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'I felt this overall sense of freedom': How a former Jehovah's Witness, who was never allowed to celebrate her birthday as a child, became Australia's Party Queen

- Trish Karr, or Trishy Dishy, is known as the Party Queen of Australia
- The Sydney resident runs Hot Kandi and throws parties in Sydney
- But for 40 years, Trishy was a Jehovah's Witness
- She did not celebrate birthdays, and on weekends went 'door knocking'
- Trishy left the religion about 10 years ago and debuted on the party scene
- She has a float in Mardi Gras each year where she has won best float

By [Lauren Grounell For Daily Mail Australia](#)

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Trishy Dishy is known as the Party Queen of Australia.

The Sydney party-planner can't walk in to a club without at least 10 people running up to give her a kiss, and each Mardi Gras her extravagant float lights up Oxford Street.

But behind the sequins, daring costumes and towering stilettos is Trish Karr, a former Jehovah's Witness who, as a child, was not even allowed to celebrate her birthday.

Scroll down for video



© Supplied/Trishy Dishy

Changing her life: Trish Karr was raised a Jehovah's Witness before leaving the religion as an adult



© Supplied/Trish Karr

Religious upbringing: As a child, Trishy would not celebrate her birthday or Christmas





Party queen: Trishy Dishy is now known as the Party Queen of Australia and each year takes part in Sydney's Mardi Gras parade

When Trishy was five years old, her mother changed their religion from The Church of England to Jehovah's Witness.

'I never celebrated a birthday or Christmas, it was heart-breaking, I was so disappointed,' Trishy, now 49, told Daily Mail Australia.

'I could never bring friends home from school, I couldn't even go to my own farewell.'



© Supplied/Trish Karr

Strict upbringing: As a Jehovah's Witness Trishy was unable to celebrate her birthday or christmas



Having her baptism: Trishy used to go 'door knocking' on the weekend, and here she is pictured being baptised



Heart-breaking: Trishy's mother (pictured right), raised her as a Jehovah's Witness, but since she left the religion they no longer talk

As a child Trishy was told the end of the world was going to come and God would destroy the wicked, leaving those of Jehovah's Witness faith to live in paradise forever.

'As a child it put fear in us,' she said.

'Going to school I thought I may never get home to see my mum, and that had a huge impact.'

Every Saturday, while her friends would go to the movies or to the beach, Trisht would go 'door knocking' from 9am until 1pm to help spread the word of the religion.

At 17 she was married and went on to have four children. She instilled in them the same values her mother had taught her.



Raising a family: Trishy was married at 17 and had four children that she raised to be of the Jehovah's Witness faith



Party queen: Trishy is known, and loved, for bringing fantasies to life with her exclusive parties



© Supplied/Trish Karr

Decision to leave: It was not until her eldest daughter turned 16 that she started to doubt the religion

But when her eldest daughter turned 16, Trishy started to doubt her faith.

'I wanted to experience life in a real world and have my kids grow up and have birthdays,' she said.

'I decided to make a change and left everything I knew.'

The decision to leave was not one Trishy made lightly, and since she left the religion her family is no longer in contact.



Heart-breaking decision: Leaving the Jehovah's Witness faith was an extremely difficult time for Trishy



Facing it alone: 'I was walking in the street one time and people I had known for 20 years turned their back on me,' she said

She has not spoken to her mother in about eight years, and of her three siblings she only speaks to one brother.

'I was walking in the street one time and people I had known for 20 years turned their back on me,' she said.

'It is a heart-breaking and very emotional journey because to have your own flesh and blood cut you off for a religious decision ... I could never imagine doing that to my kids.'

Trish's marriage of 23 years broke down, and while she felt alone, she also felt free.



'It is a heart-breaking and very emotional journey': After she left the religion Trishy's own family cut her off



Finding her way: Despite the heart-ache, she felt free and set out to do all the things she was never able to do before

'I felt this overall sense of freeness,' she said.

'I thought hey, I can go to a club, I can go and drink alcohol, I can wear a short skirt.'

I was walking in the street one time and people I had known for 20 years turned their back on me.

Trish hit the party scene on Sydney's Oxford Street, and found she was accepted by the gay community.

But despite being only knew to the club scene, Trish found there were no parties that had a select group of people, performances and a great vibe.

Inspired she set out to create her own, and not long after [Hot Kandi](#), her own exclusive party planning business, was born.

'There were 385 people at my first party,' Trishy said.

'I select the right people and that's what it's all about. I create a fantasy for them.'

Trish has held parties in luxury penthouses and venues around Sydney, with her next event a secret location mansion pool party.



Finding her niche: Trishy started her own party planning business Hot Kandi that holds exclusive events around Sydney

As well as making her mark on the party scene, Trishy took Mardi Gras by storm.

Six years ago she planned her first float, and did so to raise awareness about breast cancer after her own experience with the disease.

'My grandmother died of breast cancer and my mother had a double mastectomy,' she said.

Trishy underwent a 13-hour double skin-sparing mastectomy in 2009, an operation that left her in hospital for two weeks.

'It makes you a stronger person and you know, just made me love my kids more and appreciate life,' she said.



Supporting a cause: Trishy now takes part in Mardi Gras every year after her first float raised awareness for breast cancer



Ever humble: Despite her success, Trishy remains ever humble and always has the time for others

At her first Mardi Gras, Trishy was in awe.

She was picked from the crowd for an interview with Joan Rivers, who died in 2014, and on television performed her 'booby trick', making her pec muscles move one at a time.

From there she took part in Mardi Gras each year, her floats only getting more extravagant.

In 2012 she won best costume, and in 2014 her float took out the top prize.

'It's a huge achievement coming from Jehovah's Witness just 10 years ago to being in that category of Party Queen of Australia,' she said.

'It's an awesome feeling, but at the same time I'm also humble, I don't have a big head, I'm a real person and I have time for everyone.'

Trishy's story has been made in to a film titled [Witness My Journey](#) which follows her transition from Jehovah's Witness to party queen.



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