

CHONDA PIERCE



There's an earth-shattering story that some people travel the world and risk their entire lives in the telling. It's the greatest story ever told. And yet, in the wild and wacky world of comedy, it's the greatest story never told.

Until now.

Leave it to Chonda Pierce, a 43-year-old mother of two to be the only one with the chutzpah to tell the absolute truth.

She's a best-selling comedienne with an audience of 1.5 million nationwide. She's worked with Billy Graham, wowed the Grand Ole Opry, made major television appearances, written seven books (three are children's books) and has four gold-certified comedy videos. But more important to her is the fact that her shtick -- sidesplitting stories about real life, from babyhood to motherhood to grannyhood -- is as pure as Ivory soap. Pierce is more than happy to be the 'queen of clean' because her comedy serves a larger purpose, "The punch line is not the bottom line," she says. "You've got to end up somewhere that counts."

In her fifth video/DVD, ***Have I Got a Story for You!***, Chonda Pierce dares to go where comedy has never gone before. She's skipping the happy, touchy-feeling stuff and heading straight for the undeniable root of her faith.

"All my projects have Christian content. They all talk about what I'm learning about God and his love," she says. "***Four-Eyed Blond*** was about mercy, to encourage people to lighten up on each other. ***Soap Box*** was about God's love. ***Be Afraid*** talks about the comfort of God when you're frightened. But ***Have I Got a Story for You!*** is about what sets Christians apart—the redemption of Jesus Christ. The crucifixion, the sacrifice...and how it impacts our lives today. He really is the greatest story ever told, and for once in my career, I want to tell it. I want it recorded that I was not ashamed to talk about the blood of Christ."

Recorded live at the historic Elkhart Theater in Elkhart, Indiana, ***Have I Got a Story for You!*** contains not only the most daring and important subject matter Chonda Pierce has ever produced, it is packed with some of the

funniest real-life stories you'll ever hear. Like how she managed to share a hotel room with a dead man, how her husband enjoyed a honeymoon package with someone else, and how a strange trip between NASCAR and the Holy Land can totally turn your life around.

The video opens with a music video cover of "The Girls Are Back in Town," featuring leather-clad punker-mavens Pierce and Christian music icon Sandi Patty, which is a shocker in and of itself. Patty will join Chonda Pierce in September of this year for "The Girls Are Back in Town" tour—a perfect touring partner, Chonda says. "She's every bit as crazy as me, and she's funny too. We make a great team." Following that, Chonda and her longtime cohort in chuckle-dom, Mark Lowry, will launch a 10-city arena tour, featuring some new faces in comedy.

Then again, this woman has never just been in it for the laughs. "Comedy is about so much more than exaggerating the truth or delivering a great punch line," Chonda says. "It's ultimately about the real truth. **Have I Got a Story for You!** is the truth of my ongoing love story with Jesus. The freedom of forgiveness we can have because of what Jesus did. I've got a big mouth, and I simply had to tell it. And it will leave no question as to where I stand."

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www.chonda.org

July '03

Chonda Pierce

Fact Sheet

Born: Covington, KY

Currently Resides In: Murfreesboro, TN

Married 20 years to Husband: David Pierce **Children:** Chera Kay (18), Zachary (13)

Products

- 2002 *The Three Little Pigs*, Children's book
- 2002 *Twinkle*, Children's book
- 2002 *Tales from the Ark*, Children's book (ZonderKidz)
- 2001 *Four-Eyed Blonde*, performance audio/video (Word)
- 2001 *I Can See Myself In His Eyeballs*, book (Zondervan)
- 1999 *Chonda Pierce. . .on Her Soapbox*, performance audio/video (Myrrh)
- 1999 *Chonda Pierce. . .on Her Soapbox*, book (Zondervan)
- 1999 *Yes. . . & Amen*, recorded music album (Myrrh)
- 1998 *Having A Girls' Nite Out*, performance audio/video (Myrrh)
- 1998 *It's Always Darkest Before the Fun Comes Up*, book (Zondervan)
- 1998 *Live! From the Second Row, Piano Side*, performance audio/video (Second Row Ministries)
- 1996 *Enjoying the Journey*, performance audio (Second Row Ministries)
- 1996 *Second Row, Piano Side*, Beacon Hill Press (book)
- 1995 *Follow Me*, performance audio (Second Row Ministries)
- 1993 *Closer To You*, performance audio (Second Row Ministries)

