

-Donna Cherry-

Full-Length Biography

November 3, 2013

*...the show's funniest moments belonged to Donna Cherry...
doing what its title promised...a showstopper....*

--New York Times

*...giving unpredictable snap to the evening...
was the astounding Donna Cherry...*

--Boston Globe

*...bringing life and vigor to the stage...in the most striking performance,
Donna Cherry stole the show...!*

--Los Angeles Times

As an actor, comic, voice-over artist and singer extraordinaire, Ms. Cherry possesses the most rare of all acting combos: the qualities of a true character actress and the charisma of a leading lady. Donna grew up an "M.K.", a missionary's kid to Costa Rica and Colombia, where she was born the youngest of five kids. She entertained herself by listening to records for hours on end, imitating her favorite singers all day long. By the age of four, she performed her Thumbelina recording to perfection – including the scratches!

After living in Latin America, her family settled in California. Her high school drama teacher inspired her to pursue a career as a performer, so she went on to study at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, where she began honing her acting skills. While completing her Bachelor of Music Degree (with a concentration in voice) from California State University, Northridge, she was approached while working as a singing waitress, by none other than Miss America herself, who saw her potential and encouraged her to enter the Miss America Pageant.

After her very own personal extreme makeover, which included losing 25 pounds, Donna won Miss West Los Angeles and then the title of MISS CALIFORNIA! She bowled the judges over in the talent section with her series of impressions of show business legends...including MADONNA, BARBRA STREISAND, DIANA ROSS, ANITA BAKER, JOAN RIVERS, DOLLY PARTON and more.

While competing at Miss America, Donna was selected to be one of the top five to represent the pageant that year for various corporate events ranging from Gillette and American Greetings to K-Mart and LG. She appeared with BOB HOPE and DICK CLARK, touring with the USO to the Mediterranean and the Middle East, and participated in festivities for both the OLYMPICS and the PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION.

With her great improvisational skills to boot, Donna became known as the Miss California who was funny. After being booked as a comedienne in Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe, she moved to New York City. There, she hosted SHOPPING LINE, worked in commercials for Kellogg's, Gain, and Marriott Resorts. She also starred in several independent films such as the Panicked, where she plays a drugged-out psychiatrist and which screened at the Cannes Film Festival, and appeared in multiple Off-Broadway productions. For her portrayal of Fanny Brice in "FUNNY GIRL", Donna received the DRAMALOGUE CRITIC'S AWARD.

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Returning to California, Donna auditioned for Mitzi Shore and became a paid regular at THE COMEDY STORE, keeping her busy performing in Las Vegas, San Diego and Los Angeles. It was through The Comedy Store that Donna met BARRY MANILOW and joined his Showstopper World Tour, performing in such prestigious venues as MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, UNIVERSAL AMPHITHEATRE and London's WEMBLEY ARENA. She also made appearances on "THE TONIGHT SHOW " and "THE ARSENIO HALL SHOW".

Donna's charm as a cross between a homecoming queen and class clown allowed her to perform with such comics as EDDIE GRIFFIN, PAULY SHORE, LOUIS ANDERSON & EDDIE MURPHY. She continued to tour with Royal Caribbean and Norwegian Cruise Lines, and then was hired serendipitously to work a corporate event for the company of her future husband, Jim Caldwell. They married 6 months later, and literally 9 months after that, she gave birth to their first bouncing baby boy named Carson. It was during her pregnancy that Donna studied privately at JUILLIARD - wanting to be productive in a variety of ways!

Back in Los Angeles with her new family, Donna began focusing on her acting career. Possessing the most rare of acting combos – the qualities of a true character actress and the charisma of a leading lady - she scored an HBO/FOX sitcom pilot, Chief, with GREGORY HARRISON and BOBCAT GOLDTHWAITE as well as a political comedy pilot called Shouting Match. She then completed a six-month run at the Tiffany Theatre in the award-winning original comedy called TWIST OF FATE, which earned her much acclaim for her sympathetic portrayal of a superficial TV executive. Donna also garnered great reviews for her lead roles in several plays including DAMES AT SEA, MY FAIR LADY, GODSPELL, KISS ME KATE, THE SENSUOUS SENATOR, and more.

