



Resident Profile: Alicia Rosenfeld

Written by: Mia Kweskin

And the award goes to...talented actress, high fashion dresser, and active senior citizen Alicia Rosenfeld!

Since her childhood, Rosenfeld has been soaking up the applause from audiences in St. Louis, Chicago and Los Angeles as she acts in plays and musicals and performs stand-up comedy routines.

"[My favorite thing about acting is] the applause and the attention. That's what any actor wants," Rosenfeld said. "Also on the stage you don't have to be yourself, you can be anybody. It's just safe for an actress."

Rosenfeld has performed in over 200 shows ranging from Shakespeare to Neil Simon.

"I love comedy because I love making people laugh, but I also love serious stuff and musicals like Fiddler on the Roof," Rosenfeld said.

Highlights of her acting career include the two best actress awards she received from the Jewish Community Center (JCC).

"I have two statues that are a poor-man's-takeoff of the Oscars. I won the best actress award twice. They have a whole dinner and a whole presentation thing just like on television so that was very exciting. I can always look at my statues as my Academy Awards," Rosenfeld said.

In the past years Rosenfeld has noticed that it is harder for her to perform as much as she did previously because of the necessity to drive from theater to theater and the intense line memorization acting requires.

"Sometimes I was working two shows at a time, memorizing this and memorizing that, but that's the hard thing about hitting the senior years—I can't memorize the way I used to—I could memorize a whole book for a two hour show, but that's not happening now," Rosenfeld said.

Despite these challenges, Rosenfeld perseveres in doing what she loves. She has done readings at Washington University and Northwestern University and recently performed a stand up comedy routine at Covenant Place on Father's Day.

"It is what you make it. Once you hit those senior years you have to get up and get out. A lot of people just sit and gossip and talk about illness and lean toward a negative life, and that's not good," Rosenfeld said.

Besides acting, Rosenfeld keeps busy at Covenant Place as she takes Tai Chi and Yoga, plays Bingo, enjoys free movies on Fridays, and serves on the Planning Committee for Food and the Committee for Activities. When she's in the mood to relax she comfortably watches the Cardinal's game with a Diet Dr. Pepper and popcorn.

"You can treat it like a hotel—you have a place to eat, a place to sleep, you have your privacy, but if you feel like having people you open your door and you go out," Rosenfeld said. "There are people all over the place, but if you feel like having your privacy you close the door

you turn on the baseball game and you relax. So that's my favorite thing—you can have it either way, you can have complete privacy or you can have company or you can go to dinner or go to exercise or go to the computer room.”

Rosenfeld loved participating in the Covenant Place Fashion Show since she considers herself quite the fashionista.

“They think I've got a good personality and that I dress well,” Rosenfeld said. “I'm very much into fashion, just ask anyone. I think I'm the best dresser here. I'm always dramatic and different than everyone.”

Outside of Covenant Place, Rosenfeld is active in NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community), which organizes trips and lectures for senior citizens. She is also a member of the Red Hat Ladies Society.

“[The Red Hat Ladies] are just having a hell of a good time,” Rosenfeld said. “They've served their time with their grandbabies, they've done their babysitting, and they're out to have a good time. They wear red hats and purple dresses, and they do everything from going on the boat for gambling to going to the Playhouse in Westport to see shows to going to very fancy tea room restaurants. They're just senior ladies having a good time.”

With her award-winning acting career and her active lifestyle both inside and outside of Covenant Place, Rosenfeld says she lives by one sweet and simple saying.

“I'm trying to squeeze the life out of life, that's how I put it,” Rosenfeld said.