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Matchmaker seeks lovelorn singles

Vancouver-based reality series pairs men and women with potential partners

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Single Vancouverite Emelia is 32 and has never had a long-term relationship. No guy has ever told her he loves her. Sweet and nervous, she's at her wits' end. She's been alone for what seems like forever. "I'd really like some company now," she says wistfully.

Enter Lisa Ronis, Manhattan matchmaker extraordinaire, fortysomething, fabulous, fearless and totally focussed on getting Emelia out of her shell and into the dating scene.

A professional matchmaker from New York who has about a hundred clients at any given time, Ronis sweeps into our town and starts picking up men on the street, prying them out of conversations with their buddies, pestering them while they're shopping. She screens them according to Emelia's requirements (employed, well-read, outgoing, sense of humour, non-smoker, not a player) and sets her up.

Can you say romantic reality show? Yup, *Manhattan Matchmaker*, shot here by Vancouver-based Force Four Entertainment, has it all: poignant loneliness, full-scale makeovers and dating primers, Ronis' patented people-pouncing method, actual dates, behaviour evaluations (ouch!) and maybe — just maybe — true love.

The *Manhattan Matchmaker* pilot starring Emelia will air in April when the series debuts on W Network. Ronis is back in Vancouver scouting for singles and Force Four is still looking for applicants to be on the show, both men and women. Go to www.forcefour.com/manhattan-matchmaker and arm yourself with a photo and all your information.

P.S. — Emelia went on four dates. Last we heard, she had a boyfriend.

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Emelia underwent a pre-dating makeover as part of her *Manhattan Matchmaker* experience.



Professional matchmaker Lisa Ronis is in Vancouver scouting for singles to participate in the new romance reality show *Manhattan Matchmaker*. Co-host Michael Eckford provides a male perspective. LES BAZSO — THE PROVINCE

Dating dos and don'ts from a matchmaking pro

- Be in the right head space. If you're just out of a bad relationship, give yourself a break. Take some time, maybe see a therapist — then dust yourself off and get right out there. "It's the best revenge," says Manhattan Matchmaker's Lisa Ronis.
- Make two lists, your "must-haves" in a date and your "deal-breakers." Be flexible, but keep them always in mind.
- Before a date, go home. Take off your business clothes. Relax. Have a bath, a glass of wine. Nobody wants to go on a date with someone who's rushed directly from the office.
- On the date, look great. Women get one shot. Guys are very visual. Women are much more forgiving (about first impressions). Women: Get a manicure. Look feminine but not too sexy.
- Be a great listener. Ask questions.
- Don't curse, don't drink too much.
- Be busy and not too available.
- Flirt, flirt, flirt. Flirt with the pharmacist. Flirt with the butcher. Never stop practising.
- Be picky. And when you think you've found "the one" remember what got you to that point.
- Guys: Lose the heavy cologne. Buy new shoes.