

## Come One, Carrie Bradshaw All

There couldn't be a more appropriate place to host a Cocktails and Conversations with the author of *Sex and the City*, Candace Bushnell, than Café SFA, the small restaurant located behind the fantasy-of-a-footwear department of Saks Fifth Avenue. So, that's just what New York Women in Communications did on June 7<sup>th</sup> to help Bushnell highlight her latest novel, *Summer and the City: A Carrie Diaries Novel*." With cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres in hand, women filled the seats of the café, eager to hear Bushnell read an excerpt from her new book which tells the story of how Manhattan's favorite women...Carrie, Samantha, Miranda and Charlotte coming of age in the 1980's.

After the reading, Bushnell opened the floor for discussion and the question and answer session began with a something many of us wonder: Where did the idea for *Sex and the City* come from? "When you come to New York City, you're born again...you're a new person. You're able to become the person...that you couldn't become in your small town. You see people doing things that you want to do and it's inspiring," Bushnell explained. It's difficult for some people to break out of the mold that people have of you when you're a young child, but in New York, you get a fresh start. And who started to mold Bushnell into the woman *she* has become? She says her biggest influences were the media maven females of New York City...Anna Wintour, Joan Didion, Tina Brown, Gail Collins and so many others who have paved the sidewalks for stiehltoes in our city streets.

She continued the session by reflecting on her decades of authoring columns and books. Bushnell believes "whatever age you are, there are certain things that go along with that age that are wonderful. " In her 40's, she wanted to *master* something, and when she was younger she was trying to see what she was good at. These days, at the age of 52, she spends a lot of time reading and studying novels and reflecting on her life including her 20's when she was not a household name. The difference between then and now she says, is "I'm older and more mature. I started writing SATC when I was 34...but the more successful you become, doesn't mean you work less...you work more." She has learned to manage her priorities and say "no" to 90% of the projects she's invited to work on because "I need to put all of my energy into writing."

With the past behind her, Bradshaw looked to the future of everyone's favorite Manhattanite, Carrie Bradshaw. Event attendee Sandra Davis asked if the author-of-the-evening has any plans to get involved with the next evolution of SATC, and how her fans would get her to do something like that. Bradshaw's honest response was she would consider being a little more involved if there were a prequel created for the *Carrie Diaries*, but she doesn't know if there will ever be a SATC3.

Speaking of times changing, she said, "when I was younger, I felt like I was absorbing everything...Because there was no internet, you HAD to be there, to get the story. It took a lot of effort to always know what was going on in New York City." Even though she thinks the "art of conversation" has been lost in modern times and technology, Bushnell says the best advice will always be the following: "You gotta do you. Figure out what is

unique about yourself, your voice and you have to develop that. The only person who can develop that is you!"

# Come One, Carrie Bradshaw All

There couldn't have been a more fitting place to host NYWICI's Cocktails & Conversations on June 7 with Candace Bushnell, author of *Sex and the City*, than Café SFA, the small restaurant located behind the fantasy-of-a-footwear department of Saks Fifth Avenue. Behind this stylish backdrop, the author read excerpts from her new book *Summer and the City: A Carrie Diaries Novel* and answered questions from the audience.

"When you come to New York City, you're born again," Candace explained when asked where the idea for *Sex and the City* had come from initially. "You're a new person. You're able to become the person [...] that you couldn't become in your small town. You see people doing things that you want to do and it's inspiring." And who started to mold her into the woman *she* has become? Her biggest influences were New York City's media mavens, *Vogue's* editor-in-chief Anna Wintour, the author Joan Didion, *Daily Beast* and *Newsweek* editor Tina Brown and *New York Times* columnist Gail Collins, as were so many other women who paved the sidewalks for stilettos in our city streets.

Candace believes, "whatever age you are, there are certain things that go along with that age that are wonderful." When she was younger, Candace was trying to see what she was good at; in her 40s, she wanted to *master* something. Now, at 52, she spends a lot of time reading and studying novels and reflecting on her life. She says that the difference between then and now is that she's more mature. "But the more successful you become doesn't mean you work less; you

work more.” Candace has learned to manage her priorities and declines 90% of the projects she’s invited to work on: “I need to put all of my energy into writing.”

When asked whether Candace had any plans to get involved with the next evolution of *Sex and the City*, the author replied she would consider being a little more involved if there were a prequel created for *The Carrie Diaries*, but she didn’t know if there would ever be a third installment to the book.

“When I was younger, I felt like I was absorbing everything. But, because there was no internet, you HAD to be there, to get the story. It took a lot of effort always to know what was going on in New York City,” Candace reflected. And even though she thinks the “art of conversation” has been lost in modern times amid new technologies, Candace advises: “Figure out what is unique about yourself, your voice. You have to develop that. The only person who can develop that is you.”