

Miss Indian World 2010-11



Miss Teyotsihstokwathe Dakota Brant

Mohawk Turtle Clan from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, Canada

Shé:kon skén:nen ne wa'tkwanonhwerátonhs akwé:kon akh-wátsire tsí Onkwehówéne, á:se táhnon káyen. Teyotsihstokwáthe ne waksenna'ón:we, táhnon Dakota Brant ne waksennóten. Kanyen'kehá:ka ní:i ne wakenyáhton waki'teróten. Ohswé:ken nite-wakénonh.

Kwáh néne wakatshenón:ni asé'ken Miss Indian World ní:i. Wake'nikonhráksa't asé'ken akherihohétstha tsí ò:ya yakonkwé:io, nék tsí wakatonháhere karihón:ni é:so enyako'weskwanihake nók é:so enyerihonnyónhake. Ne á:se Miss Indian World tewakatohwentsyó:ni akhehróri' tsí tóhsa sonke'nikónhrhen ne sahwátsire, ne sáwen niyoh-wentsyóten, táhnon nisarihóten né:'e tsí áhsen níkontirihwá:ke tsí yesaya'tón:nis ónkha ní:se. Tkákonte aesheriwhakwényehste'. Ne káti ne ó:ya, né:'e saríhwá:ke tsí tyóhtkon á:se sonnihatyes.

Nyá:wen kó:wa táhnon é:so tsí kwanorohkwa ne akhwátsire táhnon ne akwé:kon ronónkwe tsí wa'onkyenawase' ní:i ne shiyoserá:ke. Nyá:wen kó:wa ne tyóhtkon skén:nen.

When I first heard my name called out as the 2010 Miss Indian World, my excitement became contained by the sense of responsibility I suddenly felt to those other women who stood in the contestant circle with me. I have a profound respect for these women, as each worked hard and were strong representatives of their Nations. My efforts over the past year have fundamentally been to make these 25 women proud. In the bond I created with many of them, and in those opportunities where I stayed in their homes with their families over the past year, I am humbled and grateful.

Being Miss Indian World has given me perspective and lessons I now hold dear in my own person. To impart a few, I've learned that hard work will get you where you want to go, but respect for all people and the things they want to share with you will take you to places you haven't even dreamed of. No matter how hard life gets,



Photo by Derek Mathews



Dakota with her sister, Jessie.



Dakota steps off the plane.



Dakota with her choir.



2010, a year to remember.

I can promise you that it gets better if you focus on those things that make you happy, even if you don't know what those things are yet you need to find it in you to follow your instincts in this. Also, do not keep your dreams to yourself! While I worked hard to become Miss Indian World I would not be here was it not for the support of family and friends. Whatever your dream, challenge yourself to work toward it and seek education from others; even negative people have things to teach us.

To the 2011 Miss Indian World, the excitement will be enormous and very real, but always remember your responsibility to our

people. To translate myself, my motto as Miss Indian World has been *sarihwá:ke tsí tyóhtkon á:se sonnihatyes*, "it is your duty to always go along and make things new". Throughout Indian Country we have this common understanding that the earth goes through cycles to keep itself new and whole. We as women are manifestations of that renewal; from our menses to childbirth the work of a woman's body is a ceremony. As Miss Indian World you must embody that renewal; cultivate empowerment wherever you go and make new our pride in ourselves. Indian Country looks to you for empowerment, so inspire them!!

I have been proud to serve as your 2010 Miss Indian World. I am honoured to have the Niyohkwaritá':a (Little Bear) Dancers, a troupe of 5-10 year-old Six Nations youth I have been teaching the art of Haudenosaunee Dance Styles, to share in my final moments as Miss Indian World. I hope you 2011 GON participants enjoy the display. For many of these children, this is their first trip away from home. If you get a chance give these little ones a pat on the back because they worked hard to be here, and they deserve it. *Nyá:wen kó:wa ne wa'tkwanonhwerátonhs tsí Gathering of Nations 2011 nón:we sewakwé:kon!*

Meet Miss Indian World

Teyotsihstokwathe Dakota Brant is a member of the Mohawk Nation Turtle Clan. She is 22 years old and was born on the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. On April 24, 2010, Miss Brant was selected from among 26 young knowledgeable and proud native women and awarded the title of Miss Indian World 2010.

As an ambassador of all Native American nations to the world now, she holds the responsibility of building bridges between cultures, and strengthening relationships across the America's and around the world. Miss Brant looks forward to her year as the first Mohawk woman to ever be crowned Miss Indian World, stating "I am proud of the Mohawk Nation for which I am a representative. I have become strong from knowing myself, my family's love and my Nation's support. I know to always consider what kind of ancestor I want to become for some child when making my decisions. In knowing that, I can proudly represent my People and never forget who I am as a native woman, a young leader and a future teacher."

Miss Brant is a proud recent graduate of the Indigenous Environmental Studies Program at Trent University. Wearing many hats, she is an Honor Roll student, a proud Mohawk speaker, a firefighter, avid beader and Smoke Dancer, and a performer with the Haudenosaunee Women's Performance group "Kontihente".



Dakota shares more than a birthday with her twin sister, Jessie.

