

Sheynnis Palacios Makes History, Crowned Miss Universe 2023, Nicaragua's First-Ever Winner in Prestigious Pageant

Nicaragua's Sheynnis Palacios, a 23-year-old TV host and model, made history by becoming the first Nicaraguan woman to be crowned Miss Universe. Her victory symbolizes a significant milestone for the Central American nation in the world of international beauty pageants.



(Source: The Hindu)

Sheynnis Palacios' Background and Journey to Victory

A TV host and model, Palacios had previously won Miss Teen Nicaragua 2016 and Miss World Nicaragua 2020. Her academic background includes studying mass communications and playing varsity volleyball at the Central American University, Managua. Palacios' journey reflects not only beauty but also intelligence, talent, and a commitment to empowering women.

The Winning Moment: The crowning moment by the outgoing Miss Universe 2022, R'Bonney Gabriel, showcased the elegance and grace that defined Palacios' journey through the competition. Palacios, adorned in a meticulously embellished gown, embraced the spotlight, marking a memorable victory for Nicaragua.

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Impactful Final Question: The final question, 'if you could live one year in another woman's shoes, who would you choose and why?' played a crucial role in determining the winner. Palacios' choice of Mary Wollstonecraft and her dedication to opening opportunities for women demonstrated her advocacy for gender equality and empowerment.

Top Runners: Anntonia Porsild (Thailand) and Moraya Wilson (Australia)

Anntonia Porsild from Thailand secured the position of the first runner-up, followed by Moraya Wilson from Australia as the second runner-up. Their answers to the final question showcased their individual perspectives and values.

- 1. Anntonia Porsild's Choice: Malala Yousafzai:** Porsild's choice of Malala Yousafzai highlighted the struggles for women's education and the fight for equality. She emphasized the importance of standing strong, being a change-maker, and leading by example.
- 2. Moraya Wilson's Tribute to Her Mother:** Wilson's choice to live a year in her mother's shoes reflected admiration for her mother's strength, toughness, and the valuable life lessons she imparted. The answer resonated with themes of gratitude, bravery, and resilience.

Global Representation and Diversity in Miss Universe 2023

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Images Instagrammed by missuniverse

(Source: NDTV)

The 72nd Miss Universe pageant featured contestants from 84 countries, showcasing the diversity of cultures, backgrounds, and beauty standards.

- 1. Indian Representation: Shweta Sharda:** Shweta Sharda represented India, adding a touch of cultural richness to the global stage. Despite not making it to the top 10, her presence highlighted the multifaceted qualities of women worldwide.
- 2. Debut of Pakistan and Historic Moments:** Pakistan made its debut in the Miss Universe pageant, contributing to the event's commitment to inclusivity and global representation. Miss Portugal Marina Machete and Miss Netherlands Rikkie Kollé, the first transgender participants, marked a historic moment for the pageant.
- 3. Notable Achievements and Challenges:** Camila Avella from Colombia became the first mother to reach the top 10, breaking stereotypes. Unfortunately, challenges like visa issues led to the withdrawal of the Chinese contestant Jia Qi, who will now compete in 2024.

Cultural and Artistic Contributions in Miss Universe 2023

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(Source: NDTV)

The pageant wasn't just a competition but a celebration of culture, talent, and artistic performances.

1. John Legend's Performances: Acclaimed artist John Legend added a touch of glamour with two stellar performances during the Miss Universe finale. His contribution, along with the contestants, elevated the event's entertainment quotient.

2. Miss Congeniality: Athenea Paulinha Pérez Nsue (Spain): Miss Congeniality, awarded for the first time, went to Athenea Paulinha Pérez Nsue representing Spain. She became the first woman of color to represent her country, promoting diversity and unity.

Next Destination: Miss Universe 73rd Edition in Mexico

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(Source: NDTV)

The hosts announced that the 73rd edition of Miss Universe would take place in Mexico, adding anticipation and excitement for the upcoming event.

Mexico as the Host Country: The selection of Mexico as the host country reflects the continued global appeal and significance of the Miss Universe pageant. It also provides an opportunity for Mexico to showcase its cultural richness and hospitality on an international stage.

Political Undertones: President Nayib Bukele and El Salvador's Image

The Miss Universe pageant in El Salvador served as a platform for President Nayib Bukele to showcase positive changes under his administration.

1. Bukele's Perspective on El Salvador's Transformation: President Bukele highlighted El Salvador's positive changes, emphasizing the country's rebirth and transformation. The event allowed him to present El Salvador's capabilities to a global audience.

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2. International Criticism and Human Rights Concerns: Despite the positive portrayal, Bukele has faced international criticism for eroding checks and balances and not respecting human rights. More than 72,000 arrests without due process raised concerns about human rights violations under a state of emergency.

3. Challenges in El Salvador: The state of emergency and Bukele's crackdown on gangs were showcased as positive steps, but concerns about human rights and due process linger.

Miss Universe 2023 - A Cultural Phenomenon

The 72nd Miss Universe pageant was more than a beauty competition; it was a global cultural phenomenon. From historic wins and diverse representations to political undertones and performances by renowned artists, the event captured the essence of empowerment, diversity, and entertainment on an international stage.

Legacy and Anticipation for Future

As Sheynnis Palacios takes the title of Miss Universe 2023 back to Nicaragua, the world awaits the next edition in Mexico, anticipating another chapter in the ongoing legacy of the Miss Universe pageant. The pageant continues to evolve, embracing diversity, breaking barriers, and providing a platform for women worldwide to showcase their intelligence, talents, and advocacy efforts.

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