

Former patient Rosa Giovanni had Facelift with Necklift and Upper Eyelids Correction Surgery in August 1999.

Rosa Giovanni first tried cosmetic surgery 28 years ago. Since then she's spent a total of £13,000 on her looks, but the 57-year-old hairdresser says that's just the tip of the iceberg... **by Melanie Hart**

With her long blonde hair swinging down her back, stopping short of a pair of tight trousers, Rosa Giovanni looked and felt great as she walked along the street chatting to a friend. Feeling a tap on her shoulder, she turned around and unwittingly gave the young man who was about to chat her up the shock of his life.

'I could tell from the expression on his face that he must have thought I was at least 20 years younger from behind,' recalls Rosa, 57. 'He was obviously thinking, "How do I get out of this one?" But I just turned to my friend and said, "It's time for the face-lift!" and we both cracked up laughing.'

Rosa was serious though. She'd had a nose job at 29, followed by a tummy tuck and liposuction in 1997. So it was logical for her to have a face-lift next.

Over the many years, Rosa's sessions under the knife have left her little change from £13,000. But she's determined to have as much

plastic surgery as she feels is necessary, and she doesn't care what anyone says.

'If I need surgery and I can afford it, of course I'll have it done,' says Rosa, from Luton, Beds. 'There are always new techniques and I can't imagine a time when I won't find some part of me I'd like to improve.'

'Right now I'm thinking of having my nose-to-mouth lines filled. I want my lips plumped out and my eyebags

Why can't I look 45 instead of 60?

done. I could also do with a little more liposuction here and there, especially around my lower back.'

Rosa readily admits that it's the confidence that cosmetic surgery gives her which is so irresistible.

'I suppose it's slightly addictive, but only because it makes me feel much better about myself,' she says. 'If I'm unhappy with a part of my body I know there's something I can do about it.'

'Having surgery does make you more critical because you know exactly how much of an improvement can be

made. You'll look in the mirror and think, "I'd like to do this or that", but it's not like I lie awake at night wondering what surgery I can have done next.'

However, is she perhaps becoming too vain or self-obsessed with her looks? After all, she does have a 35-year-old lover to keep her on her toes.

'I don't want to be like a bimbo,' she insists. 'I've had plastic surgery for my own satisfaction. I look good when I'm dressed up and that means a lot to me.'

'People are entitled to their opinions but it's my life and my body, and I'll do what I want with them,' she says. 'Why not look 45 instead of 60?'

Rosa had been unhappy with her looks since she was 14.

'I'd been self-conscious about my nose since I started my

hairdressing apprenticeship. I kept seeing my profile in the mirror,' she recalls. 'It didn't matter how I wore my hair, my nose was always the same. If I went to the cinema, I'd put my hand to my face as I walked in front of the screen so that my nose didn't cast a giant shadow across it.'

By the time she was 28, she was running her own salon and had enough money to afford the £1,500 operation she'd dreamed about.

'My then husband knew I was uncomfortable with my nose but wasn't sympathetic,' she says. 'He always called me parrot face. But his teasing only spurred me on and once the swelling had gone down, I never worried about anyone seeing my side profile again.'

Having a new nose not only boosted Rosa's

confidence but gave her a different attitude to ageing.

'I felt so good after it, I knew I'd never hesitate having more plastic surgery later on in my life,' she says.

Three years ago I saw some photos of myself sunbathing, and I didn't like what I saw. There was one shot which was especially revolting, showing my tummy flopping over. I was disgusted.'

Most winters Rosa would go to Florida to visit friends. One of her insurance policies had just matured, so on her next trip she inquired about the cost of liposuction.

'Everyone you talk to out there has had something done, so I had no problem finding the right person,' she explains. 'The surgeon I went to convinced me I'd have better results if I combined a tummy tuck with liposuction, so I went ahead.'

'He promised me he could give me the stomach of a 19-year-old, and he did. He removed enough fat to fill two large jam jars. The results were amazing. I loved being able to wear a sarong or hipsters and show off my new flat stomach.'

By then Rosa was already considering a face-lift, but after forking out £8,000 on her latest surgery, she knew she'd have save for two years before she could afford to go ahead with it.

'I was getting jowly and my neck was wrinkled,' she admits. 'I've always had a good chest and shapely legs, and now that I had a flat stomach I felt my face was letting me down.'

This time Rosa went to Poland for her op, where the combined cost of surgery, airfares and accommodation came to £3,500.

'Before I had the op, I used to stand in front of the mirror and tighten the skin on my face and neck with my fingers so I could see what a face-lift would look like,' she says. 'I'm really glad I took the plunge.'

Now Rosa is busy planning her next transformation. She's had to scale down her social life and put a hold on future holidays. But, with a firmer face and a 38C, 26, 38 body, she has no regrets.

'The holidays you take are over in a few weeks' time, but when you have cosmetic surgery the benefits are with you for life. The difference it makes more than compensates for going without.'

'I can definitely imagine having more surgery. If I'm healthy and I feel it's necessary, there's no reason not to. I can quite happily see myself carrying on until I'm 80.'

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A word from the editor...



Rosa Giovanni (above) was only 14 when she first started thinking about plastic surgery. Over 40 years later, she's not only thought about it, she's had most of it done. And, according to the incredibly glam 57-year-old, she still wants more. Her story on page 18 is thought provoking stuff. Is it better to grow older gracefully or, if you can afford it, to spend whatever it takes to hold back the ravages of time? For Rosa, there's no doubt. She sees no reason why she shouldn't carry on until she's 80. Let me know what you think.

Terry
Terry Tavner, Editor

It's my life and my body!