

Offstage with Nikki Einfeld

This month, we talk to Nikki Einfeld, the talented Winnipeg-born coloratura soprano singing the lead role in *The Daughter of the Regiment*. Ms. Einfeld mentored with the legendary Tracy Dahl and has since graced stages across North America. This mother of two, it turns out, has a crush on Johnny Depp and was probably a queen in a past life.

1. *Who would you rather be stranded on a desert island with – Lady Gaga or Albert Einstein?*

Though I am sure I would find it very interesting to be around a genius such as Einstein- in terms of pure entertainment value I would have far more fun with Lady Gaga. We could jam together. I would, however, have to insist she left her meat dress at home, since I am not a big fan of red meat.

2. *What are the three most-played songs on your iPod?*

I use my iPod mostly for jogging so my top three are:

1. "Edge of Glory" by Lady Gaga
2. "Run the World (Girls)" by Beyoncé
3. A remix of "Viva la Vida" by ColdPlay.

High energy gets the workout done!

3. *Are you a cat person or a dog person?*

I am an animal lover in general, so I can't really distinguish. I might have been more of a cat person at one point in my life until I got my now-nine-year-old golden retriever. He is a love!

4. *What is your favourite song to sing on karaoke night?*

"Hit Me With Your Best Shot" by Pat Benatar! Every opera singer likes to belt one out (albeit badly) from time to time!

5. *What was the last movie you saw in a theatre?*

I am embarrassed to admit the last time I saw a movie in the theatre was when *Julie and Julia* came out. Life gets busy when you are a working mom of two! Thank goodness for Netflix.

6. *What's your go-to junk food when watching TV?*

Salt and vinegar chips – kettle style.

7. *In which other time and place would you like to live and why?*

I was really meant to be a queen in the 15th or 16th century.

8. *What would be on the menu of your last meal?*

Tuna sashimi and a gigantic dark chocolate cake.

9. *What's your favourite reality TV show?*

I would like to be able to say that I don't watch reality TV, but that would be a Big Ol' Lie. Unfortunately I got sucked into *The Bachelor* AGAIN. And though I spend most of the show griping about the ridiculous premise, I somehow keep going back for more. It's like an accident — you have to look.

10. *What's the name of last book that you recommended to someone?*

Hunger Games: The Trilogy. This is not a typical read for me since I usually read historical fiction novels, but these books are fast-paced page turners. BEWARE: Make sure you have ample reading time before you crack these books; you will not surface until you are done.

11. *Which would you rather drive – a Smart Car or a Mustang convertible?*

I am not really the Mustang type, so Smart Car it is. My dream car is the new VW Beetle though – even though it may not be very “smart.”

12. *Who inspires you?*

People that are tolerant, loving, and patient in a world where it is getting harder to do so every day. I am working hard towards achieving this perfect harmony in my life daily.

13. *What's the best advice you've ever received?*

Follow your Dreams – they led me to the stage.

14. *What do you do to for fitness?*

Currently I am training for a half marathon, and I love power yoga.

15. *Which celebrity would you like to have dinner with?*

Johnny Depp – I find him very well spoken and intriguing.



Ms. Einfeld and Gregory Dahl in the 2005 MO production of *The Elixir of Love*. Photo: R. Tinker.

16. *What's the scariest thing you've ever done?*

I've ziplined, which gave me a good rush. It wasn't really that scary! Does that make me boring, or just really brave?

17. *If you weren't a singer, how would you make a living?*

I would teach music — I can't imagine not having something musical in my life. Or maybe I would start a health food/juicing/almost-vegetarian food blog.

18. *Where would you like to spend your next vacation?*

Paris.

19. *Who was your favourite rock band/pop group when you were a teenager?*

NKOTB! (New Kids On The Block)

20. *What's your perfect day?*

I love exploring nature on a beautiful sunny day with my two daughters and my husband. A picnic on the beach, or a hike in the woods always makes my heart feel full.