



# GOTHAM

DEEP DISH FACE OFF





SEPTEMBER 2007

## The Dating Game

Looking for love? Some of the city's most exclusive matchmakers talk about the dos and don'ts of finding The One.  
by Annabella Ásvik

	Christie Nightingale  Premier Match 212-448-1141; <i>premiermatchmaking.com</i>	Lisa Ronis  Lisa Ronis Personal Matchmaking 212-254-8753; <i>lisaronismatchmaking.com</i>
FEES	\$5,500–\$50,000; the lowest fee is a basic one-year membership and includes a minimum of 10 to 12 introductions; there are special search fees for scouting in different locations.	\$7,500 for eight introductions; \$10,000 for unlimited introductions; fee increases for searches in other cities.
TYPICAL CLIENTS	Men and women: "Well-educated professionals who've achieved a high level of success—TV news personalities, actors from Broadway, sports people, and blue-blooded families—and are anywhere from 25 to 60 years old."	Men and women: "My male clients are very successful hard workers who want to marry. The typical woman is in her 30s and on top of her game at work, but decides to have a kid and panics. She wants it now and she wants it fast. Then I have women who are in their 40s and up and divorced."
FINDING THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE CLIENT	"I have such a large database that I match client to client, except in cases where we're hired to do a special search. For example, we have a client right now who's one of the most prominent fertility doctors, an Asian man in his mid-40s, who wants to date a Caucasian girl in her early 30s with light hair... so we have to start looking elsewhere."	"I have a knack for setting up women who never thought they'd be with anyone. If there's a guy who becomes single, in 20 minutes I'll know about it." 
BEST ADVICE FOR SINGLES	"Don't beat yourself up if you meet someone and you really like them and they don't reciprocate. Don't get down on the dating scene! Always stay positive if you want to meet someone now."	"Put your best foot forward: Get your hair blown out, get a manicure. I know it sounds shallow, but guys are very visual. And men, remember etiquette: Hail your date a cab, don't just leave her on the street!"
BEST WAY TO BREAK IT OFF WITH SOMEONE	"Call them or tell them in person that it's not working out. Texting or e-mailing is disrespectful."	"Always call a guy back; it's good karma. You never know, you could be set up with his best friend in six months, and you want him to put in a good word for you!"
MOST OUTRAGEOUS CLIENT OR REQUEST	"He was a five-foot-five physician, and he wanted to meet a pageant winner. I said, 'Look, I can introduce you to women who might have been in these pageants when they were right out of high school, maybe they were the runners-up, but it'll be tough.'" 	"One man in his 40s was so specific with his demands that the girl had to be 29 to 33 years old, five-nine, with blond hair, pale skin, size zero or two, and very bright. I suggested a girl who was five-ten and a half, and he didn't want to meet her. I found an Eastern European girl who fit his description to a T and he said, 'I don't do accents.' That's when I said I couldn't work with him."



<p><b>Rob Anderson</b></p> <p>Club Elite 212-242-4755; nyclubelite.com</p>	<p><b>Lisa Clampitt</b></p> <p>VIP Life 866-VIP-LIFE; clubviplife.com</p>	<p><b>Samantha Daniels</b></p> <p>Samantha's Table 212-717-6033; samanthastable.com</p>	<p><b>Jennifer Heller (LEFT) and Susan Rose</b></p> <p>Rose &amp; Heller Inc. 212-717-7337; roseheller.com</p>
<p>\$1,500 for unlimited introductions for three months; \$5,000 for a six-month period and a personalized search.</p>	<p>\$5,000 for three months (special price for men 30 years old and younger); \$10,000 for six months; \$20,000 for a year, covering an unlimited number of introductions.</p>	<p>\$425 to meet for a consultation; \$15,000–\$50,000, depending on the number of introductions, location of searches, and client demands.</p>	<p>\$10,000 for three introductions.</p> 
<p>Men seeking men: "Urban professionals—such as lawyers, doctors, photographers, and high-powered CEOs—in their late 30s to 50s who are looking for romance and want to settle down."</p> 	<p>Men seeking women: "Successful men who work really long hours and need personal assistance in their love life; newly divorced men who want to reenter the singles scene; and guys who made a killing on Wall Street, retired very early, and are now turning to the nonprofit arena or other things."</p> 	<p>Men and women: "My male clients are New York notables and celebrities, 27 to 55 years old, who are very busy and social but who just haven't met the right person. My female clients are very attractive, successful, and high-status. Some are younger women whose families are offering to buy this service for them."</p>	<p>Men and women: "Our men are extraordinarily powerful and confident. They're CEOs and senior executives, 40 years old and up. Our women are about 30 and up, very capable and successful, working in fashion, publishing, law, and the art world."</p>
<p>"I match them to other clients—men in my dating pool, my personal single friends, and men I find through a personalized search. I've met dates for my clients while at a Christmas party with my partner or on line at Whole Foods."</p>	<p>"Most women come to me by word of mouth. Who wouldn't want to date a relationship-oriented, successful, handsome man?"</p>	<p>"I get contacted by 200 to 300 people a week who want to be placed in my over-10,000-person database and be kept in mind for my clients. I also attend upscale charity events, movie premieres, and restaurant openings to meet new people."</p>	<p>"They're people we know through our social network, political fundraisers, the Harvard Club, and charity boards. We also do dinner parties with couples and single people together, and we might seat you next to a fantastic person we think you should meet."</p>
<p>"As my dad always said, 'Keep your sense of humor; it's what will get you through!' And keep looking."</p>	<p>"Don't go for chemistry only. Really intense attraction is not necessarily indicative of long-term compatibility."</p>	<p>"Something my grandmother told me: 'You get invited and you go, because you never know who you're going to meet.'"</p>	<p>"If it's not working, change something—a small adjustment can have a huge positive effect. See if you're unconsciously repeating a pattern; ask yourself, 'Am I doing it again?'"</p>
<p>"Just plain old manners. Don't leave a Post-it note on the computer screen the next morning after you had a night of lovemaking!"</p>	<p>"People feel uncomfortable being direct, but it's much more painful if they aren't. Be nice about it and see if you can stay in touch and invite each other to events."</p>	<p>"Not by text message! You have to be honest and respectful."</p> 	<p>"By telling someone and then just letting it go. Honesty is important."</p>
<p>"I had a client who was an Average Joe. I introduced him to this very handsome actor/model. The client came back and said, 'Did you notice that his legs are much shorter than his torso?' Another gentleman offered me \$10,000 if I could get him a date with Anderson Cooper."</p>	<p>"One of my clients showed up for the second date with a \$20,000 engagement ring. The girl thought he was crazy and never wanted to see him again. So we needed to tone him down a bit. He's now happily married to another woman I introduced him to and he gave it nine months before he proposed."</p>	<p>"I was recently profiled in <i>The New York Times</i> about working with celebrity clients, and right after that I got over 250 e-mails from men asking to be introduced to Jennifer Aniston!"</p>	<p>"One female client who had very particular requests called us after one date and said, 'I told you: no facial hair!' We said, 'Honey, if you like each other, he could shave it.'"</p>

photograph by Erin Gillies (novis)