



KERRI POMAROLLI

COMEDIAN, ACTRESS, WRITER, SPEAKER

BORN: October 31, 1973

LIVES IN: Redondo Beach, California

JOB: Comedian, actress, writer, speaker

WORSHIPS AT: King's Harbor Church

FAMILY: Barbara and Dick (parents), Mark (brother), Ron (husband)

MENTORS: "Cathy Dregerand and Maritza Hamilton from my church and my 'Mighty Women' prayer warriors"

FEELS PASSIONATELY ABOUT: "Pizza, but maybe that's 'cause I'm hungry; clean Christian comedy on network TV that is actually funny; getting Christians in Hollywood to infiltrate as many sets as we can so we can be a powerful behind-the-scenes force for God's kingdom; reaching the lost in the entertainment business."

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 53



FOR MANY OF us who grew up with the youth group brand of stand-up, "Christian comedy" seems oxymoronic. But one woman is single-handedly changing all that. Thirty-two-year-old Kerri Pomarolli is a darling of the Hollywood comedy circuit and an uncompromising, outspoken Christian. Dichotomy? You bet.

The way that Pomarolli straddles two seemingly opposing worlds makes her unique, but also predictably controversial. Her outspoken (and very un-Hollywood) support of things like abstinence has brought her negative attention from the secular entertainment industry. Criticism also comes from the Christian community, however, because Pomarolli doesn't limit her funny business to church walls or Christian conferences. She also performs in gay bars and Hollywood's hottest comedy clubs.

Her "true Hollywood story" is both typical and a bit Cinderella. As a girl, the Michigan native's

creative forte was dance, until she was diagnosed with scoliosis at age eleven. Her ballet dreams over, she next tried acting. From high-school productions to a BFA in musical theater from the University of Michigan, Pomarolli's acting training was diverse and effective. After college she honed her acting chops by studying improv with The Groundlings and graduating from the elite two-year program at Second City in Los Angeles. Before she knew it, she was doing something that usually takes comedians a decade to achieve: performing featured stand-up at The Improv in Hollywood, one of the biggest clubs in the world. In her own words, Pomarolli "snuck into the comedy profession."

Seven years after she first arrived in Hollywood, Pomarolli is charming audiences all over the country with her endearing brand of clean, girl-next-door comedy. Her impressive list of credits includes more than twenty-five appearances on *The Tonight Show*, gigs on Comedy Central, Lifetime, ABC,

"I SAW KERRI PERFORM LIVE AT THE ANN ARBOR COMEDY CLUB A FEW YEARS AGO. I LOVED HER ROUTINE—IT WAS HONEST, ORIGINAL, VERY CLEVER, AND VERY, VERY FUNNY. **SHE WEARS HER CHRISTIAN VALUES OPENLY AS A MODEL FOR OTHERS**, AND I SUBMIT THAT AT A TIME WHEN BEING CHRISTIAN AMONG THE YOUNG IS 'OUT,' KERRI IS MAKING IT 'IN.'"

—Rusty Restuccia, retired director of marketing, Ford Motor Company

Fox, TBN, eight films, seventy-five theater productions, as well as articles for Match.com and *Radiant* magazine. She speaks at church singles groups and performs with her acting ministry, Act

in Faith, at Christian conferences, but also frequents secular stages like The Comedy Store and Laugh Factory. She goes where God wants her, and that is never too predictable.

You'd think that being one of only a few "out of the closet" Christians in Hollywood might be a tough gig, but Pomarolli often feels liberated by being such an open book. "I'm crazy, neurotic, I have a dysfunctional family and a big mouth," she says. She is who she is and ministers to people on their own terms by loving them and laughing along with them at the eccentricities of the world we share. "We may be the only Christians they ever meet," she says.

In 2006 Kerri released her first book, *If I'm Waiting on God Then What Am I Doing in a Christian Chatroom?*, a comedic memoir about being one of those "shunned by church ladies" singles. Her sharp wit has earned her the label of "the Christian Bridget Jones," and she continues (even though she was married just last year to Ron McGehee of *Last Comic Standing 2*) to stand in solidarity with ostracized singles everywhere.

As funny as Pomarolli is, the comic/actress/writer/speaker has a serious heart for people and a passion for serving God. "I'm getting to the point where I can't stop talking about God," she says, noting that she's turned down some star-making movie roles because her faith would have been censored.

Whatever she does next, you can bet she will continue to stand out in Hollywood. In a city chock full of false images and see-through imitators, Kerri Pomarolli is one of a kind.

—Brett McCracken

5 MUST HAVES:

My computer for email, my carbs/sugar, my husband, my cell phone, reality TV like *The Amazing Race* and *Top Chef*

FAVORITE DRINK AT STARBUCKS:

Who can afford Starbucks? But if you're buying ... anything close to a milkshake would do.

GADGET YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT:

Computer for email and MySpace

LAST BOOK YOU READ:

This Present Darkness by Frank Peretti