

## Exclusive: Who is Alejandra Nash?

Written by Arizona Foothills

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**You know him. Now meet her. Alejandra Nash!**

**Arizona Foothills had an exclusive interview with a very interesting mother--Alejandra Nash! See what she says about raising her three children, her plans for the future and what she says about her marriage to the Suns phenomenon...**



**We understand you are working on a documentary film. Tell us a little about it.**

I started researching two years ago for a compelling story to tell about my native country of Paraguay. In my research I came up with a non-profit organization called "Sounds of the Earth" that do wonderful work using music as a tool for social transformation. They work with under-served children in different parts of the country. It is a story about transforming and empowering the lives of the children and their communities. The story takes place in Paraguay, where the founder (and re-known orchestra conductor) inspired by the work of a trash collector, decides to form an orchestra of instruments made out of trash. The story of how this creation started and the children that form part of it is fascinating.

**What has inspired you most to do this documentary?**

My biggest desire is to shine light over the children of Paraguay. This film will show how something as simple as a musical instrument made out of used cans can affect and transform lives. It is beautiful to see how people with very little economic means create something wonderful to offer to the world. Living in United States for many years, I have noticed how easy it is to take for granted all the opportunities this country provides and the quality of life we receive. For many nations, basic freedoms and necessities are luxuries. Another reason I want to do this documentary is because people don't know much about Paraguay. Using a visual medium such as film, is a great way to tell a story that will inspire as well as educate. My gratification is in being part of it.

**Your father worked for the united nations which meant you lived in multiple countries growing up. What were your favorites?**

My favorite was Nicaragua. It was a trying and unique time in its history while I was there... I have fond memories due to the warmth of the people, the beaches, and the aliveness of it all through difficult circumstances. I still keep in touch with a lot of my friends there. The warmth of the people, the beaches, and the vibrant sense of community.

**What country were you born in?**

Paraguay



**How has such an international upbringing impacted the way you live and how you are raising your children?**

I loved traveling with my family growing up. I enjoyed experiencing diverse cultures and meeting people with different backgrounds, ideas and music. It has impacted me tremendously, on who I am today. I wish the same for my children. There is something to be said about being a "world citizen". I travel with my children as much as I can, and have planned for a while to live a couple of years abroad so that my kids can experience the wonders of it.

**Some might think it thrilling to be married to an NBA star. What has been your experience?**

It has its ups and downs like every other marriage. Its challenges can be somewhat more demanding. But we have three wonderful children and I am grateful for the life I shared with him. I wish him the best.

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**What's your favorite thing about Arizona?**

The sunsets.

**Where are your favorite places to eat, shop and to take your children in the Valley?**

I love the warm staff and food of Veneto Trattoria, Sushi Roku, Pomegranate Café (I wish it was closer to our home!), and the outdoor ambiance of Lon's. The kids love the gelato from That's Amore and they enjoy the Phoenix Zoo and the Train Park. I also like to take them to the Ballet. I like to shop at the Fashion Sq. Mall, it's easy to find everything there. For kids' clothing I like Urban Kidz, Moonbeams and Garage.

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### **What has been the most compelling charitable event or cause you have attended or been involved in during your time in Arizona?**

I helped organize a fundraising event for Athletes for Africa and Women's Global Empowerment Fund. Both organizations assist to empower and develop educational programs in war torn Northern Uganda. I travelled to Kampala and Gulu and witnessed the needs of the people living in displacement camps and was able to see the work they do. It was a privilege to do my small part in bringing awareness to their work in Arizona. I also co-directed a short film called "Unleashing Creativity" for the Free Arts of AZ, a wonderful organization that uses the healing arts and mentoring to heal abused, homeless and at risk children.

### **Steve and you have two twin girls and a son born just a few weeks ago. What's the toughest and best part of presiding over a young family?**

The toughest part is after 6 years getting back to diapers! You forget how much work it is to have a newborn! But having two girls we really wanted a son. We planned Matteo for an entire year, and we are both so excited to have him in our lives. The best part is to see the girls love their baby brother and try to be good big sisters.

### **What is the best part of being a mom?**

Watching your little ones grow and become their own person. There is nothing in the world that can make you feel love as powerful as your children can.

### **What is something you want to do but have not done yet?**

Be fluent in Italian, learn to tango and to play "Moonlight Sonata" on the piano.

### **You have lived an interesting life. Tell us about some of the most impressive personalities you have met along the way.**

I had the opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people through my life. But as far as famous personalities go, I will say that meeting Anna Wintour, George Clooney, James Cameron, Forest Whitaker and his lovely wife Keisha was pretty awesome. I have yet to meet Woody Allen, which is a dream I have. I have been a fan of his work for many years.

### **What does the future hold for you?**

Future looks good. But I am learning that the journey is the important thing to focus on. Being present every moment, so I try not to think too much about the future.

### **Growing up, who inspired you the most?**

My father.

### **SUV or sedan?**

SUV, clean diesel.

### **What is in your iPod?**

A crazy variety of music! From hip hop to classical music, tango to alternative, bossa nova to rock, salsa, children's music, meditation...

### **Where do you go to escape and get away? Favorite place?**

Any beach is my escape. I love going to Punta del Este, Uruguay. I also recently found a great healing place called Sanctuary at Sedona. It is wonderfully simple and peaceful and a great weekend getaway when I need to ground myself.

### **You are a very fashionable women. Who is your favorite designer?**

It's difficult to name one. Tom Ford (I can't wait for his new women's line), John Galliano, J. Mendel and Lacroix for red carpet looks and my friend Esteban Cortazar's sexy feminine dresses.

### **Do you set New Year's resolutions and if so what would they be?**

I don't. I try to keep myself in check often and I usually don't wait for a new year to do so! Life is a learning experience and I am taking it day by day.

### **If you had one wish what would it be?**

To live fully and inspired.

*Photography by Ron Nachtwey. Photos@RonNachtwey.com*