

# Distinguished Achievement Citation

Wendie D. Malick

Class of 1972

It is an honor today to recognize Wendie Malick for her outstanding and prolific career in theater, modeling, film and television and for her commitment to working to make the world a better place. With pride, we present her with Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation.

After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in fine arts, Wendie experimented with a variety of jobs. She worked as an assistant to Congressman Jack Kemp, whose major platform programs focused on housing and racial equality, toured the country as a member of a professional women's ski team, and was a professional model in New York and Paris for five years. The world of acting continued to beckon her, however, and she began to appear on such television shows as *Seinfeld*, *Cybill*, and *Mad About You*. She had recurring roles on *Kate and Allie*, *Baywatch* and *NYPD Blue* and in 1990, debuted in the popular HBO comedy, *Dream On* as Judith Tupper Stone, a role for which she earned four Cable Ace Awards as best Actress in a Comedy Series. Currently, Wendie is best known as the co-star of the wildly popular NBC sitcom *Just Shoot Me*, where she plays Nina Van Horn, the ditzy former model-turned-editor of the New York based fashion magazine, "Blush." It is this role that garnered her an Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series.

Wendie began her career in the theater while here at Ohio Wesleyan under the tutelage of professor Bo Rabby. Her post-OWU theatrical background includes performances in *Guys & Dolls*, *Mame*, *Bab Humbug*, the New York premiere of Israel Hortiowitz's *North Shore Fish*, and the Los Angeles production of Oliver Hailey's *Round Trip*, for which she was nominated for the Artistic Director's Award as Best Lead Actress in a Play in 1995.

In addition to her roles on stage, Wendie has enjoyed similar acclaim with her work in motion pictures, which spans the spectrum from mainstream productions such as *Bugsy*, *The American President*, *Scrooged* and *Trojan Wars* to smaller independent films, such as *Jerome*, *Manna From Heaven* and *On Edge*. Wendie's voice can also be heard in Disney's animated production *The Emperor's New Groove*. Her movie credits are not limited to the big screen and include television films, such as *Take My Advice: The Ann & Abby Story*, where she had the opportunity to play both title roles of Ann Landers & Abigail Van Buren, *Paper Dolls* and *Dynasty: The Miniseries*.

Receiving the 2000 Woman of Vision Award from the Women in Film and Video Association, Wendie was recognized not only for her acting talent and success, but also for another strong interest and commitment involving her humanitarian contributions. While she is involved with organizations such as Planned Parenthood, Adopt-A-Family and domestic violence prevention, Wendie's special focus is on housing for the poor. Twelve years ago, she was invited to travel with some friends to Tijuana to help construct houses and an orphanage for people in need of shelter. There, she met her husband, builder Richard Erickson, who has been an important influence on her increased awareness of the suffering of these people and the need to help. With their group, The Maverick Building Squad, they continue to travel to Mexico often and regularly visit Aungba, an African village in which Erickson constructed a medical clinic. Together with their three dogs, two horses and a cat, Wendie and Richard live in the Santa Monica Mountains.

We join her reuniting classmates in saluting Wendie D. Malick, and recognize and applaud her celebrated career with the presentation of this Distinguished Achievement Award.

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