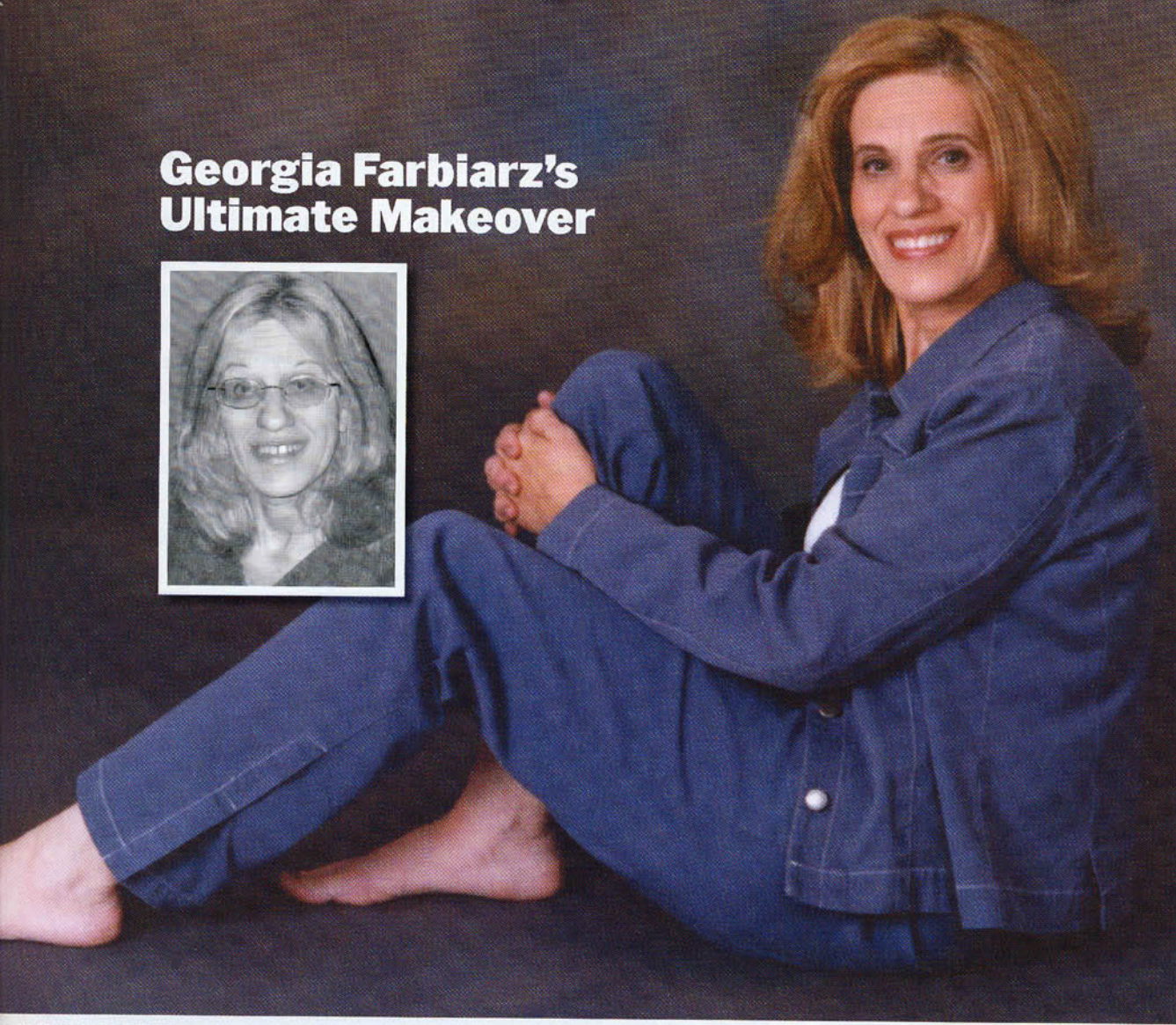


Sitting Pretty

Georgia Farbiarz's Ultimate Makeover



by MINDIE BARNETT
photo: COLETTE OSWALD

Life hasn't been easy for 52-year old Pine Hill mom Georgia Farbiarz. At the ripe age of twenty-five her husband abandoned Farbiarz and her two small children. With no money and a hefty mortgage payment to meet, Farbiarz felt desperate. "The only thing I knew was that I had to keep the house in motion," she remembers. "I wanted to keep my children's lives stabilized and intact."

