

"I realised I wanted a kind heart"

Makeover maven Trinny Woodall talks to *Stellar* about life after *What Not To Wear* and finding love with Nigella Lawson's ex-husband

Interview by KERRY PARNELL



IF THE SHOE FITS
(from far left) Trinny Woodall in 2015 with her partner Charles Saatchi, who is the ex-husband of Nigella Lawson; with her former *What Not To Wear* co-presenter Susannah Constantine in 2008.

For someone who has made a career doing makeovers, it comes as a surprise to discover Trinny Woodall, 55, has only just started backing herself. "It took me 50 years to have total confidence in myself," she tells *Stellar* over the phone from a London salon as she has a lactic peel and age spots lasered off her hands. "When I turned 50 it was the first time I felt truly ageless."

Even at the height of her TV fame in the 2000s as one half of Trinny and Susannah – during which time the British duo dispensed often brutally honest fashion advice on the TV series *What Not To Wear* – she didn't see herself as very interesting. "I always thought Susannah [co-presenter Susannah Constantine] was funny and I was a bit boring," admits Woodall. "Susannah had the best sense of humour and everyone loved her."

Born Sarah-Jane Duncanson Woodall in London and to a wealthy family, she got the nickname Trinny at boarding school because of her St Trinian's-like behaviour. Her early 20s were troubled, and she battled drink and drug addiction before starting her career in her 30s. It was then she met Constantine, and the pair wrote a fashion column before creating *What Not To Wear*,

which became a global hit. But their good fortune didn't last, and they left the show in 2005. Not long afterwards, Woodall's marriage to musician Johnny Elichaoff ended; the father of her 15-year-old daughter Lyla later tragically took his life.

Despite being wounded by a trinity of addiction, grief and unemployment, Woodall rented out her house and sold her clothes – raising an incredible \$125,000 – and started a beauty business she named Trinny London. "I was earning no money, I was in a house way too expensive for what I could afford, I was a single parent because my daughter's father died," she says. "There were moments when I was thinking, 'Am I going to be able to pull this off?'"

But pull it off she did, coming up with a beauty range based around stackable pots. "I would take three different lip colours and mush them together to make a blusher, putting them into Muji pots," she says. "Whenever I was in a bathroom doing my make-up, someone would ask where they could buy it and I would be kicking myself that I hadn't managed to get my idea from my head onto the kitchen table to grow it."

Two years on from launch, she sells one Miracle Blur product every 23 seconds. It has garnered her a band of loyal followers known as the Trinny Tribe, many of whom are in Australia. Woodall says Australian women are more conscious of skincare than

their UK counterparts, especially when it comes to SPF. They also don't commit the "Trinny-sin" of too much contouring.

Woodall tells *Stellar* she hates tabloid gossip, but she did get drawn into her own drama when she became involved with advertising mogul and art collector Charles Saatchi after his acrimonious split from cooking show host Nigella Lawson. After being introduced by a mutual friend, the pair was publicly outed on a dinner date at Scott's in London, eerily the same restaurant where Saatchi, 76, was photographed grabbing Lawson by the throat in 2013.

Although the incident made worldwide headlines, and led to Saatchi receiving a caution for assault following an investigation by police and his subsequent divorce from Lawson, Woodall claims to have been unaware of her partner's past.

"Really weirdly, I still didn't know any of that sh*t," she says, insisting her only concern was asking their mutual friend whether Saatchi was "kind".

"I would ask that of anyone," Woodall tells *Stellar*. "I realised in my 50s I wanted a kind heart. Two minutes later I get a call. There's no, 'Hi, it's Charles,' but just, 'What do you mean I'm not kind?'"

"I thought I just need to get to know this person to see if I like them, and within a few months I knew I really, really cared about him," she says. Six years on, the pair live together. "It's that thing of what are you ready for," she says. "I feel like we are an old couple now." ★
For more information, visit trinnylondon.com.

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