

KERRI POMAROLLI

Make 'em Laugh

BY KRIS RASMUSSEN



“Hello, my name is Kerri Pomarolli. I’m 11 [years old], and I want to be an actress.”

Pomarolli has never been shy about her desire to perform for others. The Michigan native dreamed of being a ballet dancer, but after being diagnosed with scoliosis, her dream of dancing ended, and she set her sights on acting.

At the age of 11, she called a local theater company, auditioned for them, and was immediately cast in a play.

From there, Pomarolli went on to study theater in college and trained professionally at Stella Adler Academy, where she studied improvisational comedy with the improv troupe The Groundlings. She eventually began appearing in small parts on television and in movies, including “The Tonight Show” and in a recurring role on the soap “Port Charles.”

Yet as her career began to take off, Pomarolli still found herself reconciling her dreams of success with her

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faith. “It was a challenging time,” recalls Pomarolli. She remembers her work with The Groundlings, who are known for their cutting edge and often risqué material, being a particular test of her Christian faith.

“There was one time when I did have to say I would quit rather than be in one particular sketch, so I didn’t have to do it,” she says. However, one “cool” thing about her time studying there was that one of the guys became a Christian.

Yet Pomarolli still found little satisfaction in her creative pursuits. “It’s funny how even though I was getting worldly success and my mom had things to brag about at bridge, I wasn’t happy,” she says. “I knew something had to change. I silently prayed one night, ‘God, I just want to perform ... however You see fit. I just want to come back to You.’”

“That was the most powerful prayer because the very next day things changed,” Pomarolli continues. “I started a ministry called Act in Faith that provides original dramas for churches with Hollywood actors and directors.”

Today, Pomarolli travels across the country performing at churches, conferences, and even in schools with her positive, “clean comedy” message, but she can still be found performing stand-up comedy in night clubs, with well-known actress/comedienne Sherri Shepherd as her mentor.

“I don’t want to completely give up doing clubs,” Pomarolli says. “There is such a need to have a Christian voice there, and Sherri has really helped me find a way to be there and not compromise my beliefs.”

As if all of that wasn’t enough, Pomarolli is featured on a CD called *Comedy Without Compromise Vol. 1*, and she’s also written a book about her real-life dating experiences entitled *I’m Waiting on God, Then What Am I Doing on the Christian Chatroom? ... Confessions of a “Do-It-Yourself” Single*.

Pomarolli insists her book is not an advice book. “It’s more of a comical ‘what-not-to-do,’” she says with a laugh. “What’s also great is that at book signings I get men saying that the book really helped them understand women and what we’re thinking. Go figure.” For more information on Pomarolli, visit www.kerripom.com.