



MISS+UNIVERSE  
ORGANIZATION

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## OLIVIA CULPO MISS UNIVERSE 2012

For a young woman who never participated in a pageant, one might say that the road to Olivia Culpo's Miss Universe win was all a part of her destiny. Within 15 months, Olivia went from a Boston University student to winning the title of Miss Rhode Island USA, Miss USA and finally, the most coveted title of them all - Miss Universe 2012. The 21-year old Cranston, Rhode Island native became the 8<sup>th</sup> American to capture the Miss Universe crown on December 19, 2012 from the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas. She brings the title back to the United States after 15 years.

Leading up to Miss Universe, Olivia was dedicating her time to advocating for breast and ovarian cancer awareness and education. Most notably, she traveled to Washington DC to lobby for more ovarian cancer research on behalf of the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance. She's appeared as a recurring guest host on EXTRA, was a presenter on NBC's *American Giving Awards* and was featured on the December 2012 cover of "The Improper Bostonian" magazine.

The middle child of five children, Olivia decided to compete for the title of Miss Rhode Island USA on a whim. With determination and a passion for performing on stage, Olivia captured her state title in a \$25 "Rent The Runway" dress that was too short and had a tear in the back. Her road to the Miss USA crown continued in Las Vegas where she wowed the judges with a poised response to a question regarding transgender contestants. Not your typical pageant girl, Olivia returned to Las Vegas to compete for Miss Universe where she took the evening gown competition by surprise wearing a plunging, velvet, Georges Hobeika couture gown.

Both of Olivia's parents began their professional lives as musicians and raised her in a musically rich surrounding. She began studying the cello in the second grade and from there participated in the Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Rhode Island Philharmonic Chamber Ensemble, Bay View Orchestra and Rhode Island All-State Orchestra. Olivia also won a seat in the Boston Symphony Hall, Boston; Carnegie Hall, New York City; and a tour of England in 2010. Previously, Olivia was performing with the Boston Accompanietta.

Olivia, who has called herself a "nerd," graduated with high honors and a member of the National Honor Society in 2010 from St. Mary Academy Bay View. Throughout high school, Olivia's love for Italian language gave her the opportunity to take part in two foreign language programs in Milan, Italy. As a sophomore at Boston University, she has been placed on the Dean's List almost every semester. Olivia placed her education on hold while performing her duties as Miss Universe this past year.



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An admirer of Audrey Hepburn, Olivia keeps a journal of the actress's quotes and even resembles the classic beauty. Down-to-earth and approachable, Olivia has a passion for beauty, fashion, enjoys exercising, music and journaling in her spare time.

As Miss Universe, Olivia has served as a spokesperson for HIV/AIDS and worked closely with organizations such as God's Love We Deliver, Keep a Child Alive, Elizabeth Glaser Foundation among others.

#### **About Miss Universe**

The Miss Universe Organization, a Donald J. Trump and NBCUniversal joint venture, is a global community empowering role models of beauty, health and leadership for young women of today. The organization is dedicated to partnering with charities around the world, and to increasing HIV/AIDS awareness by focusing on women's health and reproductive issues. For more information, visit: [www.missuniverse.com](http://www.missuniverse.com).

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