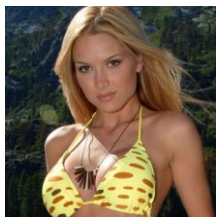


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By: Elena Gorgan, Entertainment News Editor



## [The Confessions Tour Has Begun for Miss USA](#)

### *Tara Conner admits to being an alcoholic and drug addict*

Rewind back to December 2006: Tara Conner speaking at the press conference held at the Trump Tower, with the occasion of her being given a second chance for the Miss USA title. It was the moment when she, with tears literally chocking her, got to see her career as the most beautiful woman in the States rise from its ashes like the legendary Phoenix, the moment when The Donald told her that she can keep her crown if she agreed to check into rehab. Until that turning point in her life, Tara stuck to her story that her partying nightlife had been highly overblown in the media, that she never had more than a platonic relationship with Miss Teen USA Katie Blair (although eyewitnesses repeatedly claimed they saw the two girls kissing and simulating sexual acts in bars and clubs), that she had never had a problem with alcohol and drugs and that, basically, her name and reputation had been misrepresented by the vicious tabloids. However, she did not oppose Trump's order: she took herself to rehab and duly applied herself to following the 31-day program. By the looks of things, it seems that, indeed, rehab was exactly the thing that she needed and she is now more than willing to talk about her past troubles and struggles, so that she can put it behind her and start a new life. 'It feels good to get it off my chest. The more that I get it off my chest, the better I feel about myself. At first I held it back, [but] it's not healthy for my recovery to sit here and hold things back.', she said in an interview with 'People', on newsstands later this week. Immediately after this, the model goes on to say that she is now fully aware that she was an alcoholic and an addict, who just needed a good shove to realize that she was destroying her career and her life. 'I didn't think I had an issue - but I was willing to do anything to save my job... I've realized that I suffer from the disease of alcoholism and addiction. I was an equality-opportunity [user] - I would try anything once. Cocaine was one of the drugs that I did use. It's hard to look back at that. I'm an alcoholic. It was a craving thing - once I put it in my body, I would start craving more.', Conner said in her very first interview since she was released from the rehabilitation clinic. 'All's well that ends well' seems to be the perfect morale of Tara's story. After the huge media scandal that almost threatened to put an end to her successful career and the rehabilitation program, she is a new person, really wanting to return to her Miss USA duties. 'I just can't wait to get back to work - "I'm Miss U.S.A., my name is Tara Conner, and I'm happy to meet you", you know? Life is good.', she concluded by saying.