Interviewing the extraordinary explorer Ann Bancroft

Interviewer: So, Ann What was scarier on your many expeditions- the journey to your voyage, or the voyage itself?

Ann Bancroft: well, I don’t think of expeditions as scary I see them as a thrill, but if I had to choose 1 it would be the journey- as it can take an exceptionally long time to get to your destination, therefore gives you time to think and doubt what you’re doing, if the mission is safe to do and so on.

Interviewer: Over the years of being an explorer how has the Antarctic and Arctic environment changed?

Ann Bancroft: Sadly, I have recognized numerous adjustments to the environment such as: the ice depth weakening therefore the sleds we use have changed; more water has been produced over time (as a consequence of the ozone layer dispersing) and there are fewer Arctic and Antarctic animals every time I explore their environments, every species in their habitat is going extinct- they are becoming rarer!

Interviewer: When you thought of becoming an explorer, did anyone tell you were no good and there was no point. If so what did you do to overcome them?

Ann Bancroft: of course they did. No one thinks the same thoughts and the people who are bringing you down, most of the time don’t even realize they are! Most of the time they are speaking sense and are trying to help you pick the right decision- but sometimes, if you want it with all your heart you won’t let anything (or anyone) get in the way!

Interviewer: What advice would you give a woman who wants a job that is associated with men and vice versa?

Ann Bancroft: I think the reason people stereotype woman and men’s jobs is because they want to fit in and not standout, like an item of clothing- if it doesn’t fit you take it back and get a new one, however- life isn’t an item of clothing and life will last much longer, so you need to make risks for what you want to make your life and not let the people who judge you make decisions for you!

Interviewer: Are there any moments in your life you would change if you had the chance to now?

Ann Bancroft: No- I could sit here and say hundreds maybe even thousands of moments in my life that I would have changed, however the mistakes I’ve made have shaped the person I am today, because when you make a mistake in life it teaches you more then if you hadn’t made it in the first place!

  