

## Angie Dickinson speaks candidly on career, leading men and more

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By **JOHANNA CROSBY**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER  
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Mention Angie Dickinson, and men of a certain generation still salivate.

Dickinson is perhaps best-known as sexy, blonde Sgt. Pepper Anderson on "Police Woman," which aired on TV from 1974 to 1978. The North Dakota native was a glamour girl who appeared on screen with some of the biggest names in Hollywood, and dated some of them, too, including Frank Sinatra. She was married twice and had a daughter with her second husband, pop composer Burt Bacharach.

A former beauty contestant, Dickinson ranked No. 3 in TV Guide's "Sexiest TV Stars of All Time" list in 2002 and made No. 42 on Playboy Magazine's "100 Sexiest Stars of the Century" in 1999. Now 77, she is set to take the baton as the celebrity guest conductor for the 24th annual TD Banknorth Pops by the Sea concert Aug. 2 on the Hyannis Village Green. The star recently took time out to chat about her career, her image and some of the men in her life, both on and off the screen.

Q: Did you ever see yourself as a sex symbol?

A: Yes. But I resisted only being that and typecast. I remember Marilyn Monroe saying, 'I don't want 38-24-36 on my tombstone.' That struck me. I wasn't that kind of person. I wanted to be an actress. I didn't hold up to being a pinup. I just had a good package. But there is nothing wrong with a pinup.

Q: What do you think makes a woman sexy?

A: We have been trying to define that for years. It is just there or it isn't. It's a warmth and not an aggressive attitude in your face, body and eyes.

Q: Who do you consider the sexiest woman of all time?

A: Marilyn was the epitome (of sexiness). I saw this gorgeous woman twice with my own eyes. But (being that sexy) is dangerous. You give yourself away. You are vulnerable. I know I didn't qualify. That wasn't me. I wasn't voluptuous. I had a different kind of

sexiness, like Carole

Lombard.

Q: Which stars do you consider sexy today?

A: Angelina Jolie is very sexy and gorgeous. George Clooney and Brad Pitt are two of the sexiest men on the screen. Jessie Biel and Jennifer Garner are sexy.

Q: What makes a man sexy to you?

A: Power is very sexy. And money helps. It may make somebody desire you. It brings strength.

Q: Who was your idol?

A: Humphrey Bogart. I wanted to do what he did, like play a paratrooper. I was very absorbed with the heroes, not the sexy men.

Q: How are you coping with aging?

A: It's not fun. Weight is the biggest problem. I'm carrying around 15 extra pounds. I have a bet with a friend that I'll lose 20 pounds before the Pops concert. But it's possible to get this far and not feel 77. I may look it, but I don't feel it. I think I'm 50. I have a youthful attitude and a very active life.

Q: What's your advice to the rest of us about aging?

A: Take down all the mirrors. (She chuckles.)

Q: What was your relationship with President John F. Kennedy?

A: I campaigned for Sen. John Kennedy. I knew him very well. I'm aware of the rumors flying. It's not anybody's business. The Kennedys are very special to me. I love the entire family.

Q: What was the high point of your career?

A: "Police Woman." It made me an international star and I was very grateful for it. To be identified as the standard bearer and the first one to break the mold is wonderful.

Q: Why did you initially turn down the role of sexually frustrated Kate Miller in the 1980 film "Dressed to Kill"?

A: I told (director) Brian (De Palma), "I can't do that. I'm Police Woman! I was almost 50. I'm not beautiful enough." He suggested using a double for the nude scenes. I didn't mind the long shots, but I didn't like the close-ups.

Q: How has the industry changed since you were starting out?

A: It's changed dramatically. A lot of women are carrying series like "Cold Case." But sex is what sells. There is far too much emphasis on breasts and shape on almost all of the shows. We have to set a standard.

Q: Why did you take so long to go to your high school reunion?

A: I never went to one until my 50th. I thought I'd be bored and embarrassed. Every woman looked better than I did. The men looked 20 years younger.

Q: What is your favorite Burt Bacharach song?

A: The one I really like is "Walk on By." If I hear it I have to stop.

Q: Will you ever remarry?

A: I will forever be single. I don't miss a man being around. I'm so busy, and they get in the way.

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### In concert

What: 24th annual TD Banknorth Pops by the Sea

When: 5 to 7 p.m. Aug. 2

Where: Hyannis Village Green

Tickets: General admission lawn tickets \$15 in advance; \$20 at gate; \$5 for children 6-12; free for 5 and under

Reservations: 508-362-0066 or purchase tickets online at [www.artsfoundation.org](http://www.artsfoundation.org)

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