



> WORDS BY NIKI TENNILE

Water Babe

It's ironic that Aberdeen-born Tennille De Freitas chose Everyday People Initiating Change (E.P.I.C.) as the name of the charity she jointly founded. You see, Tennille's far from everyday. In fact, she's quite remarkable.

A former pupil of Cults Academy, talented Tennille Amor followed her dream by auditioning at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York at the age of 19. She was accepted and soon found herself as an extra in a movie, and an act on MTV.

Her singing, acting, dancing and modelling talents saw her completing the two-year course in only 18 months.

"I felt that if I was fortunate enough to pursue a career in performing arts, I wanted to do something positive along the way. Then I met friend Alexi Panos, who shared a similar vision: you don't need money, power or fame to make a difference to the world," explained Tennille, who lives in New York.

In 2005, the feisty friends launched E.P.I.C. – a non-profit-making organisation dedicated to bringing safe, clean drinking water to developing countries.

The pair enlisted with a voluntary organisation to visit Tanzania. Only 10 residents in the urban slum had running water, but it was unclean. The rest depended on a standpipe.

Tennille and Alexi joined locals in the four-times daily 3.4 mile walk to a river, from which African girls as young as eight would carry up to 20 litres of water back to their families.

Tennille continued: "Because we're asking people to donate, we need to know exactly where that money is going: 100% to the drilling of wells."



E.P.I.C. teamed up with the new Quiksilver Women's line, who donate 3% of their graphic T-shirt sales to the drilling of E.P.I.C.'s clean water wells.

Alongside, musician Tennille is this summer launching her pop, rock and reggae-themed debut album (which calls on her Trinidad family roots), 'Evolve Through Love'. Everyday? Don't think so.

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