

Shamrock Princess Q and A Brandi

What is the most memorable vacation you've taken?

Each year my friends and I try to travel as a means of expanding our world and awareness. Some years are national, others we stay domestic. Turkey was one of our international trips, and one of our first as a group. It was a place that, to be honest, I harbored a very naïve and negative perception of. Even worse, I feared the place, the people and the culture within it.

I took a leap of faith and went, what better way to combat a fear than to understand it – eh? The two-week Turkish adventure took me all over their lands and broke down every stone of the wall I had built. I faced my fears of heights by soaring over mountains in a hot air balloon. I broke down language and cultural barriers with hand gestures while buying a hand-made ceramic plate from a most wonderful old woman in a tiny village in the countryside. I repaired my upturned nose by coming to find, their food is some of the best I have ever had in the entire world. And most importantly, I opened my mind and learned that we really are all so similar. We all have the power to find beauty in landscapes, fun with each other, and love of the life we have been given. This trip was memorable not just because of the group of friends I grew closer to, but because of the judgement and fear I left behind.

What's the craziest thing you've ever done in your life?

When I was in my early twenties following college graduation, I walked away from a new job opportunity only to pick up and move several weeks later to Northern California where I worked as a nanny. It allotted me time to figure out my adulting game plan and see the world, outside of my comfort zone and away from anyone I knew, to see if I could do it. And I did. I am far better for it and although I returned to a workforce deeply submerged within a recession, I don't regret it for a moment. I got to know the most magnificent 7-year-old magician the west coast, dare I say the world, has ever seen and gained a second family that took me under their wing and afforded me many adventures I would never have been able to have had otherwise.

If you could be in the movie of your choice, what movie would you choose and what character would you play?

My first reaction was to play Elinor in my utmost favorite film, *Sense and Sensibility* (circ. 1995). I adore the clothing, the era, the music and the scenery not to mention a chance to act with Emma Thompson and Alan Rickman?! Gasp! I really admire how Elinor comes into her own in terms of confidence and going after what she loves, yet never wavering in her decorum.

Another close runner would be *Bridesmaids*, however it is a toss up of the "Struggle Bus Annie" I relate to so well and Megan (although if possible, I would like only to act out the scene of her driving a van full of puppies on repeat).

What's a favorite family memory that has stuck with you?

Camping throughout the Bad Lands, Yellowstone National Park and the Black Hills. It had everything: family, mini vans, the 'ol "I'm not touching you" gag with my sister, and copious hours spent listening to the Pocahontas soundtrack on tape cassette. Throughout the entire trip I kept a quote log of crazy things my mother said, and ended up gifting her a video recounting of it following our return home. Seeing such monumental landmarks and landscapes I only ever saw in text books was utterly magical.

In an age of technology, social media and an "always on" mentality – I look back at the simplicity of this trip very fondly and am very thankful and appreciative to have had such a great experience with my loved ones. Now where did I leave that quote log??

What hobby would you get into if time and money weren't an issue?

Sailing and restoring old sail boats

What would your warning label say if every person was required to have one?

Approach with Caution: Highly flammable due to an egregious amount of hairspray used