

CHRISTINE LIPPA, Vancouver, BC
WIDC 2004 Director Participant

Lippa is an accomplished actor, writer, stand up comic, improviser and puppeteer for good measure.

Starting in 1986 Lippa moved from Victoria to Vancouver to start an acting career. Instead of exploding onto the film and television scene and becoming an overnight sensation as she had envisioned, she spent most of that year schlepping beer and dodging chicken dancers at the Munich Festhaus during Expo. Undeterred she made her way to Punchlines Comedy Cabaret later that year for her first completely forgettable performance at a stand up comedy amateur night. With dogged determination and a good measure of ignorance and fearlessness Lippa managed to survive the rest of that year on the amateur stage and became a professional stand up comic.

Highlights of the last 14 years are:

- * Headline comic for Yuk Yuk's touring across Canada
- * Featured performer in WTN's FUNNY GIRLS
- * 5 Vancouver International Comedy Festivals
- * 3 Women in View Festivals
- * Performed at THE COMIC STRIP LIVE in New York
- * Performed at the MONTREAL JUST FOR LAUGHS FESTIVAL

At the same time as her stand up career, Lippa maintained and flourished in an improv and acting career. With the Vancouver Theatresports League she quickly rose to the top of their very talented ranks. In 1992 she co-wrote a one woman show and performed it at the Vancouver Fringe Festival THE VACANT BACHELOR had won Best of the Fringe and Pick of the Fringe and went on to sold out performances at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre and the following year at the Vancouver International Comedy Festival.

The next few years brought more varied and challenging work Lippa's way. She became the host of a weekly ½ -hour television show on CBC called, ZERO AVENUE. The show took viewers through upcoming entertainment events in Vancouver and explored cultural happenings, phenomenon and creative oddities. During the three seasons that ZERO AVENUE was on the air Lippa was spanked, lost at sea and drunk in public...and that was just the first show.

Lippa's time at CBC paid off not only in being in front of the camera but also by introducing her to producing. After ZERO AVENUE she approached the EVENING NEWS with commentary ideas. Her concepts were well received and she went on to produce several more spots including the memorable I HATE HALLOWEEN and MALE STRIPPING – A LOST ART. After that there was 50 UP, a show for people in their 'best years'. Let's just say life got a little better when they saw Lippa's segments.

Today Lippa is busy developing projects closer to her own demographic: documentaries, a sitcom and feature films. In the near future she hopes to add director to her resume. This would be a natural for someone who always sees the whole picture in everything she does. Watch out Atom Egoyan! When Lippa gets a chance to direct she'll make a movie about a bus flipping over AND it'll be funny!

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