



who's that **PLAYGIRL?**

# DITA VonTeese

Inspired by the stars of striptease, Dita has been performing burlesque for the past seven years. She lives out every woman's fantasy of being admired for being feminine—she's a true a modern-day pin-up. She's also dating the prince of shock rock, Marilyn Manson.

**How did you get started in the business of burlesque?**

I started by working in a bikini strip club in 1992. I was posing for fetish magazines back then too, and I was working my vintage look every way that I could. Then I started headlining upscale gentlemen's clubs and special events all over the country and my shows and costumes got more and more elaborate.

**Who makes up the audience for your shows?**

Lots of women! These are usually straight girls with friends and boyfriends in tow! I also have a good fetish fan base with a nice sprinkling of rockabilly fans.

**Do you ever feel awkward being naked in front of so many people?**

No. I usually am not really wearing less than you see on the beach, but I look more nude because I end up wearing just rhinestones...LOTS of them!

**You are dating Marilyn Manson. What does he think of your work?**

He loves it. I have never known any man who appreciates my seamed stockings and corsets more. And he actually admired my photos long before he knew me.

**How much does your real sex life mirror your work? Do you always include fetish elements/play, or do you prefer to have plain old, normal sex?**

I DO really dress and look the way I do in photos for the most part. I love to dress up for sex. Although I have my kinks, I love nothing more than just plain great sex!

**Can a corset—something that constricts you—be empowering to wear?**

It's empowering to wear around someone who appreciates femininity! I just truly enjoy the look and feel so I feel confident whenever I wear a corset.

**What does your family and friends think of what you do?**

My family is very accepting of what I do; I end up signing magazines and calendars for their friends. My friends have all helped me along the way and attend most of my shows; in fact my best friend toured with me and assisted me with my shows for three years. I don't do anything in my shows that I couldn't do in front of my mother!

**What originally fascinated you about burlesque dancers and pin-up models?**

I was so intrigued by the beauty of the old musicals and Ziegfeld Follies, the decadence of the costumes and dance numbers has always been where my inspiration comes from. I try to make my performances a cross between that and burlesque. I like to incorporate a certain degree of humor and wit.

**What is sexy?**

Sexy is in the mind of the beholder!

**What advice would you give PLAYGIRL readers who want to strip for their men?**

Wear something you LOVE and that makes you feel hot! Wear your panties the way the French do—over the garter belt so you can leave your stockings on! Spend time doing it for fun alone with the music cranked up and the door locked, I do it all the time! And have a drink!

—by Ronnie Koenig

For more on Dita Von Teese visit [www.dita.net](http://www.dita.net)