

BUSHNELL'S DANCE PARTNER
She's married to Charles
Askegard, who performs with
New York City Ballet.

CANDACE GETS CANDID

CONTINUED FROM THE COVER

Before long the debate becomes X-rated as New York journalist Ariel Levy describes a "Girls Gone Wild-style" spring break, and "Kidnapped" actress Dana Delany suggests that men could perfect their oral-sex technique by practicing on figs.

"The show is like a discussion I'd have in a bar with my girlfriends, only more organized," says Bushnell, speaking after her two-hour show, "Sex, Success and Sensibility," which is broadcast every Thursday.

"I try to choose provocative topics which intelligent women are concerned about.

"We discuss relationships and the difficult balancing act of careers and families. The world is full of really great, interesting, sensible women, and I'm thrilled with the quality of the calls we're getting."

The 47-year-old Manhattanite took on the challenge because she could easily juggle the program with her "day job" —

writ

Actress Gina Gershon has been cast as Wendy Healy, one of a trio of power-hungry career women in the novel, and the script is being honed before filming starts next year.

"I'm dying to see those characters on TV," says Bushnell. "It's a bit of a different part for Gina, who is normally the super-sexy woman. This time, she is funny, but still sexy

under the messy hair, the glasses and the three kids."

Understandably, she won't elaborate on her new book except to admit rather guiltily that she has completed only 40 pages. It features younger, twentysomething characters as well as women in their 30s and 40s.

And once again it is set in the familiar environment Bushnell inhabits.

"Manhattan and the Hamptons are rife with stories," says the author, who can't imagine ever exhausting the supply.

As well as her West Village apartment, Bushnell has a tiny house in the country,

where she goes to write. "At the moment, I try to get into the routine of writing for six hours a day," she says. "Towards the end of a draft, I will be writing 10 to 15 pages a day.

"Ideally, if it's going very well, one gets up at 4 a.m. and goes to bed at 8 p.m."

Bushnell wed New York City Ballet dancer Charles Askegard in July 2002 — they met equally philosophical about the fact that, after marrying so late, children are unlikely to be part of her future.

"I never fuss about it because I feel I have gotten a lot in life already," says Bushnell. "Fifteen years ago, I lived in a tiny apartment, slept on a piece of foam and had no furniture.

"My feeling is that I don't know why people think they should have everything in life. I feel happy to have what I have. If that means I don't have children, that's fine."

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"Sex, Success and Sensibility" is broadcast live every Thursday between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sirius Stars, Channel 102. Sirius is offering an Internet promotion today for potential subscribers, so you can hear Bushnell's show — along with hundreds of programs on other select Sirius channels — free of charge. For more information, see www.sirius.com.

“Being single in your 20s and 30s allows you make your own life and have the privilege of really exploring it ... I believe it made me better equipped to stay myself after I was married.”