

Good, Clean Holiday Fun

If television has taught us anything over the years, it's this: Nothing says *holidays* like an aging star singing festive tunes. This month, the Gamm Theatre in Pawtucket is taking the time-tested lesson to heart – and to a new level. Meet Miss Pixie, née Martha Feingold, a fictional former child star with the late night TV talk show to prove it. The perky hostess of Channel 3's *Miss Pixie's Late Nite Clubhouse* puts her own spin on the season with a new musical variety show called *Miss Pixie's Cable Access Holiday Extravaganza!!!* Played by Gamm resident actor Casey Seymour Kim, Miss Pixie is sure to bring charm, cheer, and high spirits of the newly sober kind to this exclusive engagement.

The format of *Miss Pixie's Cable Access Holiday Extravaganza!!!* is a tongue-in-cheek tribute to classic holiday TV specials. Miss Pixie's showbiz heyday harkens back to 1940s Hollywood, a time when the "Hey, kids! Let's put on a show!" musicals of Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland were all the rage. But after a stint in rehab and more than a few husbands, the former star of such films as *Lox, Stox and Bagels* has found her career a bit stalled – and her style stuck somewhere in the early '70s. Drawing inspiration from a gamut of personalities including Bing Crosby, Elke Sommer, the Rat Pack, and Shari Lewis, Miss Pixie is determined to celebrate the season in front of a live "studio" audience this year.

In an exclusive interview last month, PM got a sneak peek at Miss Pixie – and a chance to ask her all the hard-hitting questions befitting celebrity journalism. Naturally, Miss Pixie fielded them like a pro.

May I begin by saying that it is such an honor to interview you, Miss Pixie. How did you get started in show business?

I was *to the manor born!* My folks were part of the legendary Borsht Belt act, *Eine Kleine Klezmer*. As soon as I could walk, I was out there in a tutu, singing songs as "Little Miss Martie." One night Irv Goldfarb, an exec over at Metro Goldwyn You-Know-Who, saw me belting out "Sheila the Shiksa of the Shtetl," was impressed by both my pipes and my complete lack of shame, and thought I would be a great addition to their studio roster. He called me his little pixie and the name stuck. Like *syrup!*

Your film *Purim Parade* is my all-time favorite. Which

of your wonderful films is your personal favorite?

Since it's the holidays, I'll confess, the one that's been on my mind is *Yule Be Sorry!* Gosh, that was fun... You know, originally, they'd had Judy and Mickey set to do it, but Judy pitched such a wall-eyed fit over the title. I always found it adorable – and still do, frankly

– but she was "done with puns!" and that was that. I was so grateful for it, really. Twelve years old and an early bloomer, the plum kid roles were drying up... into prunes! Ha ha!

You were such a beloved child star. What was it like to grow up in the public eye?

Golly, you know at times it was tough. I'm not gonna lie to you. Every pimple popped, every pound gained, you had the studio heads breathing down your neck – and not in the happy way! But I really have been blessed, you know, with a fabulous fan base. They are, at their absolute best, rabidly loyal and, at their worst, benignly indifferent. As far as life's mistakes, I've made some doozies, but people have always, for the most part, chosen to be amused rather than offended.

How do you deal with the pressures of the entertainment industry?

There are so many wonderful, healthy ways to address stress and anxiety nowadays: candles, meditation, herbal teas, massages, chocolate, jogging in velour. Of course, in the past it was far simpler: pills and alcohol and "the kindness of strangers."

What can you tell me about your upcoming special, *Miss Pixie's Cable Access Holiday Extravaganza!!!*?

It's fun-tastic! And even if it's not your particular cup of tea, it's at least a warm room. Come and have a drink or two and enjoy the effort to entertain you!

How exactly does one obtain a cable access extravaganza?

First of all, everyone has a license to be extravagant. All you really have to do is dust it off, pack up your gumption and



your bag of moxie, and go out to Channel Three!

What does the future hold for Miss Pixie? Is it too bold to inquire whether another Mr. Pixie might be waiting in the wings?

Gee, if there is, won't 2009 be a kick! Here's to Lucky #8!

So it appears that Miss Pixie is planning to stick around awhile. But there's only one chance to see her live holiday show, and that's at the Gamm Theatre this month. With help from Karen the Intern (played by Melissa Bowler) and Kevin the Accompanist (James Calitri), Miss Pixie is set to ignite the stage with festive fervor. Featuring original music by Casey Seymour Kim, David Rabinow and Charles Cofone, as well as costume and set designs by David Howard, it's a show sure to warm the cockles of any cold heart. God bless cable access shows, every one!

Miss Pixie's Cable Access Holiday Extravaganza!!!

December 11-23

The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre,
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