

Sharp tongued

“Girl Code” confidante Jessimae Peluso at Dayton Funny Bone

By JENNIFER HANAUER LUMPKIN

Jessimae Peluso possesses the kind of unbridled honesty that makes you acutely aware of how ridiculous the world can be. The quick-witted Syracuse, New York, native made a name for herself in Boston with improv group The Tribe before making the leap to television with appearance on shows like “Chelsea Lately” and MTV’s “Girl Code.” She’s been featured at numerous festivals, such as the New York Comedy Festival and Women in Comedy Festival, and contributed to the likes of *Cosmopolitan* and *Playboy*.

In anticipation of her upcoming appearance at Dayton Funny Bone, Jessimae took the time to talk to DCP from her home in Los Angeles, which she shares with her dogs, a pit bull and a Chihuahua. After talking about wee-wee pads (“It’s all over his paws.”) and her love of Sasquatch (“I’m just trying to find him because no one can f----- find him”), Peluso and I got down to the nitty gritty.

One of my favorite quotes of yours is, “You will never look like the girl in the magazine. The girl in the magazine doesn’t look like the girl in the magazine.” It helps when I get my *People* magazine every week to—

Jessimae Peluso: Not get caught up in it? You can’t get caught up in that shit.

Exactly. I was wondering what advice you might have for Caitlyn Jenner as she’s entering this girl world?

I think if anything, we can learn a little something from her. I was thinking about this the other day. People get so caught up in labels. Labels, for me, need to be kept in the store, and even then, they’re a little annoying... People are uncomfortable with the Caitlyn Jenner thing because it defies the theory of labels in gender and gender identity and all that. I think it just reminds us that really it comes down to being the better you, and if the better you in your mind wasn’t what you were given, then you should do whatever you need to do to become the better you. Because, essentially, what happens in the world is directly related to the people that are in it. So if people aren’t happy with themselves, there’s gonna be a shitload of unrest. Anyone who judges Caitlyn Jenner, they’re just afraid. They’re afraid of what they don’t understand, and that’s just a horrible reason to be judgmental. Being judgmental in general is pretty shitty, unless it’s to get the truth out of something to further change something that helps the pop-

ulace as a whole. Judgment doesn’t do anybody good when it’s tearing an individual down. I think she represents where we are in the world. There’s a lot of change happening, and I think that she’s going to be one of the biggest icons in our generation because of how wild that was for everybody to digest. Everyone’s like, “Oh, we lost an Olympic champion.” No, you didn’t! No you didn’t. She’s just wearing a dress now. So what? I bet you she’d still kick your ass in a 100-yard dash. In high heels.

Give Bryce Dallas Howard’s character a run for her high-heeled money.

JP: Yes! Right? [laughs]

What do you think of the high heels in “Jurassic World”?

JP: I am so annoyed by the high heels in “Jurassic World”! First of all,

“If you remember anything from this interview: farts are funny. And I’m single.”

— Jessimae Peluso, comedian and writer

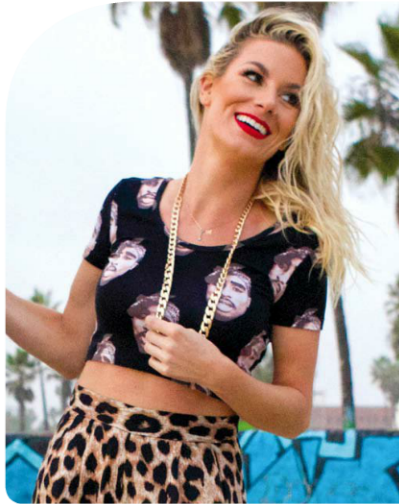
noooooooo. Second of all, come on, just kick ‘em off! I’d rather run on rocks if a Velociraptor is coming after me.

Seriously. I can’t let it go.

JP: I can’t let it go either. But you know what, that was a killer outfit. I can’t hate on that. Maybe she really likes the outfit and she’s like, “So what? I’m going to die in these heels.” But that movie was so f-----g fun. It was so fun. I LOVED it. I really did. It felt like a ride.

What’s coming up for you? I know you’re touring, and you have this great podcast [“Sharp Tongue”]. You’re also a brilliant writer. Is there a book?

JP: Yeah, I’ve been writing a book for a while. I’m just constantly working on the tour, the podcast and the book. I’m pitching shows, too. It’s a matter of keeping yourself busy and making sure you diversify and mak-



Jessimae Peluso will perform July 9-11 at Dayton Funny Bone

ing sure you have a lot of pots in the fire. It’s the key to longevity: being able to be dynamic and successful in a couple of different angles, so that’s what I’m focusing on right now because, you know, my dad has a gambling habit I need to support and my mom wants to go on vacation. So, those things cost money. [laughs] I’m taking on projects to take care of my parents. That’s my goal.

I saw a video of your dad—

JP: Oh yeah, Joey P.

—talking about why farts are so popular.

JP: Yeah, he’s right. Farts are funny.

They are. Also poop and vomit.

JP: Oh yeah. Farts are funny. Poops are funny. It’s just a fact. If you remember anything from this interview: farts are funny. And I’m single. Those are the two things that you remember.

Jessimae Peluso will perform Thursday-Saturday, July 9-11 at Dayton Funny Bone in The Greene, 88 Plum St., Suite 200 in Dayton. Early shows start at 7:30 p.m. and late shows start at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for patrons 21 and up, and 18 and up Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and Friday at 10 p.m. For tickets or more information, please visit daytonfunnybone.com or call 937.429.5233. To learn more about Jessimae, please visit jessimae.com.



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