For nearly twenty years, Farbiarz did just that and then some. She worked odd jobs allowing her to be home in time for the children as they returned from school. She took two jobs each holiday season to ensure a nice Christmas and passed on updating her wardrobe so that she could buy daughters Sonia and Cindy the new fashions. "I never cared about myself. My life has always been and always will be dedicated to my girls."

SITTING PRETTY

Luxuries and self-grooming were not an option for Farbiarz. She went through her days feeling self-satisfied with her life but lacked self confidence in her appearance. Less-than-perfect dental features left her uninspired to smile. Financially unable to join a fitness center, Farbiarz was in less-than-perfect shape. Repeated over exposure to the sun left her skin weathered. Farbiarz rarely visited a salon for hair and nail maintenance and it showed.

To her daughters, she was a diamond in the rough. They knew with a little bit of polishing and some fine tuning, their mother would be as pretty on the outside as she already was on the inside. Now grown career women, Sonia and Cindy were determined to enlist their mother when they heard of this year's local search for a deserving makeover candidate.

Dr. Steven Markus, a cosmetic dentist from Haddon Heights, assembled an "Ultimate Makeover" team of professionals. Dermatologist Andrea Buck, beauticians at Louis Christian Wayne Robert Salon and Spa, surgeons at Kremer Laser Eye Center, fitness instructors at the Voorhees YMCA and fashion experts at Andrea's Boutique were all on board.

"I was inspired by the *Extreme Makeover* show on Fox," explains Dr. Markus. "Since its launch, there has been a new-found awareness and desire to revamp one's look and overall aesthetics. I thought it would be wonderful to be able to change someone's life here at home."

Markus did the research, organized the team and conducted the search. "As soon as I met Farbiarz's daughters and learned her story I knew she was our girl."

"The thing I hated most about my

appearance was my smile," remembers Farbiarz. "My teeth were so ugly. They were so ugly and I had an old, broken cap that didn't match. I used to cover up my smile with my hands out of embarrassment." Her not-so-pearly whites were the first to get a new look.

The first step in Farbiarz's makeover included a modern crown to replace the old one. "I got rid of the old one and gave Georgia a brand new porcelain tooth that is perfectly sculptured," said Markus. "I closed the gap between her front teeth and implanted 18-Empress Veneers."

The entire process was completed in two visits. For Markus, it was a happy beginning. "I felt so good that day just seeing Georgia with her friends and family."

A perfect complexion was next on the list. "She had a lot of benign ketoses," explained Medford Dermatologist Dr.

Buck. "Growths were removed and we took away much of her wrinkling and coarse skin with photo rejuvenation." Farbiarz underwent microdermabrasion which exfoliated her dead skin cells and left her with a healthy, glowing tone. "I still continue sessions today," says Farbiarz, "and I am more aware of the harmful effects of the sun."

With a new smile and face it was time for Farbiarz to see the results with her own eyes. Unable to wear contact lenses, she typically donned old, unflattering rims. With the help from Cherry Hill's Kremer Laser Eye Center, she now sees herself in a whole new light. Lasik lasers left Farbiarz with perfect vision. "I no longer need glasses to see my alarm clock."

It was time for Farbiarz to do a little work herself. She hit the gym, courtesy of the Voorhees YMCA. Personal trainer

Eileen Abrams whipped her into shape, incorporating at-home exercises Farbiarz could do herself as part of a maintenance program.

Next stop: Andrea's Boutique to pick out a some hot summer looks. Farbiarz selected a girlish skirt set, as well as a lovely pant duo that could take her from office to evening with ease.

Finally, it was time for some true indulgence courtesy of Louis Christian Wayne Robert Salon and Spa. Farbiarz enjoyed a soft pack body cocoon treatment to replenish her complexion and had her eyebrows groomed. Her hair underwent a makeover all its own.

"Her color was very yellowish-blond and Georgia had deep dark roots," says colorist Sandra Forand. "The color washed her out completely. First, I darkened her base color into a honey-toned blonde hue. Then, I went back in and

highlighted strands throughout to create dimension and the illusion of movement." To compliment the new color, stylist Denise Pereaú revamped her worn out-long hairstyle." Georgia wanted to maintain her long locks but they were out of balance with her bone structure," explains Pereaú. Instead, Pereaú gave Farbiarz a hairline stopping at her shoulder blades." This new length still allows Georgia the feeling of long hair, but gives the illusion of a shorter face."

"I feel beautiful on the outside, as well as the inside," Farbiarz says with a smile no longer covered by her hands. All that's missing is a man in her life. "I'm not really looking for anyone in particular. If it happens, it happens," she says.

One thing's for sure, the male beauty bar has now risen. Her likely significant other may now have to do a serious makeover of his own to keep pace. ■