

Lifestyle

Xaviera Hollander Author and theatrical entrepreneur

“The Happy Hooker was a kind of sexual bible”

ANDREW FORBES MARBELLA

Xaviera found fame in the sixties with her best selling book, 'The Happy Hooker', which has sold millions worldwide. She dominated the sexual revolution of that time and has since lived a rich and varied life as author, theatre producer and celebrity. Her style is forthright and direct. Xaviera lives between Amsterdam and Marbella and is now dedicating much of her time to bringing live theatre to Spain.

1 How does a professional diplomatic secretary become a "Happy Hooker"?

I was always good as a typist and therefore good with my hands! I was the perfect girl for the prostitution business. It was a chance meeting with what turned out to be a 'professional lady' in a singles bar who said, "Honey, do you know you are sitting on a gold mine. Why don't you cash in on your sexuality?" So, that's how my career started. As a secretary, even for the consulate, I had a meagre salary, so for years I had two careers. I would dash off to my clients at lunchtime, often on my bicycle, through the streets of Amsterdam. It finally added some money to my pocket and designer clothes in my wardrobe!

2 Do you think people read your books and articles for titillation or for help and advice?

Many for fun and entertainment and also as sexual titillation; but for many people 'The Happy Hooker' was a kind of 'sexual bible'. They learnt how to enjoy sex, and teach their partners to either 'shape up or ship out'. But nowadays I also use my books to support my workshops about sex - to help to teach people the things to do or not to do in bed.

3 After forty years since being a famous Madame in 'the world's oldest profession', do people still come to you for sexual advice?

Yes, sometimes at parties, or when my bed and breakfast guests come to visit us and we talk over a home cooked meal. However I usually speak about my life and anecdotes in combination with sex workshops or lectures I give all over Holland. During these lectures I always ask a certain amount of questions as well as talk. I've discovered that most women complain bitterly about their partners' lack of initiative to make sex fun and exciting in or even outside the bedroom. Women are always supposed to wear sexy lingerie, put on make-up, get their hair done



PASSION FOR THE ARTS. XAVIERA IS BRINGING LIVE THEATRE TO THE COSTA DEL SOL.

“Sometimes I think it's superficiality galore on the Costa del Sol. I want to offer something different

just right and even sometimes learn how to belly dance or strip-tease while the men just lay there expectantly. What's more, as soon as the sex is over with, men tend to turn around and pass out like a log whilst women need 'after play'.

4 So what's your best advice for keeping a relationship working?

My suggestion is to be honest about your feelings and desires, use your imagination and get inventive with your partner. Take each other out of the family home and treat each other to a naughty weekend; change roles and come up with some new ideas about sex, like new locations; and most of all pay attention to 'foreplay' and 'after play'.

5 You are happily married. Does it take a special type of man to be able to confidently live with a forthright woman like you?

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lationship that had lasted for six years and I was just thinking at that time towards the end of my gay affair that I was in fact a closet heterosexual! What I love about my man is his character; most of all he is caring and considerate - and he has magic hands that give great massages! That's how I fell in love with him, at a garden party for my 62nd birthday! I suddenly received this unexpected shoulder massage from someone standing behind me. I thought instantly: I could fall in love with this person; be it male or female, with these magic hands. So that's how I met Philip! The fact that he is ten years younger also helps, as I definitely did not want an older man any more.

6 In addition to your home in Marbella, you also have a property in Amsterdam. Tell us more about that?

I have owned, for the last forty years, a magnificent three floor

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townhouse in Amsterdam's so called 'Gold Coast' area. I run it as a Bed and Breakfast, so I share that house with a cute young Peruvian, who manages it for me. Many fans of mine will make sure when they book that I am at the house when they come. The entire house breathes 'Xaviera'; there is erotic art, never shocking but certainly sensual, and my books, toys and paraphernalia and collected art are everywhere.

7 Where are your favourite places in the world?

Zihuatenejo, an idyllic fishing village in Mexico, not far from Acapulco with a golden beach and not too many tourists. I have been going there for the last thirty or so years; and each year look forward to meeting my old friends and making new acquaintances.

Then there is the gorgeous city of Edinburgh which I have also been visiting for thirty odd years, mostly to see old friends and scout

for new theatre plays during the Edinburgh Theatre Festival, to bring to Holland and Spain.

8 Recently you've turned your energy to theatre production. How did that start?

I started out entertaining lots of friends for free. One of them suggested why don't I turn my house into a 'Happy Cooker' place where I simply start charging guests for the meals. So this grew and I started to include entertainment. I later brought a one man play over from the Edinburgh Festival and, as they say, the rest is history. It was an instant hit and 'Xaviera's Home Theatre' in Amsterdam was born. I had my own stage built; learned about lighting and sound; and even purchased forty authentic theatre seats!

Now I am doing it in Spain as well, at my home, Villa Caprice. I enjoy bringing something new to the coast. Sometimes I think people prefer to go to superficial beach clubs and get roaring drunk. Sometimes I think its 'superficiality galore' on the Costa del Sol. There're all those clubs to join - the 'you name it, I've joined it' Clubs where everybody is over fifty five and so busy with luncheon parties that there seems no time to appreciate true handpicked award winning plays. And there're those old time theatre shows with well preserved ageing actors who once were in the limelight many moons ago in England. Well, I've 'been there, done that'! I wanted to offer something different with totally new plays and actors who have never before performed in Andalusia or even Spain.

9 How did you make inroads into the world of theatre and the performing arts?

Having a famous name helps but I just had to move out of the niche of being seen as a sex writer and instead demonstrate to people that I can bring a terrific play or fun cabaret to a new audience.

10 What have you in the pipeline on the Costa del Sol?

In the New Year, I am presenting two new shows. Firstly, Micheline Van Hautem and Frank de Kleer in 'Jacques Brel and Edith Piaf', and secondly the show 'It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing!' So together I'll bring a twist of Paris and a touch of New York in the middle of Marbella's winter. Each show is running for two nights - Thursday January 20th and Friday January 21st at 8.30 p.m.; and the Saturday January 22nd and Sunday January 23rd at 8.30 p.m. respectively.

■ MORE INFORMATION | ☎ 952857575
www.xavierahollander.com