

'Happy Hooker' swings into S.F.

BY NINA WU
Of The Examiner Staff

Xaviera Hollander is best known as "The Happy Hooker" and at 59 is still having good sex. Though she has retired from her profession as a high-class madam, she still writes for Penthouse and runs a bed and breakfast in Amsterdam. Hollander came to town to share her memoir, "Child No More."

Nina Wu: Were you really a happy hooker?

Xaviera Hollander: I was a happy hooker until I got arrested and got kicked out of America and Canada. In Holland, I was never into prostitution. I was from a very good, bourgeois family and being a whore was not one of the things your daughter should be.

Happy Hooker was my claim to fame, even though it always reminds people of street hookers. A whore is a whore is a whore. It's like a rose is a rose is a rose. ...

Q: How do you define a high-class hooker? Does she have more choices?

A: Yes, definitely. She usually gets more money. She doesn't get worn out. She can make a choice. If she's clever, she doesn't have a pimp, but actually keeps the money in her pocket and invests it properly.

Some of the ex-hookers who worked for me got very wealthy in real estate, got their own houses. They have invested wisely in shops and boutiques.

Q: Do you think prostitution should be legal?

A: It is legal in Amsterdam.



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Old pro Xaviera Hollander, still go-go at 59.

If it's done well, it's a victimless crime. If a man (wants to have sex), then he has a place to do it.

Q: Have you found that johns prefer blondes?

A: American men don't like American women and Jewish men certainly don't like Jewish women. Jewish men have enormous guilt sometimes. There are very few men who like trashy girls.

Q: You describe lesbian encounters from a very young age. Are you a lesbian?

A: I'm a poly-centralist, you can call me someone who enjoys all sides of sexuality, but not experimental orgies. I've always had a few steady male lovers. I don't believe in monogamy. For me, monogamy equals monotony.

Q: What do you think of Hustler publisher Larry Flynt?

A: Low-class, low-class guy.

Q: How did your experience as an infant in a Japanese-run concentration camp in Indonesia during WWII shape your life?

A: "Child No More" is my real life. When my mother died suddenly, people came out of the woodwork that had known her, that had been in camp with her and always kept quiet. This aunt of mine showed up after a lifetime of being away and I heard some horror stories about her in camp as well. I have one trauma, which is a fear of big, vast empty spaces.

Q: Was the memoir an homage to both your mother and father?

A: To my father, indirectly. He was the most important man in my life. It was an ode to my mother, even though we had a very problematic relationship. Basically, it's about unconditional love of a mother to a child. For the daughter, which is me in this case, it's dutiful love. When I knew she had a cancer operation, I didn't leave her side. ... When she discovered what I did, she was very shocked. But she always stood by my side.

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