fashion
entertainment
lifestyle

944

los angeles

OCTOBER 2007 // 944.COM



Nicole Lapin

CNN's Youngest Anchor

The child of a former Nobel Prize nominee and a beauty queen, CNN's youngest anchor, Nicole Lapin embodies both brains and beauty. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Lapin is often referred to as the "Doogie Howser" of news, as she has made big waves within the news world - launching CNN Pipeline and even creating a series profiling young people who rock. At only 23 years old, she has become a powerful role model and national icon, anchoring historical events like the VirginiaTech massacre and the Isreal-Hezbollah conflict.

944: What inspired you to launch *Young People Who Rock*, and how has it evolved since?
NICOLE LAPIN: I was standing in line at a store writing an email on my BlackBerry and a couple of women in their late 50s said, "Young people have no priorities these days. They are so concerned with text messages, fashion and music they are wasting their lives." Little did she know I was writing my producer at CNN. And, frankly, I personally don't know other young people "wasting their lives."

What has been the greatest change you have seen in the world of journalism and news since you became part of it?
Online news is no longer seen as a mere regurgitation of what is seen on TV or in the newspaper. The reach and the interest in online news have grown tremendously. I know there was a whole generation of peoplewho were hesitant to switch from tapes to CDs, VHS to DVD or a beeper to a cell phone because they didn't know if each would last.

What has been the toughest thing about covering such major events as the Israel-Hezbollah conflict and the Virginia Tech massacre?
Anchoring during Virginia Tech was gut wrenching. We were broadcasting online and when the students would call into CNN, they would consistently say that the only way that some of them knew what was going on was because they didn't have cable and watched the developments on CNN.com from their dorm rooms. We had kids calling in during the chaos and sending us pictures and video that they took themselves. I stayed on late that night but after I got off, it hit me - they were basically my age.

What is something most people don't know about you?
I'm a vegan. But, no one believes it because when you're out in the field, most of your meal options involve meat and a side of something fried. But, I've learned how to be creative and improvise and can eat anywhere - even a steak house or a gas station.

When you aren't on the job, what are your favorite little indulgences?
When I have the time and I'm back home in LA . . . the Santa Monica stairs, hiking in Malibu Canyon and renting a bike at one of those stands in Venice.

Who influences you the most to continue on in your blooming career?
My best friend, biggest supporter and critic exist in another power woman, my mom. She watches me on the air everyday. She'll ride with me in a fancy car or on a scooter. She'll tell me when my hair looks good and more importantly she'll tell me when it looks terrible. She'll always be my power woman.