

## P.T. Paquin I.A.F.

Large families are sometimes torn by internal problems, by disagreement between their members and by mutual incompatibility; differences in character produce clashes, parents are forced to step in and a few years of misunderstanding produce a family break-up. Yet, Pauline Paquin, the ninth of twelve children, experienced nothing but perfect harmony between each and every members of her family. Her parents were farmers so she spent her entire childhood in the country, far from the city. Several Paquin children, including Pauline, were gifted for drawing. Her first prize...- *“...around the age of five, I had taken part... you may remember the program called “Maman Fonfon”... well, I had entered a contest and I won the first prize. I had drawn a smiling daisy. And when I saw my drawing on television I was very much impressed. At school whenever there was a drawing to be done, I was always the one they turned to ... simply because I had a particular gift for drawing, for colouring, and I lived to draw figures of people but never used oil paints. I liked water colours, nothing else.”* Pauline was a very quiet, studious and sociable little girl. She was particularly interested in sports. She did very well in elementary school. Then she went to high school and took science and maths-... *“That’s when things became more difficult; when you are in your teens, like it or not, you change, you’re less interested in your studies, all you want to do is go out, meet boys.. Try out new things, smoking for instance...; I had more trouble in high school, I didn’t do as well.. But I was ambitious and I knew that. I mustn’t stop studying. I had great things that I wanted to do...”* She chose a career in fourth year high- physical education –but her mother was against her going to Montreal a most dangerous city, she felt, so Pauline went to the St

Jerome CEGEP: *“I had said: either I study art because I loved that, or physical education, but because in both cases I had to go to university, I chose to study nursing techniques for three years at the CEGEP, as that was still in the health field...”* Her character developed at eighteen, she became more independent yet without a trace of aggressiveness. *“... let’s say that I stopped trying to please others, saying to myself: I’m going to work at pleasing myself... maybe I acquired that attitude because people around me were taking advantage of me; actually, those around you are your friends, your family... you feel.. well you nice, your kind, you give everything... then, suddenly, you want something for yourself also and,* from that moment on, I found it a lot of fun to do things for myself instead of always doing them for others. There are many people who give so much and yet receive so *little.”* Pauline entered the labour market as a nurse in Montreal. She was twenty-one years old and no longer afraid of the city. After one year, dissatisfied with night duty, and day duty, yet not to unhappy with a erratic style of life, she quit her job at the hospital and went back to night school to get a nursing degree, working in a C.L.S.C in the day time: before going to work in a C.L”S”C- *“I worked in the emergency war, I loved the unexpected character of emergency work. What you were doing really brought out the best in you... you could see the immediate impact of what you did for people, to help them. At the C.L.S.C, you did a lot of education, of preventive work. I also went into the schools.. I work a lot with children, in the kindergartens. To work with children, you must love them. I loved them and their candour. However at the same time, I began to develop an interest in painting, my neighbour was rather well-known painter with home I began going outside to paint, and he always gave me sound advice. For me, the landscape was of secondary importance; little by little, my figures became large and took up more space in my *paintings.”* For four years now, Pauline has been doing pictorial painting, aiming at a career in narrative painting. Pauline*

Pauline gives me the impression of being a small, very determined, very energetic person, in shocking good health, an impression heightened when she smiles.

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