

## CONCHITA WURST



**“Two hearts are beating in my chest.”**

They are a well-coordinated team that only works as a duo. And they do this without ever seeing each other, as they regularly miss each other in the mirror by mere moments: Tom Neuwirth and Conchita Wurst.

The private person and the fictional character respect and appreciate each other. They are two independent personalities, each with their own life story. Together they set a strong example for tolerance and against discrimination.

Conchita owes her existence to Tom’s life-long fight against discrimination. As a result, he created a striking statement - a woman with a beard. She became the catalyst for discussions about terms like “different” and “normal” as well as his vehicle to carry his message all over the world in the most visible and unmistakable way. Appearances, genders, and countries of origin simply do not matter when it comes to the dignity and liberty of the individual (or as Austrians would say “They are WURST”). “Only the people themselves do count,” says Tom as well as Conchita, “all human beings should be able to live their lives any way they want to, as long as nobody gets hurt.”

Conchita’s beard defines the difference to conventional travesty. Genders mix in this fictional character and differences begin to blur. And the artist Tom Neuwirth takes off his costume at the latest when gets to his dressing room.

Tom was born on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1988 in Gmunden (Austria) and grew up in the small Styrian village of Bad Mitterndorf. In 2007, he participated in the Austrian TV casting show “Starmania” and won second place. In 2011, he completes his studies at fashion school in Graz and has been living in Vienna since then.

Conchita’s first public appearance takes place in 2011 at the Austrian TV casting show “Die große Chance!” (“The Big Opportunity”). In 2012, she is a candidate for the Austrian qualifying round for the Eurovision Song Contest and wins second place again. 2014 turned out to be her most successful year to date: Conchita wins the Eurovision Song Contest in Copenhagen and inspires people in Europe and all over the world. Finally in first place – all over Europe!

Her stage presence guarantees sophisticated and classic entertainment, be it as a singer, a star of the international fashion scene or in the political arena - her strong message of respect and love always shines through. She inspires designers such as Karl Lagerfeld and Jean Paul Gaultier, she enchants her audience at the Crazy Horse in Paris with her own show, and makes BBC’s renowned presenter Graham Norton and his guests sing her praises: “You are the answer to many of our questions.” Shortly afterwards she enchants Hollywood at the “Golden Globes”.

She visits the European Parliament in October 2014 and meets with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Ban particularly praises her commitment to the fight against intolerance and discrimination and calls her performance “an electrifying moment of human rights education.”

**“Being Conchita“**

The level of interest in her two hearts beating in one chest is high. Reason enough for Conchita to talk about her life. A young but very eventful life that she opens up about in her book "Being Conchita". The German version of the book will be published in March, while English, French, Italian and Portuguese translations follow in May and June. Translations into further languages are currently being prepared.

### **"Conchita"**

Conchita Wurst's greatest passion will always be music. Her single "Heroes" was released in November 2014, followed by "You Are Unstoppable" only a few months later. Even before her highly anticipated studio album was released, Conchita was nominated for three Amadeus Austrian Music Awards and won all three of them: "Female Artist of the Year", "Song of the Year" (for "Rise Like A Phoenix") and "Video of the Year" (for "Heroes").

Her debut album "Conchita" will be released in mid-May 2015. From power ballads to dance floor fillers, from Swing to Pop, the winner of the Eurovision Song Contest 2014 shows the entire spectrum of her skills on her debut album, which is simply titled "Conchita". There are many musical gems to be found, besides her hits "Rise Like A Phoenix", "Heroes", and "You Are Unstoppable": the driving beats of "Colours Of Your Love" and "Firestorm", the oriental influences on "Out Of Body Experience", the swinging brass section of "Where Have All The Good Men Gone", while fans of spectacular ballads will enjoy songs like "Pure".

Becoming the hero of one's own life, self-determined, without discrimination or violence, unstoppable with love and respect. Conchita remains faithful to this profoundly human message – as an artist as well as in the fashion world or as an advocate for the dignity of all human beings.

**Love. Respect. Conchita.**

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