

Diego Garcia USO Show 1985 or So Dave Moore

Last night Lana and I watched the old movie "Dirty Dancing" which reminded me of a favorite sea story. The second female lead in that movie was Cynthia Rhodes and she played the early dancing partner of Patrick Swayze until she got pregnant and had an abortion. She also was in Flash Dance and Staying Alive.



I was the XO at Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia for 12 months ('85-'86). Every few months we would have entertainment from a USO troupe, often as they made their way to a carrier in the Arabian Sea. Alongside the carrier pier was a very long warehouse, which could probably hold everyone on the island.

At one end was a stage with a HUGE American flag as backdrop. As one of the more senior officers on the island (on the backside of the world even a CDR can have seniority) I was able to sit on the front row.

As I took my seat, the CO of the Naval Air Facility took out a small roll of toilet paper and offered me some. I asked what it was for. He explained that a big drawback to these seats were the humongous speakers located about 12 feet in front of us that could be deafening and necessitated wads of toilet paper to preserve your hearing. I followed his advice.

The entertainment was just great and toward the end of the program Cynthia Rhodes came out on stage. She was 29, nice slim figure and a good voice. She started to sing a sultry, provocative song casting come-hither looks to the audience and like most men in that large audience I thought she had looked at me for more than just a second. As she slowly started to descend the steps from the stage, I even imagined she looked at me again. (I should explain that I was better looking in those days!)

At the bottom of the stage she looked at me again and it suddenly dawned on me - she is coming over to flirt with me and I have got to get this toilet paper out of my ears ! As she drew nearer she briefly glanced away to the crowd and I quickly removed the toilet paper from my right ear. But now she was "locked on and tracking"; there was no opportunity to clear the left ear. As she stood flirting in front of me the crowd was going wild - and I am sweating bullets: PLEASE God do not let her find the toilet paper in my left ear. I was suspended between panic and misery. I kept my head turned slightly to the left.

She came closer and sat on my lap facing me, legs draped on either side of the chair. The crowd grew even louder. I think she was still singing but not sure. I was dying. I turned my head further to the left.

Then being the nimble dancer that she was, she raises her legs and puts them over my shoulders. The warehouse crowd went berserk. She finished her song and returned to the stage. I doubt that Cynthia Rhodes has bothered to remember this episode near the Equator. But I do know that if she has any memory of me at all, it was of the right side of my face.

Dave

P.S. My first week on Diego Garcia I had to entertain the girls from the Miss America Pageant but that is another story.
(Did I mention that I was better looking in those days !)

Editor Note: Judge for yourself!

