

STAR SPACES

Funny lady

Degrassi star is all grown up (but luckily, her comedy isn't)

MARCY CORNBLUM
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Award-winning actor, writer and comedian Renee Percy is a veteran of Canadian stage and television. But lately it's her three-minute Web video that has people all over the world LOL'ing. *Sure Lock: A True Poo Story* has been viewed over six and a half million times on YouTube. No spoiler here, though. You'll have to watch for yourself Percy's hilarious take on an embarrassing situation.

Percy attributes her early interest in show business to her parents, who were both performers — and hippies.

"My parents were very supportive," says Percy. "They always told me to have a backup plan."

She studied drama and dance at the Etobicoke School of the Arts, then earned an Honours Specialist Degree in Theatre from the University of Toronto.

At the age of 13, she landed her first role as a regular on *Degrassi High*. Though the series mostly addressed serious teenage issues, once a year the cast members were asked to do a stand-up comedy performance for the show's executives. Just the thought of it made Percy weak in the knees.

"I tried to break my arm so I wouldn't have to go on," she quips. Luckily, Percy discovered that couldn't break her own arm. She also discovered a penchant for comedy.

"I loved receiving the audience's immediate reaction," says Percy. "It was during that first performance that I was bitten by the comedy bug and my interest in stand-up began. The audience's positive vibe is still the best feeling in the world."

In 2003, she won the Phil Hartman Award for best overall comedian.

Currently, she is a performer on the fifth season of *Comedy Inc.*, which airs on CTV and the Comedy Network. *Nunchucks*, an adult animated series she created and wrote, will air this spring on Teletoon.

Percy welcomed Star Spaces into her home.

Q: How would you describe your home in one word?

A: *Chocolate! Oops* — sorry, that word was just on my mind.

Q: Tell us about your home.

A: My home is an 820-square-foot condo in the St. Lawrence Market area. It has two bedrooms, a den and my little odd-shaped office. The building is three and a half years old.

Q: What attracted you to this space?

A: My boyfriend Dave. He lived here first and I thought: Hey, he's pretty cute. The location is great. I'll take them both. Wrap them up! This area is close to restaurants, shops and public transit.

Q: Who shares your home?

A: My beau and our boss, Wesley — our 4.5 lb. Maltese. We bought the dog just over a year ago. He's a Lickasaurus. He craves attention. Wesley thinks he's huge and is instantly friendly with anyone that comes through the door. I have a little condo for him in my office.

I can't forget my guppies: Lulu Junior and Mr. Belvedere.

Q: What is your favourite room and why?

A: My office, even though it has no windows and originally had no door — most people's closets are bigger. It has the funkiest fish tank hanging on the wall, which I love. It is moving art. Nobody believes that it's real. I first saw the fish tank advertised in a magazine. I am the first person in Canada to own one. I find the fish calming and relaxing.



photos: David Mkvovic



Q: How would you describe your decorating style?

A: I'd say modern-eclectic. I like clean lines with a modern feel. When I first moved in two years ago, I changed everything. I took all of our furniture and sold it.

We bought new furniture together. I painted the accent wall green. I bought a microfibre sectional. I also bought a green carpet to match the accent wall. I love shopping for nothing in particular and then finding a fun piece to add to the condo decor.

Q: What is your fondest memory in this home?

A: I celebrated my birthday in the party room upstairs. It overlooks the city and has a beautiful view. I catered the event for sixty family and friends. Everyone enjoyed themselves. It was a nice way for me to bring in a new year.

Q: What's the one item in this house you can't live without?

A: Chocolate! Does that count as an item? If not, I guess I'd say my

iPhone. I'm not going to lie: I'm addicted and need help.

Q: Weekends at home, what are we most likely to find you doing?

A: Writing and being productive (also known as sitting on the couch watching DVDs and eating popcorn). I love taking Wesley for walks. It gets me away from my computer and is a nice break for my head.

Q: If your walls could talk, what would they say?

A: *I should have stayed in school!*