

“Don’t get freaked out if I’m asking different questions. I’m only filling in the blanks.”

— Matchmaker Janis Spindel, on her frank interview technique

Looking for a match made of millions

WIFE HUNT: Big-budget matchmaker aims to find a bride for millionaire

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Manhattan matchmaker Janis Spindel looks at 10 expectant female faces across a table in the Salon Pommard at the Sutton Place hotel.

“Don’t get freaked out if I’m asking different questions,” she says. “I’m only filling in the blanks.”

Spindel is in Vancouver on a mission: to find the perfect wife for a Vancouver millionaire.

Pen poised, she asks rapid-fire questions, delving into the stuff that lasting relationships are apparently made of: Are you athletic? Are you cultured? How cultured? Are you well-travelled? Are you a brainiac? What languages do you speak? Are your parents together? Do you have children? How long was your longest relationship? Who left who? She also gets up-close and personal: Is your hair Japanese-straightened? Flat-ironed? Did you get a nose job? Got any work done? “I just had my eyes zapped,” says one woman.

“Breast reduction,” volunteers another. (“That doesn’t count,” Spindel says.)

“Botox?” (Doesn’t count either.) Fixing her stare on a busty brunette, Spindel asks: “Are those your boobs?”

“Yes,” she says. “All natural.” A second woman in a low-cut top is asked the same question. Are they hers?

“Yes,” she says. “Bought and paid for.”

“Ever blow your hair out?” she asks a curly-haired brunette.

“Yes.”

“How’s it look?” “Really good.” Spindel tells her to send in two photos of herself in profile, one with curly, one with straight hair.

Spindel makes no apologies for

announcing that only attractive women need apply: “Men are very visual. Don’t shoot the messenger.”

In group sessions starting Wednesday and finishing yesterday, she personally interviewed “hundreds and hundreds” of women.

They came in dresses, suits, sandals and stilettos. There were teachers, bankers, makeup artists. One woman was a geneticist, another produces cooking shows. Ages ranged from mid-20s to 50s.

Some were stunners; others were quietly pretty.

They all had something in common. To find Mr. Right in a city where women seem to outnumber men, they were willing to resort to less orthodox methods.

The women are shelling out a \$25 application fee, \$12 for Spindel’s bestseller, *Get Serious About Getting Married*, and about \$20 if they opt for a professional head shot.

Spindel is charging the Vancouver millionaire about \$250,000 US to find him a woman.

For that, she’s done her homework. Six weeks ago, she flew in to go on a simulated date with the Vancouver millionaire.

Spindel admits she puts clients through a wringer, but notes that they’re willing.

“They know ‘failure’ doesn’t exist in my vocabulary,” she says.

She spent five days with Mr. Vancouver, in his life, with his friends, snooping in his world.

“I’m in his closets, in his underwear drawer, his refrigerators. He’s awesome,” she enthuses.

Six-foot-four, athletic, has an eight-year-old daughter. Loves animals. Great heart. Not a big drinker. Non-smoker. Sort of edgy.

He called her after reading about her in the *New York Times* magazine, she says.

“He sounded hot on the phone. We just hit it off.



Manhattan-based matchmaker Janis Spindel interviews some of the hundreds of B.C. women who hope to be considered as a future wife to a Vancouver millionaire Thursday. PHOTOS BY NICK PROCAYLO — THE PROVINCE



‘How old would you go?’ Spindel asks Maria West, above. ‘Up to 60 — but only if he’s in good shape.’

“He’s a riot,” she grins. “A riot.” Is he real?

Susan Semeniw of Divine Intervention, a local matchmaking company, thinks so.

“Spindel represents an extremely elite clientele. She wouldn’t fly out here with her entourage and create all this press for nothing.

“Vancouver isn’t typically her market.”

Semeniw also thinks it’s a good idea. Matchmakers, she says, eliminate the randomness of dating.

“The guy obviously values what [Spindel] is bringing to the table, and maybe wanted this competitive approach,” says Semeniw.

But is he what the women are looking for? Back at the hotel, Spindel’s on the case.

“How old would you go?” she asks Maria West.

“Up to 60 — but only if he’s in good shape,” says the 53-year-old.

To the next candidate: Do you want children?

“I’d happily take on another person’s kids,” she says promptly.

To someone who has put down “five foot 10” as a height requirement, she asks: “If I have an amazing guy who is five foot nine, would you take him?”

“Yes!” says the 30-year-old.

Spindel’s own predictions on how well the project will go?

Well, she knows marriage — and that despite her efforts, “at the end of the day, you can’t account for chemistry.”

She’s been married for 25 years herself, claims responsibility for fixing up 760, with 40 more on the way.

She also boasts a zero divorce rate.

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