

**lori petro** (*Actress/Writer/Producer*) was born under a Gemini Moon and communicating was something she did early and often. Formally beginning her career as a dancer, she calls suburban Philadelphia her hometown and is the oldest of three girls from a [very-loud] Italian family. She set out at a young age to pursue her passion persuading her parents to let her take every lesson under the sun, from gymnastics to the clarinet to voice. By age six, she was orchestrating and performing in neighborhood showcases and at eleven, taping her favorite TV shows, transcribing them and then convincing her [rather unenthusiastic] friends to memorize the scripts and perform in the living room for company.

Lori made her stage debut dancing at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia. She studied theatre and dance in the Children's Program at the Cheltenham Center for the Arts and while attending prep school in Massachusetts at the Stonleigh-Burnham School. She continued pursuing professional work while in college and booked her first film role after she accidentally walked into the wrong casting office and found herself auditioning for Emmy-nominated and award-winning writer/director, Eugene Martin (*Diary of a City Priest*), in his first feature film, *Two Plus One*. Lori is a co-founder of the Philadelphia Actor's Collective "*Off the Page...*" and she starred in and co-produced the company's self-titled, first production, which opened at the Shubin Theatre in Philadelphia.

After attending eleven different schools, though oddly enough she was neither a "problem-child" nor an "army-brat," Lori graduated magna cum laude from Temple University with a B.S. in Education (that's a whole other story). Dedicated to the pursuit of art, Lori moved to Los Angeles after college, oxymoronic as it may seem. She was intent on expanding her horizons in film and television as well as continuing the collaboration of artists by bringing *Off the Page...West*. The company went on to hold weekly workshops in scene study, cold-reading, improv and also hosted writing groups and a staged reading series.

Lori's TV appearances include *Days of Our Lives* (NBC) and *In the Mind of Con Men* (TLC). She has worked opposite David DeLuise brushing off his pick-up lines in the independent comedy *Bachelorman*, directed by John Putch and as the "Club Waitress" in the feature film *Erosion*, by writer/director Ann Lu. Lori has also enjoyed lead roles in the short films, *Writer's Block*, *Betrayal*, *Thraldom* and *Rat Maze*.

A graduate of Improv Olympic West, Lori marked her Los Angeles stage debut at the Gene Bua Theatre starring in the original play, *Hearing Voices*, which she also co-produced. A personal highlight (and one of her favorite roles) was acting alongside veteran actors Sharon Madden and John Bliss as "Rita," in *Prelude to a Kiss* at the Hudson Theatre in Hollywood.

Nowadays, you can find her on stage perfecting some such character at the local improv joint or with her nose in the computer developing her screenplay, *The Frequency of Love*. Lori also performs at events around LA, creating smiles as a professional clown and owner of *Kid Parties with Lolli*. She is a volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles and her dedication to children has led Lori to create *TEACH through Love*, an organization committed to raising the awareness of emotional abuse. And when there's time (there's always time), she dons the hats of producer and location coordinator in TV, film and theatre production.