Gold Selling Videos

- Be Afraid...Be Very Afraid*, M2.O Communications
- Four-Eyed Blond*, Word
- Chonda Pierce. . .on Her Soapbox*, Myrrh
- Having A Girls' Nite Out*, Myrrh

Accolades

- January 2001 – hosted the first annual “Laughboat Cruise” in conjunction with Norwegian Sky Cruise Line, inviting nearly 200 guests to join Chonda for 7 days of fun in the sun, with performances by Chonda and her extended family
- Winner of 2001 Gospel Music Association's Grady Nutt Humor Award
- Winner of 2000 Gospel Music Association's Grady Nutt Humor Award
- With a regular schedule of 90 of her own tour dates per year, nearly 80% of which are sold out events at an average of over 2,000 ticket sales per night, Chonda has appeared in nearly every state in the continental United States.
- Chonda has appeared more often than any other special guest for the nationally acclaimed conference, Women of Faith since 1997.
- Appeared at national Aspiring Women Conferences in 2000
- Chonda has appeared more than a dozen times on the Grand Old Opry stage in Nashville, TN, following in the footsteps of the state's much beloved comedienne, Minnie Pearl.
- Chonda has participated as a keynote speaker/entertainer at over fifteen Conferences held by the Billy Graham “School of Evangelism” events since 1999.
- While filming the “Soapbox” video release, Chonda sold out Nashville's famous Ryman Auditorium in the summer of 1999.

- Acquired national corporate sponsorship by LensCrafters for The Four-Eyed Blonde Tour in 2000.

TV Appearances

The 700 Club (CBN)
American Skyline (TNN)
Backstage at the Opry (TNN)
Cheyenne Country (INSP)
Country Crossroads (ACTS)
Crook & Chase (TNN)
Billy Graham crusades
The Grand Ole Opry
HomeLife (ACTS)
Co-Host with Bill Gaither, SGMA Awards (INSP)
Life Today (Family Net, TBN, INSP)
The Mark and Kathy Show (INSP)
Music City Tonight (TNN)
The Pastor's Roundtable (Worship-TV)
Swan's Place (Odyssey)
Talk of the Town (Channel 5, Nashville, TN)
Bill Gaither Homecoming Video Series
Master of Ceremonies for the Pre-Dove Awards Telecast, 1998

Endorsements

"It has been a joy and a blessing to have Chonda Pierce as part of our team at Women of Faith. I don't know of anyone else who can make me laugh and cry all at the same time! She is a truly gifted individual with an enormous heart for God's people."

- **Christie Barnes, Executive Director, Women of Faith**

"For those of us who spent our lives sharing the second row, piano side, Chonda opens up the covering and peers into the depths of our souls. With wit and wisdom, she reveals the humor and pain of real life."

- **Gloria Gaither**

"I stopped everything and rushed over to the Opry when I heard her on the radio. I had to pop in backstage and just meet her. She is hilarious!"

- **Marty Stuart, Recording Artist**

"We have had nothing but compliments about her performance. Chonda has a tremendous ability to relate to people. We look forward to working with her this year."

- **Tom Bledsoe, Program Director, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association**

"The grassroots type of demand for Chonda's material has been phenomenal. Sales of her videos and tapes have indeed matched the Gaither's material. A customer told me today that advertising couldn't have this success but rather it is the Spirit of God which is moving through Chonda and touching the hearts of those who hear her."

- **John Bartlett, Store Manager, Family Christian Stores (Cincinnati, OH)**

Booking

William Morris Agency
(615) 963-3000 / Fax (615) 963-3094

Website

www.chonda.org

Who is Chonda Pierce?

