Plus Women of any age, race and body type. "The audience should expect to see beautiful curvaceous women being happy about their size." declares Kadene K, a plus model beauty that will also be strutting her stuff on Saturday.

Plus model Maddy, also shares her thoughts..."This tour is more than a fashion show - sure it's a way to show curvy women out there that we are being represented on the runway but more importantly we are here to help women embrace their bodies, love their bodies and to accept how sexy and beautiful we are. Not your typical runway show but it's what women need as well as fabulous clothing."

Belle Noir was able to catch up with Gwendolyn "Diva" DeVoe, Executive Producer for Dangerous Curves...the Tour! She shared some inside information with us about this grand upcoming event.

BN: Many of us know you as Diva Gwendolyn DeVoe...Tell us a little about Diva...

Diva: "Diva" is a nickname that I have had long before it was acceptable to be called a Diva. A colleague of mine gave me that name when she and I used to promote events together. Her crowd of friends were laid back, downtown bohemian types, while my friends were suit and tie, corporate types. The eclectic mix of our guests was astounding and quite successful. I'm not quite sure she meant it as a compliment back then, but the nickname stuck and I've worked it to my advantage.

BN: Yes, you most certainly have. You are very popular in this arena. I was happy to have had the chance to meet you back in August of this year. So, you're the Executive Producer for Dangerous Curves...the Tour. What is it and what inspired you to start this show, now tour?

Diva: Dangerous Curves...the Tour! is a traveling celebratory fashion and empowerment event aimed at promoting positive body images and bringing quality, fashionable and stylish clothing to the homes of women across America. Inspired by the many emails I receive every day from curvy women who want to be able to purchase stylish, affordable clothing in their size, this tour went from something that I "could" do, to something that I "needed" to do. I have been a producer of plus size fashion events for over 7 years now, so producing this tour/fashion show came naturally.

BN: I see and I must say that you are very talented. I notice you are a respected icon in this business for plus women in general. What is your vision for Dangerous Curves...the Tour! in the future?

Diva: I want this tour to be an event that "real women" will want to attend, not just aspiring models. The tour is part educational (seminars, book signings, panel discussions) and part beauty (makeovers, spa services, fashion show). We will have something on the program for all curvy divas -- not just those interested in fashion.

BN: It sounds like it will be a sure success!! What's in store for those who attend on the November 29th?

Diva: Guests of the November 29th show in New York City will be treated to the collections of some of the finest curvy fashions available, including Richard Metzger, Mad! Couture, Qristyl Designs, Michi, The Voluptuous Woman Boutique, Big Girls United, Hy Fishman Furs, Her Game 2 and Tuesday Conner, to name a few. These collections are made for the unique and diverse body types and lifestyles that make up the curvy female population. And, the best thing is that all of the samples will be available for sale after the show -- just in time for the holiday season!

BN: Wow!! You have much support for this show, it seems as though many will benefit from it. I know you mentioned to me before that your tour wasn't just about New York. What other cities can we expect to see on the tour's itinerary?

Diva: In an effort to bring national attention to our efforts, the tour, along with a select group of curvy celebrity speakers and entertainers, will travel to 10 cities in 2004. These include Washington, DC; Philadelphia, PA; Richmond, VA; Trenton, NJ, Atlanta, GA; Charleston, SC; Raleigh, NC; Baltimore, MD; Albany, NY and Boston, MA. Additional cities will be added as the tour gains popularity.

BN: Now I know that you are all set with models for the show on the 29th, but what about your future shows? How can plus models get involved with the Tour?

Diva: Although we have already cast the models who will travel with the tour, we intend to hold additional castings 4-6 months before the tour travels to each city and add those models to the shows that will be held in their city. Interested models should contact our Casting Director via e-mail at dcthetour@aol.com.

BN: Thank you Diva for speaking with us! As Belle Noir looks forward to many successes, we thank you that you allowed us to take part in yours!

In addition to interviewing Diva DeVoe, I also spoke with two of the models that will be featured in the tour. Kadene K., who started modeling about one and a half years ago, shared with us that she was introduced to the tour via graduating from The Plus Academy. The Plus Academy, which is also run by Diva, is a plus modeling and training program geared toward the empowerment of the plus woman. See www.theplusacademy.com for more details and see more of Kadene at <http://www.r-lmodels.com/Women/Kadene.jpg>

Madeline F., who is affectionately known as Maddy, is a plus model veteran. Her four years of expertise have landed her a job as the tour's Casting Director in addition to her involvement with DeVoe Signature Events, which is the parent company for all of Diva's projects. You can see more of this plus beauty at www.musecube.com/madeline. Maddy says to those who plan to attend this great event: "BRING YOUR CAMERAS!!! You have never seen a show like this."

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