

Scott Taylor Public Relations

MEENO PELUCE

BIOGRAPHY

What happens to a child, born in Amsterdam to American parents traveling on a five-year odyssey around the world, who, as an infant, lives in a windmill in Holland, rides camels across the deserts of the Far East and elephants up the mountains of India, and names himself (at age 3) while hiking on the lower levels of Mount Everest? A child who is nearly five years old before first witnessing such conveniences as hot-and-cold running water and light switches?

Answer: He becomes an honor student, an eager sandlot football player and an actor so gifted he has starred, as a regular, on three different television series by the age of twelve.

Meeno Peluce, who stars as the adventurous, witty and intelligent 'Jeffrey Jones' in NBC-TV's "Voyagers!", is anything but a typical "child actor."

After settling in Los Angeles shortly before his fifth birthday, it took Meeno only days to reveal his favorite discoveries of his new homeland: "Disneyland, bubblegum and the 'movies'" (not necessarily in that order). Originally taken to see films to help speed his fluency in English, Meeno quickly fell in love with the idea of becoming a stuntman/actor/hero. Young Meeno surmised that being a

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mixture of the three would give him all he could ask for from life. As he explained to his mother, Sondra, at the time: "Stuntmen get all the action, actors get all the girls, and heroes never die!"

Though enchanted with her son's reasoning, Sondra wasn't overjoyed with his desire to try his luck in the acting profession. Recently divorced from Meeno's father, Floyd Peluce, who heads his own Los Angeles-based accounting firm, Sondra formed her own catering company, "Mother Moon, Inc.", and was frequently hired to serve filming productions of commercials, television shows and motion pictures, and she was somewhat leery of the emotional strain which sometimes befall participants in the pressure-filled industry.

It took little time, however, for producers and directors to notice that Meeno, who often accompanied his mother to the filming locations, was a bright and energetic youngster with undeniable "presence." Yet Sondra politely turned-down the increasingly frequent offers to put her son in front of the cameras, much to the filmmakers', and Meeno's, dismay.

Because of his mother's resistance to the idea of his becoming an actor, Meeno decided not to tell her that he had tried-out for, and won, the lead role in a school play. When she later found out by accident, and asked him why he hadn't told her of the part, Meeno responded that he figured if he had, she wouldn't have let him continue. Again, he reiterated his overwhelming desire to pursue acting. This time, she relented, convinced that performing was not merely an infatuation for Meeno, but a true love.

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After the completion of the play, Meeno pled his case for Sondra to allow him to pursue acting at the professional level. Asking only that he wait until he turned seven (a few months off at the time), she granted her permission. On his birthday, Meeno visited an agent and was signed on the spot. The following week, he was on location with a guest-starring role on "Starsky & Hutch".

Since that time, Meeno has been one of the busiest actors in Hollywood, guest-starring in television series such as "Eight Is Enough", "Kojak", "The Incredible Hulk", "Lou Grant", "Taxi", "Angie", "Benson", "Tenspeed And Brownshoe" and "Happy Days".

Among his television movie credits are "World War III", "The Million Dollar Infield", "Night Cries", "The Ghost Of Flight 401", "Loose Change", "Fast Friends", "The Pirate", "The Latch Key Child" and "Scout's Honor".

His feature film credits include "The Amityville Horror" and "The Jazz Singer".

In addition to "Voyagers!", Meeno was a starring regular on both "The Bad News Bears" and "Best Of The West" television series.

"Voyagers!", however, has quickly become his favorite. With its continuous action, and its frequent gallantry, Meeno has finally realized his dream of truly becoming the combined stuntman/actor/hero. Both Meeno and his "Voyagers!" comrade, Jon-Erik Hexum, perform a large number of their own stunts, which include such childhood fantasies as swordfighting, horseback riding, running through explosives, jumping from high places, chariot racing and flying through the air (a trick accomplished by being harnessed in wires).

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An extremely mature, witty and well-adjusted youngster, Meeno excels in schoolwork, plays on his junior high school football team (wide receiver), and spends spare time chumming with a vast network of classmates and neighborhood pals. Other favorite hobbies include surfing, motorbike riding, listening to rock music and studying guitar. As possible alternatives to a lifelong career in show business, Meeno is very interested in both marine biology and astrophysics.

The origin of the name "Meeno" is an example of the independence that is nurtured, instead of stifled, in the Peluce household. Given the name "Miro" at birth, the youngster suddenly announced to his parents, during a hike on the lower levels of Mount Everest (the family lived in India at the time), that he would like to be called "Meeno" from then on. The Hindu word for "Pisces" or "little fish", the boy had often heard "Meeno" shouted by Indian fish vendors in the open markets. He liked the sound, and the name has stuck.

Meeno has one sister, Soleil, 6, who has shown some sibling rivalry with acting desires of her own. She recently finished a role in the CBS-TV Movie Of The Week, "Where Are My Children".

Meeno's successes, both on and off the sound stage, are dramatic confirmation of both old notions, and new. His rapid and continuous professional ascent gives credence that "The American Dream" is alive, well and can be found at any age, with whatever background. And his private life is a testimony that the age of "dropping-out" to gain peer acceptance has gone the way of Nehru jackets. He has

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proven, among his friends, that you can be hip and cool while remaining an inquisitive, hard-working student and a dedicated contributing member of the arts.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHDATE.....February 26	BIRTHPLACE.....Amsterdam, Holland
HEIGHT.....5'0" (at the moment)	WEIGHT.....80 lbs.
HAIR.....Black	EYES.....Dark Brown

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