She's a best-selling comedienne with an audience of 1.5 million nationwide. She's worked with Billy Graham, wowed the Grand Ole Opry, made major television appearances, written eight books (four are children's books) and has four gold-certified comedy videos. But more important to her is the fact that her shtick -- sidesplitting stories about real life, from babyhood to motherhood to grannyhood -- is as pure as Ivory soap. Pierce is more than happy to be the 'queen of clean' because her comedy serves a larger purpose, "The punch line is not the bottom line," she says. "You've got to end up somewhere that counts."

"All my projects have Christian content. They all talk about what I'm learning about God and his love," she says. "For example, *Four-Eyed Blond* was about mercy, to encourage people to lighten up on each other and themselves. *On Her Soap Box* was about the fatherhood of God. *Be Afraid* talks about the comfort of God when you're frightened. And the latest, *Have I Got a Story for You* is about what sets Christians apart—the redemption of Jesus Christ. The crucifixion, the sacrifice...and how it impacts our lives today. That really is the greatest story ever told, and for once in my career, I wanted to make sure that I had articulated THAT loud and clear."

Then again, Chonda has never just been in it for the laughs. "Comedy is about so much more than exaggerating the truth or delivering a great punch line," Chonda says. "It ultimately starts with the truth." And leave it to Chonda Pierce, a 43-year-old mother of two to be the only one with the chutzpah to tell the absolute truth.

"The Christian community takes itself so seriously." Chonda continues. "And believe me there are a lot of things to be absolutely serious about. But comedy is one of the greatest gifts, one of the greatest tools – an emotion given to us by a Creator that planned on us using it from time to time! And if we can use humor to leave someone feeling positive about life, hopeful about the future and looking at a committed life as a Christ-follower then, 'Why not!?'"

"I don't know where the title Christian Comedian came from." Chonda snickers, "I'm a stand-up comedian. That's what I do for a living AND I happen to be a born-again Christian. Something that the entertainment world finds downright scary!" Chonda laughs.

Chonda began her interest in Comedy during a six-year stint at a theme park in Nashville, TN called Opryland, USA. "I was a Theater Arts major at Austin Peay University and went to the park to pay my college bill. I wound up in a show called Country Music, USA and didn't know a thing about country music!" Furthermore, growing up in an ultra conservative Pastor's home, Chonda didn't know how to dance. A major requirement for theme park entertainers. "In order to keep my job I had to memorize a couple of pages of jokes from Grinders Switch, TN and impersonate Cousin Minnie Pearl. I was hooked! I loved the sound of an audience laughing more so than the applause after a song or dramatic sketch."

The journey from Opryland to present day filled the pages of two of the four books Chonda has written. Her autobiography has been written out in two different books focusing on several different episodes in Chonda's life: *Second Row, Piano Side* (Beacon Hill Press) and *It's Always Darkest Before the FUN Comes Up* (Zondervan).

I was a teenager when life in my "seemingly" perfect southern preacher's kid world fell apart. My older sister, Charlotta was killed in a car accident (she was 20), several months later my little sister became seriously ill and died in 21 days after being diagnosed with Leukemia (she was 15). During those grieving months Chonda's father left town. "My father was bipolar and so to

tell you the truth, his leaving was no real shocker – but his timing certainly left much to be desired.”

Chonda’s older brother had already married and moved out of state which meant Chonda and her mother had to start all over again in a one bedroom apartment in Nashville, Tennessee. “We were broke, tired and beaten down. Let me tell you, you’ll find out if there’s a God when you have to share a bedroom with your mother!” Those were dark days indeed, but the FUN eventually did come back into Chonda’s life and she went on to marry her high school sweetheart, David Pierce. Chonda beams, “David is my partner in ALL things.” A successful writer in his own field, they have also co-authored four children’s books. “David and I write most all of the material on my comedy projects, in books but our most successful collaboration in our 21 year marriage is a daughter and a son!”

Chonda resides with her family in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

For more information contact, Mike Atkins Management at 615.742.9000