

Who is Penny Pearlman?

Penny Pearlman is the author of the award winning *Pretty Smart: Lessons from our Miss Americas* which was recently named a finalist in two book competitions - the 2009 National Indie Excellence Awards and the Next Generation Indie Book Awards. She launched *Pretty Smart* at the Miss America Pageant in Las Vegas in January 2009 after she tracked down and seduced 22 former Miss Americas into talking with her about their lives and how they pursued their passions all the way to professional and personal success.



In the rest of her life Penny is an accomplished motivational speaker, business consultant and seminar leader who helps individuals and organizations develop strategies for success. She brings to audiences and clients alike the wisdom gained from a lifetime of pursuing her own dreams. Her personal journey has included executive positions in the health care industry, management consulting and nonprofit leadership. Her left and right brain work equally well as she has both an MBA from The Wharton School and a B.A. in fine art from Queens College. She lives in Westport, Connecticut with her husband and two cats.

As a woman who has achieved more than she ever envisioned possible as a young girl, she has walked through her fears, struggled with self-doubts and dug deep for those internal resources to keep going in the face of what sometimes seemed insurmountable obstacles.

Her professional career started in a high school teaching art and evolved through two master's degrees, becoming executive director of two non-profit agencies, achieving an MBA in her mid-thirties as a single parent at Wharton, the world renowned business school, filling high level executive positions in large health care institutions and ultimately starting her own strategic planning and change management consulting firm. Nine years ago, she won a battle with stage IV mantle cell lymphoma, a rare and virulent form of cancer. After months of chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant, she took back her life. That experience firmed her resolve to not just survive, but thrive and informs both her professional and personal lives. She knows what it means to have a dream and a goal and the drive to make them a reality.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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