Has every earthly effort to find love failed? It's time for...



Starting this month, Vancouver singles can finally rely on divine intervention to find their soulmates. Divine Intervention is the newest player to enter Vancouver's matchmaking market, and it does so with an entirely new approach, a refreshing philosophy, and a comprehensive pro-

gram aimed at a mature demographic seeking long-term relationships.

The brainchild of Susan Semeniw and Romney Grant, Divine Intervention is much more than a dating service. It is an exclusive relationship-oriented service designed to provide sophisticated, successful men and women with an opportunity to meet potential romantic partners without braving an endless round of dates with unsuitable candidates.

Semeniw and Grant both saw a tremendous need for a unique matchmaking service in

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Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. Interestingly, they approached the task from fundamentally different perspectives.

Semeniw, a wife and mother of two small children, was looking for a change in her career direction. Her maternal and intuitive instincts, coupled with the get-it-done attitude born of an extensive sales and marketing background, lay the groundwork. Over the years, she had increasingly found herself to be an ear for both men and women past the nubile twenties, who for a variety of reasons found themselves looking for changes in love or career. Semeniw successfully applied her natural gifts to put the right people together. She set out to combine her passion to help people and her need to have fun into a new business.

Grant, on the other hand, was in the process - and it is a process - of emerging from a ten-year marriage. As a midforties mom of two school-age children, the prospect of stepping back into the dating scene was nothing short of daunting. There was so much to relearn, so much confidence to reclaim. After a few false starts, she recognized the need to find herself first. Her backgrounds as a lawyer and successful television producer hadn't given her the emotional tools—only the tenacity to keep digging for them. With a partner now present in her life, she'd like to pass on some hard-won lessons.

Semeniw and Grant compared notes; researched a variety of North American markets, met with a plethora of singles; and arrived at a model that reflected the results of their research. They identified a need to dispel as much of the angst involved in the love-seeking process as possible. How? By relieving clients of the demands and pressures of the search—the bars, the dinner parties, the hit-and-miss randomness of it all—by employing a variety of methods to boost and support the confidence of their clients; and then instilling an overall sense of fun in the process. After all, laughter is curative.

Two more requirements were identified. Semeniw and Grant committed to a straightforward business model that actively pursued carefully considered matches for their upscale clientele. And, they committed to provide their clients with unwavering personal support.

The process? After a personal interview in the client's office or home and a discrete conversation with a close friend or two, Divine Intervention sets to work in a highly confidential manner to locate the ideal candidate. Personal targeted recruiting and advertising coupled with their extensive grapevines and database all play a part. Once a candidate is identified, they too will be screened. For the first nondinner date or two with a potential suitor, Divine Intervention will organize the where and when, and check in with both parties for a postdate assessment. No need to wait by the phone. Clients should know within a few days if the feeling is mutual and receive feed-

"Divine Intervention will pull out all the stops to find their client a suitable partner."

back on the date. What Divine Intervention won't do is send clients on a date for the sake of a date. It's all about quality not quantity.

One of Divine Intervention's core beliefs is that an ideal date is only half of the equation. Clients will be gently asked some probing questions before they set foot on this new leg of their life journey. Would you take your car on a cross-country road trip without an oil change and a cursory look at the state of your tires? Exactly.

With this in mind, Divine Intervention has put in place a coterie of "relationship-ready" partners who will assist an individual to prepare to meet their relationship goals. Relationship coaches, registered psychologists, and intimacy experts along with image consultants and personal trainers have entered into associations on a preferential basis with Divine Intervention.

Clients are encouraged, but not required, to pursue personal growth in tandem with their search for meaningful relationships with the help of the relationship-ready partners. Natural strengths and sometimes hidden psychological triggers will be exposed to both challenge and motivate clients in the most private and vulnerable parts of their lives. All of this can only help to strengthen their ability to embrace a deeply fulfilling love relationship.

Often, a refreshed look or a simple improvement in physical conditioning may be all that an individual requires to boost their confidence. A flirting seminar might ease the way to first base, as might a new haircut.

Gone are the images of rainbows, candlelit dinners, sunsets, knights in shining armor, and white horses. In their place, Semeniw and Grant have opted for punchy vibrant colors and irreverent bylines to lift some of the weight off this emotionally charged process. After all, a positive lighthearted attitude can spell the difference in the success or failure of an introduction.

Yes, Divine Intervention does believe in the magic of romance. It even believes in magic—witness their willingness to consult a client's astrological compatibility chart or pull some Tarot cards when success appears imminent.

By its very name, Divine Intervention commits to look on high and low to find the hearts' desire of their clients. But it may take hard work and dedication to create the ideal conditions for the human chemistry experiment to succeed.

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