

Penny Croft

Trained at **Arts Educational** and the **London School of Dramatic Art**. On graduating with honours she joined the **New Midland Theatre Company** where she was the juvenile lead in over thirty plays. Her first appearance in the West End was "**G.B.**" at the Westminster theatre, followed by "**Why Not Stay For Breakfast**" at the Apollo theatre, a two- hander with **Derek Nimmo**. She subsequently played this role in several countries.

Taking a short break from acting, she signed to Chappell's London as a singer/songwriter. She represented Great Britain at the **World Song Festival in Tokyo**. Where she won the "**Cherry Blossom**" award for best performance, presented by **Frank Sinatra**.

The female lead in the Stephen Schwartz musical "**The Magic Show**" took her to South Africa where she stayed for four years. She also starred in "**Cole**" the musical based on the life of Cole Porter. Ms Croft then signed a record deal with **CBS** records and made three albums of her own songs. She performed her own material extensively on T.V. and radio and was finally given her own TV show "**The World of Penny Croft**" which she wrote and produced, and for which she won a **S.A.R.I.E** award for Best Female Artiste. The following year she won **Billboard Magazines** international "**Shure Golden Microphone Award**" for **Best Female Vocalist**.

When she returned to Britain, she created and wrote the B.B.C. hit sit-com "**Life Without George**" starring **Simon Cadell and Carol Royle**. Also for the BBC "**Paradise Park**" starring **Sheila Hancock and Dora Bryan**, and "**Happy Families**" starring **Stephen Tompkinson and Amanda Donohoe**, neither of which made it to air, but provided excellent experience for her later sojourns in Hollywood!

Still in the UK, she co-wrote with **Jeremy Lloyd** the T.V show "**Follow your Stars**" for **Joan Collins and Omar Sharif**.

In 1998 she moved to Los Angeles, where she entered a screenplay competition, and won it. She was then awarded the **1998/99 Chesterfield Film Fellowship**. Run and presented by **Steven Spielberg**. This provided an excellent calling card for the American Television Networks.

Whilst living in Hollywood. She created and wrote:

"**40 love**" for Castle Rock/CBS television.

"**When it rains**" for Mandalay/CBS television.

"**Wilde Women**" for Mandalay/Lifetime television.

She was involved in the American version of "**Only Fools and Horses**" for Castle Rock. She also worked as Creative Consultant for the movie "**The Good Doctor**" starring **James Coburn**.

While in the US, she was responsible for bringing to Britain the hugely successful sit-com , "**My Family**" starring **Robert Lindsay and Zoe Wannamaker**, having co-written the commissioned episode in the US with Fred Barron.

Since returning from Los Angeles she has worked as a producer for Tiger Aspect on "**12 O'clock girls**" starring **Maureen Lipman**, and for Eceni Productions, her independent television company based in East Anglia, .has written and produced "**Zip and Hollow**" a sitcom starring **Liza Goddard, Helen Atkinson Wood and Niky Wardley**.

Also for Eceni she produced and co-created "**Kaleidoscope**", a game show presented by **Christopher Biggins** and "**Your Number's Up**" a game show presented by **Les Dennis**. For Worldwide Theatrix Ltd, she Executive Produced "**Here Comes the Queen**" written by her father **David Croft** and **Jeremy Lloyd**. She is currently working on a new musical "**The Tales Of Beatrix Potter**" Co-written with **Valentine Guinness**. Based on the Vivien Leigh narrated records. Songs by David Croft and Cyril Ornadel.

She has served on the Light Entertainment juries of both the **B.A.F.T.A. Awards** and the **British Comedy awards**. She was also comedy advisor with **Richard Curtis**, to **Channel 4's Women Writer's workshop** for Seamus Cassidy.

Ms Croft is a member of **The Writers Guild of America West**.