

The Heart of *Dixie*



**Firecracker
Dixie Longate
makes a big
bang with her
new show.**

By Deon Brown

Southern firecracker and wisecracker Dixie Longate knows something about everything from “breakfast vodka” to “tornadoes and thongs.” Dixie’s shows attract 52,000 to 78,000 folks every year. She’s bringing her new show, “Cherry Bombs & Bottle Rockets” to Chandler Center for the Arts, and baby, she’s a firework, and lets her colors burst like the Fourth of July.

ION: You’ve been the world’s number one Tupperware salesperson since 2007. Is that still true?

Dixie: So I’ve been number one in the whole company two different times, but there’s bigger fish fry and that’s why I decided to work on some new stuff.

ION: 12 years after “Dixie Longate’s Tupperware Party” began it was still running and had become one of the longest running off-Broadway tours in American theater history.

Dixie: Isn’t that crazy? Doesn’t it make you just want to punch a cat in the face when you hear just stuff like that? I can’t even believe it!

ION: If you had one piece of advice to offer about food storage solutions, what would it be?

Dixie: Well, alcohol never goes bad, so you can store that in any one of our Tupperware products. But you know what? I didn’t know it was *for the kitchen!* My reverend came in one Thursday. He’s like, “What’s all that Tupperware doing under the bed?” And I’m like, “Why are you in the bedroom? It’s not Tuesday, Reverend!” or whatever, and then I was like, “*Oh!* You can use it in the *kitchen?*” So I cleaned it all up, and I was, like, “This is the best food storage crap in the world!” There are a million uses for things that you never even knew you didn’t know!

ION: What's your favorite flavor of breakfast vodka?

Dixie: You *always* need some breakfast vodka near you. I find putting a little lemon in it perks it right up; it's good for alkalizing the blood. It just has that whisper of vodka flavor to it. If you put a lemon in it, then you get some of that extra pulp in your mouth—and it's always good to have something in your mouth—you're like, "Oh, that's *surprising!*" You know what I mean.

ION: You and your children are living in your trailer in Mobile, Alabama. Correct?

Dixie: I have so many friends there that I can go away, and just tether my kids to the front door and my neighbors check on 'em.

ION: There's been a lot of tornadoes in Alabama. How did you survive?

Dixie: See, this is one of the things that you learn real quick: let all the air out of your trailer's tires, staple gun it to the yard, and put a stake in the side corner where the baby's room is, and stick it right to the ground so it's harder for the hurricane to get underneath and pick you up and shake you like it's mad at you. It's always the trailers that are up on blocks or on their tires that get taken away.

ION: Is it a one-wide or double-wide?

Dixie: Oh, listen, I'm classy, I live in a double-wide. I don't even have to go outside to go to the bathroom no more. I've edged up in life.

ION: You have three ex-husbands. Why are you single now?

Dixie: Yes. Lord, I am single and thankfully I'm staying that way. You know how you do, you're sitting there drinking and somebody just flirts up with you and they're like, "Hey, I want to get married" and stick a ring on your finger and you're, like, "Oh, that looks pretty. I think I'll take that"? I've sworn it off. I say, "Why milk the cow when you can get a cow from a milk for free" ... or however that goes.

ION: You're a lusty gal. Do you have a man in every port when you go on tour?

Dixie: I do not. I have people that will always open their door to me wherever I go, sometimes they're like, "Hey, you don't even have to jump up on the trampoline that I'm going to pull out and have sex with me, you can just come in and have a cocktail!" and I'm like, "You are so gracious, Senator," or whatever. I've been able to find ports in the storms, but those ports don't always get blown into. Know what I mean?

ION: Do you have any advice for single folks here in the greater metropolitan Phoenix area?

Dixie: Absolutely. *Stay single*. It's better and it's easier, then you can court people and go on dates, and then they'll buy drinks for you and you don't gotta pay for it. That's the best thing about datin'. You just say, "Oh, I can't date you anymore. I don't speak English," or, "I have a headache," and walk away. You don't have to roll over out of bed in the morning and be, like, "Oh, damn it, who's he?" and committed to somebody that you don't even remember meeting the night before. It's just a hassle.

ION: You have amazing video greetings on Cameo.com.

Dixie: When I started on Cameo I thought, "What a great way to be able to connect with people!" There's a form that you fill out about who folks want me to wish a happy birthday or happy parole to, or, "I'm glad you got that fungus taken care of," whatever. So I see how I can relate it to me, and help them do things better, get rid of that rash, whatever it is, because I'm a giver.





ION: What's is your greatest strength?

Dixie: The fact that there are millions of words in the English language and most of them are in my mouth, and they come out *fast*. My greatest strength is to connect with people and find anything to talk to about. I think the world needs a bit of a hug these days. In this day and age of social media and texting, people spend so much less time connecting, even though we have so many more platforms with which to connect. I love to be able to find ways to connect in real time with people through words, through conversation. I don't know if that's a good or a bad thing, but that's how I look at it.

ION: Do you prefer boxers, bikinis, briefs, or thongs?

Dixie: Well, if I'm around the trailer, I just wear usually nothing but an oversized t-shirt. If I don't want to have that unsightly panty line I wear them thongs so that way when I'm walking down the street, everybody from the auto body shop can look at me and be like, "Oh yes, there she goes." And I say, "Yes, I know, I can't help it!" I don't want them looking at my panty labels or looking at this big ol' wide elastic sticking out everywhere or huggin' my ass, so I wear thongs that cut right up my butt. Cain't help it, that's the truth.

ION: A day in your shoes or a day in your thong?

Dixie: Well, listen, a day in my thong, well, then we'd have to wash it out in the sink and it can get all gummy, especially if you're in a hot weather place. And, oh, that's just gonna lead to infection stuff. Never enough salve to get rid of that!

ION: Tell us about your new show, "Cherry Bombs & Bottle Rockets," and what can we expect when we see you at Chandler Center for the Arts?

Dixie: I'm so stinking excited! During the pandemic I decided, you know what? I wanna write something *new*. I look at it this way: everybody has gone through—whether they recognize it or not—a kind of a fundamental change these last couple years. You can't possibly be the same person you was before the pandemic; everything around you has kind of shifted a little bit, and so I wanted to write a show talking about that, celebrating the people, the way they are now, and then giving them some incentive to reach for something that they'd never thought of reaching for.

I boil it down to, "You can be a cherry bomb in your life or you can be a bottle rocket. You can be something that just makes a big noise and scares all the critters or you can be something that soars up into the air and lights the sky for other people to follow the path behind you." I'm hoping that my show and my stories inspire people to go out there and be a bottle rocket and be something amazing for the rest of the world to see.

**Put on your best panties
and don't miss Dixie Longate's
"Cherry Bombs and Bottle Rockets."**

**Thursday, March 16 at 7 p.m.
Chandler Center for the Arts
250 N. Arizona Ave. in Chandler
Get your tix at ChandlerArts.org or
call 480-782-2660**

**You might even win a
Tupperware sippy cup!**

