

# Janice Huff

## TODAY SHOW METEOROLOGIST REFLECTS ON ROAD TO ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

by Perdita Savage Belk

I had often admired Janice Huff from afar – way afar from my Irmo couch early Saturday mornings as she delivered the weather from the Today Show’s Rockefeller Plaza in New York with the most infectious personality I had ever seen. From my viewpoint, she had perfected the flavorful forecast of sunshine, rain and natural disasters all while looking extraordinary in a designer suit and Stuart Weitzman shoes. So what if I was hundreds of miles (and millions of dollars) away – a girl can fantasize about high fashion and a high profile career, right?

Needless to say, I jumped at the chance to chat with Janice recently when she visited Columbia, her old stomping grounds, to talk about her road to Rockefeller Plaza. Invited by the South Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), Janice was greeted by public relations professionals, fans, old teachers from Eau Claire High School, in addition to aunts, uncles and cousins hailing from her husband’s native Eastover.

“It has been a very long road,” laughed the recently turned 40 Janice who was stunning in an earthy mauve floral print dress that complimented her model-like figure. “The last 20 years have been very exciting and rewarding.” Those 20 years have been good to Janice who has pittstopped since her Florida State University days in places like San Francisco, St. Louis, and Chattanooga – preparing her to be the well-oiled forecasting machine she is today. “I have

always loved the weather, it gave me passion,” she confessed to the captive audience with the same effervescence she has for the dedicated many that camp outside the *Today Show* headquarters just to catch a glimpse of her and other *Today* celebs. “I really get excited about hurricanes, just not excited enough to chase one!”

Interestingly enough, this only child never planned

on a high profile television career, thinking instead that she would work for the national weather service. She chose television because “my friends talked me into it! I guess fortunately the government was having a hiring freeze when I graduated from college, so I ended up on television.” Who knew that she would become synonymous

with weather in the #1 media market New York, working for NBC since 1995. Bursting with energy, Janice also hosts NY Wired, WNBC’s half-hour lottery show on Saturday at 7:00 p.m., delivers weekday forecasts for MSNBC’s “The News with Brian Williams,” and hosts a variety of community related segments.

Hard to believe that this glamorous sista grew up in a log cabin in rural Richland County off a dirt road with no running water. “We didn’t move closer to the city until I was about eight,” remembered Janice who lived with her mother and grandparents. “I have some very fond memories of South Carolina and it will always be a special place to me.” Although her almost daily commute into work from her New Jersey home seems worlds away from her humble beginnings, Janice has kept her life in perspective.

“You have to have a passion for your career, and not let it be all about money,” offered the Alpha Kappa Alpha soror. “I’m doing exactly what I love and I get paid to do it! I’m happy with my life and myself. What more can you ask for?”

Not much, except maybe a slightly reduced schedule. “I want to retire early!” laughingly exclaimed Janice to a packed house that included several retirees. “I love my job, but I’m really looking forward to not working six days a week.” Don’t worry Janice, Willard has to retire someday! ■



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