

# I wish to meet...

## *Antonio Banderas*

With memories made to last a lifetime, Olivia will never forget her wish trip to Los Angeles, CA to meet Antonio Banderas!

An avid fencer, the movie “Zorro” intrigued Olivia with the main character’s fast-paced fencing scenes, demonstrating both old and new styles. With a great deal of time spent indoors, Olivia poured over her DVDs, watching Director’s Commentaries and the Special Features portions of her favorite actor’s works – including “Zorro” and the “Shrek” series. Once referred to the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Rhode Island, Olivia’s wish was never a question – to meet, and possibly fence, with her favorite actor, Antonio Banderas.

“Olivia! You are so beautiful!” was the first thing Banderas had to say to Olivia as she was wheeled into the room to meet him. In her true character, she replied, “Thanks – you are too!” With only a few moments of an awe-struck pause, Olivia launched into easy and casual conversation, “just like she was talking to her brother,” described Mom Kirsten. Armed with questions, Olivia inquired about everything from Antonio’s fencing abilities and her favorite scenes from his films, to a discussion regarding the book and DVD, “The Secret,” based on a theory regarding the universe and the law of attraction as influenced by a positive state of mind. Olivia was most impressed to learn that Antonio had taken the time to actually learn to fence, rather than simply perform choreographed moves in his films, and Antonio shared with her that he had the opportunity to train with the Spanish Olympic Fencing team while his daughter, Stella, was born in Spain.

Described as charismatic and by no means pretentious by Olivia’s parents, Antonio’s kindness and caring nature touched Olivia’s heart. He was beyond impressed with her strength and character, and was truly curious about the details regarding Olivia’s condition. He was happy to share with Olivia behind-the-set secrets about some of her favorite scenes, including the one in Zorro where his character’s horse was shown drinking vodka and smoking a pipe – as a true gentleman, Antonio prefaced the explanation with an apology to Olivia’s parents about the adult content, who he dubbed “Mama and Papa.”

Antonio graciously autographed Olivia's DVDs, and even her own fencing jacket that her parents are having displayed in a shadow-box at her home.

The reality of her visit with Antonio hit home when she saw his appearance on "American Idol" – wearing the same jacket he had worn when he hugged her not even weeks before.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Rhode Island is grateful to Mr. Antonio Banderas for finding time in his busy schedule to grant Olivia's greatest wish, and for bringing her moments in time that she and her family will cherish forever.