Using her bubbly personality to win hosting duties for Dick Clark Productions' A Salute to Stan Lee, Lifetime's At Home USA, PBS' Point of View and TNN's Chuck's Country, Donna continued to develop an attention-grabbing on-camera charisma. Her superb skill for marketing products quickly made her sought out by Kaiser Permanente, Guthy-Renker, Lockheed Martin, Phillip Morris, Illuminare Cosmetics, and more. She's even appeared in one of the original ThighMaster commercials featuring SUZANNE SOMERS!

Donna's numerous television credits include ABC's Desperate Housewives as the perplexed nurse to KYLE MACLACHLAN, Nickelodeon's Big Time Rush as the enthusiastic Broadway producer, and Disney's The Suite Life of Zach and Cody as the persnickety saleslady. She's also appeared in guest star and recurring roles on FOX's The Wanda Sykes Show, Lifetime's The Division, CBS' The Nanny and FOX's Sliders. She appears in the pilot of ANDREW DALY's upcoming Comedy Central show, Review with Forrest MacNeil. You can also catch her every summer as the ditzy mom in the cult favorite L.A. County Fair commercials, which won Ad Week's Best Spot Award and were featured in ABC's Funniest Commercials.

Not limiting herself to the small screen, Donna continues to work in studio films and independent features. She appears as the unsuspecting First Lady in Most Wanted with KEENAN IVORY WAYANS and JON VOIGHT, as the calculating cougar Sarah Stevens in The Ultimate Gift with Academy-Award nominees JAMES GARNER and ABIGAIL BRESLIN, and in a comedic moment in The Mexican starring JULIA ROBERTS and BRAD PITT. Indie films that have enjoyed

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festival and distribution success including the award-winning short Skylab, where she plays meddling Merle; The Safe, as a psychotically protective mom, Grey Sheep as a vain maothor and Shadow of the Dragon, as the story' heroine. Other roles include the justice-seeking mayor in Criminal, the ex-CIA zombie-killing mom in The Deadleys, and the stern though heartbroken mother in the exquisite Victorian period piece The Last Hymn.

Additionally, her voice-over career is blooming. She is the titular voice on two different cartoon series: the Emmy Award-winning Tutenstein (NBC) as well as Jay Jay The Jet Plane (PBS Kids). Donna's voice can be heard in a multitude of projects for international radio personality RICK DEES, MTV, Porchlight Entertainment, and Disney Imagineering (The Fox and the Hound, Beauty and the Beast, 101 Dalmatians and Sleeping Beauty). Her voice-over talent is also featured on TBS' 2 Stupid Dogs, the highly rated documentary Evita: The Life of Eva Peron, and the popular Namco video game SoulCalibur III. As well as working for Premiere Radio Network doing comedic drop-in voice-overs for morning-drive shows, she has voiced national ad campaigns for Time Warner Cable, Clear Channel, Femestra, Mazda, Chrysler, and Union Bank.

Donna put the finishing touches on her first CD entitled, "DUALITY" while being pregnant, no less, with her second baby boy named Clayton. The CD, an interesting blend of R&B/Adult Contemporary (with humor!), is now available to purchase and its debut concurred with her opening for SHERMAN HEMSLEY in Atlantic City. She can also be heard on several albums, including those of JOSE FELICIANO and BARRY MANILOW.

Donna now tours nationally in the critically acclaimed comedy show 3 Blonde Moms (www.3blondemoms.com), a delightful romp into the madness of motherhood, marriage, and family mayhem. ☺ She also devotes much of her spare time to Women In Entertainment, a group that seeks to help women grow spiritually while striving career-wise to be their best.

With her unending diversity and energy, you're sure to see a lot more of the many facets of Donna Cherry.

www.DONNACHERRY.com