



# Gigi

**T**HE SEXY SHOWGIRL SHOT to fame when she won the first *South Africa Celebrity Survivor*. Not only did she change people's perceptions about the strip industry, she also won the competition without any of the conniving, back-stabbing and general ugliness that goes hand in hand with the game, as well as loads of fans thanks to her sweet personality. And that was only the start of a busy year for Gigi...



**Last year you were just running a strip club, and now you're famous around SA. How would you describe your 2010?**  
It's been really busy... and obviously good for business! People are recognising me everywhere I go, from the pharmacy to the gym. But I must admit that I'm looking forward to taking a long break in December. This year's been a hectic one!

**Do you still struggle with negative attitudes towards the stripping industry?**  
Very seldom these days. I'm glad I had the chance to change that perception during *Survivor*. Now I've got old women coming up to me saying they voted for me. The people who used to judge me are now coming into the club; they want to see what it's all about and they realise it's not dirty and slutty. It's just a job.  
**You came across as quite a sweetheart on the competition; probably not what people were expecting...**

[Laughs.] Well, what people saw on the island was Gigi... I'm the girl next door who runs her own business and works long, hard hours. I'm trying to make a living, just like everyone else.

**How has your life changed since winning *Celebrity Survivor*?**

It's so strange... I never thought I'd ever be asked to do interviews and make so many appearances, just because people always used to judge me. But that's changed and I'm glad; people respect me more.

**And what did you end up doing with your prize money?**

I spent it on renovations in the club. I redid the bathrooms and they look fab now. And then there's always Cape Town...

**Oh, so you're expanding?**

Well, I'm hoping to. I want my business to grow... I want to be able to give my dancers the opportunity to be independent women who are in charge of their own finances and their own lives. You don't have to rely on a man for anything... Everyone is capable of running their own lives!

**You're in fab shape, and you clearly don't have any issues with your body...**

[Laughs.] *Ja*, well... I really had fun with the *Iconic Moments* shoot just because it was so gory. I'm glad it came out well. [Turn to p56 for the *Iconic Moments Special!*]

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