



EVERYBODY DANCE NOW

Lori Michaels is our kind of rock star. ★ By Katie Peoples

SHE'S KNOWN FOR her sexy, dance troupe show *Me & The Girls*, who make hit, sizzling hotspots around the country, and leave swooning women in their wake. Now, Lori Michaels is breaking out on her own with a new album, *Living My Life Out Loud*. She dishes on her act, her album, her groupies, her heartbreak and her first big rock star moment.

How does it feel to go more solo?

We're still doing a lot of *Me & The Girls* shows at the Pride festivals, while on tour and out promoting the CD. But in between those gigs, we got some intimate stuff going on. I have some national anthems with major sporting games and even some wedding celebrations, commitment ceremonies. I mean, it feels great.

Are women tearing off your clothes?

[Laughs] I had a boot episode. I've been signing a lot of breasts, which has been great, with permanent marker. I tell them every time, "I don't know why you're asking me to do this."

Have any of them tried to make it back on the tour bus?

Uh, yeah...they get a little bit personal and want to like, profess their love. A lot of these lesbian clubs and bars and even the festivals offer an enormous amount of alcohol. I don't really think they genuinely like me. I just think it's maybe the alcohol talking.

What if they just needed a little liquid courage?

Well I'm flattered. But I don't drink. Maybe, maybe I need a few drinks to get back in the game here. [Laughs]

So what's your quintessential rock star moment?

I was just doing an interview with another magazine, and a girl came up and lifted her shirt. I was sitting in the van, waiting for the show. I was doing an interview, and my back was to the window, and the writer, like, her face dropped, and she's like, "Wow that never happens to me." And you know, breasts and stomach were right there. She said, "That's such a rock star thing." And I'm like, "Yeah, that's the first time that happened, but OK." [Laughs]

I don't think I'm that typical rock star, you know. I don't drink or do the drugs or party all that much. You know, a lot of times after the show people will be like, "Keep the party going"...and I'm like, "I need to sleep." [Laughs]

What do you do to keep your energy up?

I try to stay fit and healthy. I'm really into fitness and dance and I try to eat well, and I try not to get too stressed out. I watch Oprah a little bit. And not that I'm like, proclaiming to be the Jackie Warner of the lesbians, but I try. [Laughs]

What inspired your show?

I just wanted to put out professional entertainment that people, I think, were craving. It might sound silly or but I've been a performer all my life. I just came up with the idea and one of my feature performers and I sat down and the *Me & The Girls* thing came out of a song that I had written and performed, We just made the whole show around something that would be fun, interactive, upbeat.

What does your girlfriend think of your stage show?

Well, I hope by the time this comes out I'm back together with my girlfriend. She broke up with me. [Laughs]

Do you have to win her over with a love song?

I don't know if that will work anymore. What can you do?

Everyone hits a rough patch.

Yeah this is just a transitional period where we're going to become stronger, and better, and rebuild and heal. That's what I'm telling myself. I'm going to be very ohm-shanti-ohm with this..I'm a dark chocolate fan so maybe I should start that instead of drinking. I'm going to start heavily getting into chocolate.

Chocolate might help you feel better.

I'm definitely into chocolate. That would be a good thing. So when I blow up, when I'm 250 pounds, I'm going to thank you for recommending chocolate. [Laughs]

Hey, at least you'd be fat and happy, right?

Yeah, I'll be fat and happy. ■

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