

Louis Nichole

1951 -

The press has described Louis Nichole, international designer, as "creator, craftsman, singer/songwriter, dancer, author, entertainer and raconteur extraordinaire, - a Roman candle of energy going off in a dozen directions at once".

This story, if submitted to a publisher of fiction, would most certainly be returned to the author with the curt evaluation "highly implausible". Who would believe the improbable tale of unemployed kindergarten teacher turned designer, who in a few short years, receives acclaim from the President of the United States, Queen Elizabeth II, and the Smithsonian Institution?

Louis Nichole was born in Waterbury on February 14, 1951 to Louis and Mary Curzi DiMuzio. He and his older sister, Patty, were raised in Waterbury as part of an Italian working class family that Nichole characterizes as "his mother, father, sister, and 235 Italian relatives". He attended Anderson Grammar School, went on to Crosby High School, and later graduated from Southern Connecticut State University with a degree in elementary education. This set the stage for a traditional life style which has been anything but that.

Unemployment was high in the teaching field at the time, but fortunately Louie had creative ability and passion to match.

As a youngster, Louie used discarded floral arrangements from local cemetery dumps to create his own arrangements which he sold to family, friends, and neighbors. He was destined to the life of an entrepreneur.

During his high school years, Nichole wrote his first book *Designer Accessories to Make for Your Home*, which was published by Butterick/Vogue. With the book's \$5,000 advance, Louis opened a small studio in downtown Hartford, Connecticut.

But a talent as large as Nichole's could not be hidden. It was one year later that the Editor-in-Chief of *House Beautiful* featured a 10-page spread on Louis' handcrafted furniture, home furnishings, and heirloom quality Christmas decorations, which brought him to the attention of Pierre Deux, Andy Warhol, the Ford family as well as department stores such as Saks, Bonwit Teller and Macy's. A year later, in December 1979, *Good Housekeeping* ran an unprecedented 29-page feature article on Nichole.

The readership of *Good Housekeeping* included a prominent Georgian housewife, who was particularly taken with the work of Louis Nichole. The housewife was Rosalynn Carter, and the home was none other than the one located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue - the White House.

It was at the White House that major corporations saw the work of the 27-year-old designer and approached him to license his name and designs into home furnishings and collectibles. The unemployed substitute kindergarten teacher, who was earning \$6,000 a year, began lending his signature romantic look to the home furnishings and collectible industries.

Worldwide recognition of his products followed. In 1984, Nichole received the esteemed Queen's Prize from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II for his fashion doll cut-out book, *Sophie and Luisa*.



In 1988 he received the coveted American HomeTex Award, joining past winners such as Bill Blass, Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein. At the same time, he received a Tommy Award for his first printed fabric collection as well as Dolls Award of Excellence and two nominations for Doll of the Year from the Toy Industry.

Nichole states that 1984 was a turning point in his life as he began the love affair of his life with the purchase of his first home in Prospect, a country club on 200 acres. This property would become a platform and showcase for his many new products and a backdrop for undiscovered passions and talents: gardening, music, and more.

Louie began his second career at 50 as a singer/songwriter. His first country/pop CD *A Man with a Rose in His Heart*, won two 2002 Billboard Song Awards for the first time composer. In 2003 he received two John Lennon Songwriting Awards for his first children's CD *Old MacDonald Sings a New E I E I O*.

Louis Nichole is a modern age entrepreneur who personifies the word "artist". With no formal training in the arts, he has excelled in each discipline undertaken. Louis is a multi-talented, multi-skilled, self-made man. A Renaissance man - Louis DiMuzio/Louis Nichole.