

Loni Love: The 'Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2' Interview

Throughout her career, comedian and actress Loni Love has brought audiences into hysterics with her witty satire and hilarious stand-up. Through her tireless pursuit of excellence, Loni has now found herself at the top ranks of the comedy hierarchy.

When not busy circumnavigating the globe on the stand-up circuit, she co-hosts *The Real*, the popular, daytime talk show on Fox-TV. She's also an author, having released her first book last year, "Love Him or Leave Him, but Don't Pick Up the Tab," a part-memoir, part-relationship advice opus.

Growing up as a latchkey daughter of a devoted, role model mom in Detroit's Brewster-Douglass Housing Projects, Loni always had an unparalleled work ethic. Working on the General Motors assembly line in High School, she found a passion for electrical engineering which landed her a scholarship to Prairie View A&M University in Texas.

It was there that she first took to the stage and fell in love with stand-up comedy, routinely getting gigs throughout college. Upon graduation, she landed an engineering job in California and headed west to pursue her dream.

After feeling out the Los Angeles comedy club scene and becoming a regular at

the legendary Laugh Factory, Loni reached full steam in 2003 when the electrical engineer by day / stand-up comedian by night was chosen for the comics showcase at HBO's U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen. Soon thereafter, she won the Jury Prize for Best Stand-Up and was a finalist on CBS TV's revival of *Star Search*.



CELEBRITY INTERVIEW

by Kam Williams

thanks for the interview.

Loni Love: Hey, Kam! No problem.

KW: What interested you in *Paul Blart 2*?

LL: I loved the script. I

One thing Joan taught me was to never turn any gigs down

Her comedic flair and entertaining presence landed Loni a role in *Soul Plane* alongside Tom Arnold, D.L. Hughley, and Snoop Dog. On the small screen, she's starred in her own half-hour special for Comedy Central, and has also been seen on the channel's *Premium Blend*, *Weekends at the DL*, and *Chocolate News*.

Loni's very own one-hour special entitled *Loni Love: America's Sister* aired on Comedy Central to rave reviews. Here, she talks about her latest outing as Donna Erricone opposite Kevin James in *Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2*.

Kam Williams: Hi Loni,

love the process of it's being a family-friendly movie that also has action. And I also like the fact that the character I'm playing is the only mall cop that can actually fight. I thought the picture was really cute and I'm just really glad to be a part of it.

KW: I loved your appearance on Joan Rivers' show, *In Bed with Joan Rivers*?

LL: Thank you!

KW: The two of you were hilarious playing off each other. But there was one moment that gave me goose bumps. That was when she said, "If you ever need a Jewish doctor, mention my name. I could drop dead in

any of the original 13 colonies, and there'd be a doctor to revive me."

LL: [LOL] We joked so much that day, and a lot of people have asked me about it. Her passing is such a tragedy, but we do have our memories of her. The thing people don't know is that after that interview, she took so much time with me. She spent the whole day with me. I was really amazed by her, and I felt very honored. But it was just a very creepy, weird coincidence that she joked about that.

KW: Why did you go from engineering to comedy?

LL: Because I was the worst engineer in the United States of America. [Laughs] No, I started doing stand-up in college, but I promised my mother that I would finish my engineering degree first. When I got a job in L.A., I started doing engineering, during the day, and stand-up, at night. Then, I got laid off in 2002, and never looked back.

KW: You still stayed busy. Besides acting and stand-up, you found time to write your relationship advice book, "Love Him or Leave Him, but Don't Get Stuck with the Tab" and to host *Café Mocha Radio*. Where do you find all the time?

LL: One thing Joan taught me was to never turn



Loni Love at the premiere of 'Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2'

any gigs down. In this day and age, you have to multitask to have a career and to get the exposure that you want. Through doing *Café Mocha Radio*, I was actually able to interview President Obama and the First Lady. Things I would never have dreamed of have happened to me because if I can schedule it, I'll do it. I was raised in the Brewster Projects in Detroit, and my mom taught me to work hard. So, when I was offered an opportunity to

publish a book, I hunkered down and wrote it. I've been a touring comic for over a decade, and to get a chance to be on a talk show every day is a comic's dream come true. So, all the things I've done in the past was training for what you see today, which is really to just be an entertainer.

KW: Is there any question no one ever asks you, that

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