

LOCAL DENTIST CHOSEN TO COMPETE ON ELLEN'S GAME SHOW

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A Georgetown dentist can check one more item off her bucket list after her recent brush with celebrity and fame.

Dr. Asha Bhanot, owner of South Georgetown Dental, was a contestant on the season premiere of Ellen DeGeneres' Game of Games show, which offers up supersized versions of the most popular games from her talk show.

The local mother auditioned for the spot after attending a taping of Ellen's daytime program last spring in California. A couple months later, she got a call from one of the popular comedian's producers to ar-

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- Dr. Asha Bhanot

range an interview with a casting director.

"It was another month before I heard back that I was actually being invited for a taping of the show," she said. "I was so excited."

Upon arrival with many other contenders, Bhanot was selected and made it on to prime-time TV.

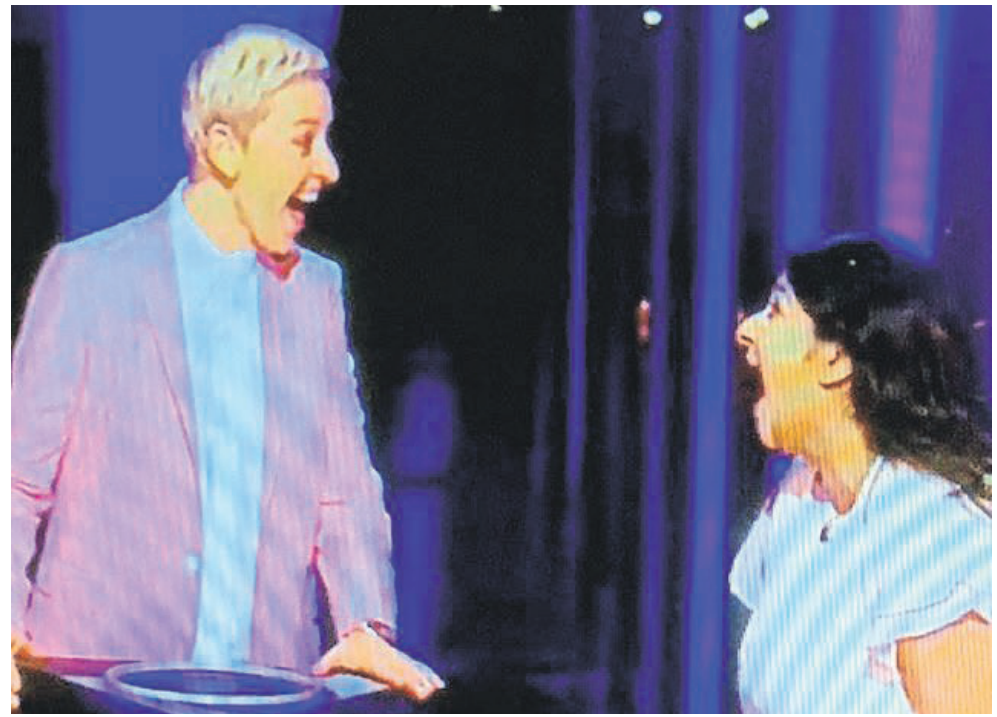
She was cast to play Ellen's Mazed and Confused game, which sees two players compete for an intense 60 seconds to find the large maze's exit, all the while being blasted by fog and coping with jump scares by peo-

ple in costume.

"It was incredibly hard," she said. "The games on that show are absolutely crazy and huge. You walk in and see this massive stage - it's like nothing I've ever experienced before."

While the show taped in the summer, the season premiere didn't air until Jan. 7, meaning Bhanot had to keep her excitement under wraps for several months.

And although she didn't win, it's undeniable for the Ellen superfan that the best part of her experience was getting up close and person-



Asha Bhanot photo

Georgetown dentist Asha Bhanot meets famed comedian and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres.

al with the kind-hearted comedian herself.

"It was a dream come true to finally meet her," she said, noting she always has

Ellen playing at the office and even watched her comedy special on Netflix when she was in labour with her son a year ago. "When you

see me giving her a hug and going crazy, that's a genuine reaction. I was so overwhelmed - I was meeting my idol."

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