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Former Miss America 'waiting' for big break

By WILLIAM NEUMAN

When Miss America 1998 moved to New York this summer looking to get work as an actress, she headed straight to Broadway and landed a job — waiting tables at a deli on the Upper West Side.

Kate Shindle became famous as the beauty queen who updated Miss America's image — campaigning for AIDS prevention, counseling high-school kids to use condoms if they were going to have sex and writing to President Clinton in support of needle-exchange programs.

As Miss America, she earned a six-figure salary.

Now she's working for tips at Artie's New York Delicatessen on Broadway near 83rd Street.

The former Miss Illinois said she doesn't mind having traded her tiara for the white-shirt-and-bow-tie uniform worn by Artie's waitresses.

"To work on a job where someone complains the pastrami is not hot enough — I think that's good for the soul," she said. "You can never have too much humility."

Deli owner Jeffrey Bank said he had no idea he had a Miss America on the payroll — until a New Jersey newspaper ran a story on the beauty queen-turned-waitress this week. Then phones at the deli started ringing off the hook.

"She said, 'The cat is out of the bag, I've been outed,'" Bank said. "She was wondering how long it would take. She said a couple of customers had recognized her."

"She has a very outgoing, bubbly personality," he said. "She's a regular girl, she's a great waitress."

"She didn't want to be



DELI DARLING: After turning in her tiara, Kate Shindle picked up a pad and started taking orders at Artie's Delicatessen on the Upper West Side.

Rick Dembow

treated any differently than anybody else."

Shindle, 22, moved to New York after graduating as a theater major from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., in June.

"It's fun," she says of her deli job. "I want to really experience what it's like to be a young artist in New York."

Shindle — who grew up in New Jersey — is still trying to make it big on that other stretch of Broadway.

"My passion lies with the theater," she said.

She's still active with AIDS groups, and on the Internet, she's selling a CD of Christmas songs, "Christmas to Come," as

an AIDS fund-raiser.

"She does a tremendous amount of work for charities, and she thought it was ironic that waitressing at Artie's Delicatessen is what got written up," Bank said.

Shindle said she had several job offers when her Miss America reign ended, but she wanted to try to be an actress instead.

