Keri Kelsey

Keri Kelsey is a woman with, to put it mildly, an eclectic background. Her life experiences are as diverse as traveling with the circus, riding a tiger bareback, assisting a juggler, working as an
on-the-spot radio news reporter and a literary agent, signing for the deaf, and swinging 35 feet in the air from a float in the Rose Bowl Parade! (not easy for someone afraid of heights... she found, however, that fear is calmed somewhat when a paycheck is involved...)

Keri draws inspiration from all these experiences for her personal and compelling performances, while earning a reputation for being, as one reviewer recently put it, "the definition of glamour". She counts among her musical inspirations Julie Wilson, Ann Hampton Calloway and Nancy Wilson.

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Keri Kelsey received her BA in Theater Arts from Florida Southern College. She then moved to New York City where she acted and also did various intriguing jobs, even working for the man who designed the Barbie. But most importantly, she took in as much as she could of the incredible city where she had always dreamed of living. Just before she was set to move back home she decided it was time to run away with the circus, (it may have had something to do with the daring young man on the flying trapeze - in tights!) She married him and joined The Big Apple Circus. After trying out the trapeze and discovering she had limited athletic ability, (in addition to the acrophobia,) she started selling popcorn.

With the birth of their son Alex, a house without wheels came calling, and it was off to Los Angeles where her husband began doing stunts in movies. After a stint as a literary agent, Keri separated from her husband and knew it was time to get back to what she loved: *music*. Performances at the Cinegrill, Masquers, The Plush Room and The Gardenia followed, as did a return to New York, to perform at Tavern On The Green and Danny's Skylight Lounge. She currently hosts the open mic at The Gardenia on Tuesdays.