

one on one
with Daryn Kagan

By Laurie Wing

“I think it's really important to be informed. I just also think it's important to be inspired.”



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aryn A. Kagan is the creator and host of DarynKagan.com. Before launching her Web site, Kagan was the host of the CNN news show CNN Live Today. Based in Atlanta, Georgia, she was an employee of CNN from 1994-2006.

On August 3, 2006, Kagan told her colleagues at CNN that she would be leaving the network and would launch her Web site DarynKagan.com on November 13, 2006.

Kagan sees her story as one of "reinvention," and gives speeches around the country on that topic.

LW: What inspired you to create www.DarynKagan.com? You have such a positive outlook on life. Was that as a result of your upbringing or your experiences being a news anchor for CNN?

DK: I really don't think my positive outlook is a result of my upbringing or my years spent at CNN. I believe it's a choice. We each have a point of view of the world and we collect stories to support that idea. Some people choose to think the world is out to get them, or that people are bad. I made a conscious choice to believe the world is a good place, and I choose to collect stories that support that idea. It's amazing when you choose to see the world that way, what shows up! So, my business of collecting positive stories is just an extension of my personal choice.

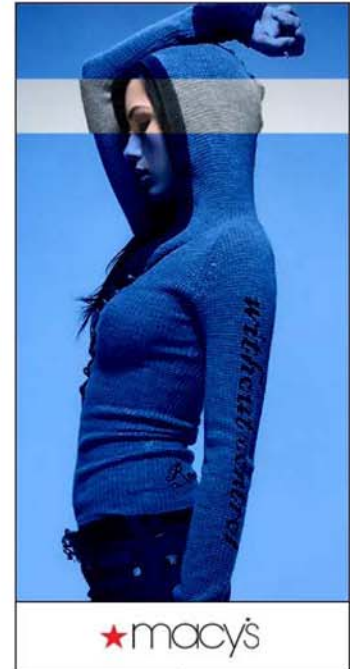
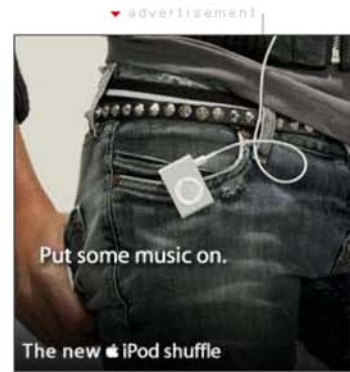
LW: I understand you were on the air live during the September 11th terrorist attacks. Describe that experience and how that affected you.

DK: Yes, I was. My then co-anchor, Leon Harris, and I took over the anchor desk for our regular morning shift just after the first plane hit the World Trade Center. At the time we took over, the prevailing belief was this was just a small plane that lost its way. As we watched that second plane careen into the WTC, it became clear it was something much bigger. In some ways, in the moment, it wasn't that different than any other major breaking news day. When you're a morning anchor at CNN, you show up each day ready to handle whatever comes through the door.

LW: I understand you are involved with a documentary. What is it about, and what inspired you to get involved with the project?

DK: The film is called, "Breaking The Curse," and it's a great example of a DarynKagan.com "Inside Out" story. It's about the fascinating journey of an American housewife, and how she became involved in changing the lives and fates of thousands of leprosy-afflicted people in India. Her trek begins as she tries to make sense of her own personal tragedy -- the death of her daughter. Along the way she partnered with a grown daughter of a former Indian president.

Viewers will be intrigued and amazed by these two women and their friendship: An American and an Indian; a suburban housewife and an Indian elite; a Christian and a Hindu. What they've been able to accomplish in India is even more amazing. It's a hopeful story that truly shows the world what's possible. Expect to see "Breaking the Curse" on PBS stations across the country later this year.



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