



As dream jobs go, Deborah Lettieri aka Gloria di Parma is surely in a league of her own. The only Italian dancer at the legendary Parisian cabaret show, she also appeared in Beyoncé's 'Partition' video. Here Lettieri models her Avenue 32 picks and shares her remarkable story.

**What qualities do you need to make it as a Crazy Horse performer?**

You need to be at least 18 with ballet training and a 'crazy' body. Every dancer is between 168cm and 172cm tall with legs two-thirds longer than their torso. Their breasts tips must be exactly 21cm apart, and the distance between their belly button and pubis should be 13cm. Founder Alain Bernardin chose these measurements in 1951 to maintain visual harmony.

**How did you become part of it?**

I was working in Italy when my dance teacher suggested I audition. I never thought I could be part of a naked couture show but after watching it, I felt Crazy Horse was what I'd been looking for. So I sent my pictures, auditioned and almost five years later I'm still living the dream.

**Is the audition process tough?**

Held at the original theatre in Paris, you stand in line with nine other girls wearing only a black thong in first position with your back arched. If your body is 'crazy' enough, you're asked to put your shoes on and dance..



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**What's the atmosphere like backstage?**

Many people don't believe this but it's amazing. Sometimes it's hard to be part of an all-female group, because a male presence balances the atmosphere, but I've made good friends. Ladies that make me feel less lonely when I miss my family and colleagues I can share my beauty secrets with.

**Do you have any pre-show rituals?**

The first thing is makeup and hair- black eyeliner, eyelashes and Crazy red lipstick. Then I do a meticulous warm up, a quick costume check, and finally breathing exercises to center my energy. The whole process helps you become a Crazy girl on stage physically and mentally.

## Where does your stage name Gloria di Parma come from?

Crazy Horse Paris management gives you a name which underlines a part of your body, your personality or your background. There hadn't been an Italian girl at Crazy Horse for more than 30 years so I became known as 'Gloria di Parma', the glory of my marvellous hometown Parma.



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**What do you wear off-duty?**

Comfort is essential. I have an active life and need to be able to walk fast so casual pieces with classy accessories. I love wearing heels for special nights out with a beautiful stretchy dress.

**Is confidence something you're born with or that you learn?**

Being part of an internationally recognized show, colleagues and the audience make you feel better about yourself as a dancer and woman. When I'm on stage, I hope that women in the room go home feeling that they can all be as sensual, sexy and powerful.



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