

Kate Botello made her performance debut at a dinner party for her parents' drunk friends in, *Fat Kid in Glasses: Robot Does the Hustle*, an interpretive "dance" to the disco non-classic, "A Fifth of Beethoven." She was eight.

Later in life, in San Francisco, Kate went from being a Senior Desktop Analyst (the day job) and professional Judy Garland impersonator (the night job) to being hired as on-air talent at ZDTV (now G4/TechTV). Her first gig at TechTV was puppeteering and doing the voice talent behind the network's virtual host, Tilde – for which she and the Virtual Media Team were awarded a Bronze medal in the New York Festival and a Bay Area Emmy Award.

Kate went on to become the cohost and one of the masterminds behind the creation of the live, national daily television show, *The Screen Savers*, with Leo Laporte. She sang show tune technology parodies, did beat poetry about RAM and Operating Systems, experienced an earthquake and repeatedly put cohost Leo Laporte in a headlock – all during more than 400 episodes of live television.

Kate then became cohost of TechTV's internationally distributed videogame show, *Extended Play*. When she wasn't globetrotting around London or Tokyo, she was interviewing the heroes and villains of the videogame industry, sparring with *Ultimate Fighters*, judging the Consumer Electronic Show (CES) in Las Vegas, or ranting about Lara Croft's enormous rack on PBS.

Following her California television career, Kate moved to New York city and worked in theatre. After playing Judy Garland and Kate Hepburn to critical praise and sold-out houses Off-Broadway in *Christmas with the Crawfords*, she formed *Love Bomb Productions* with Ray Weigel and acclaimed Disney director and original cast member of *A Chorus Line*, Donna Drake. Together, they produced multiple cabaret productions of two original shows: *Judy Garland and Uninvited Company* and *Judy's Christmas Garland*. Both shows were starred as "recommended" in *Time Out New York*, and received rave reviews. *Uninvited Company* was a Finalist for New York Nightlife Award, and Kate won a *Backstage Bistro* for her portrayal of Judy.

Kate then brought this national experience to Traverse City, where she is deeply involved in the community arts scene. She appears in and directs local productions and events, working heavily with the *Old Town Playhouse Young Company*, where she serves as an acting teacher and director.

Kate's current favorite projects (other than *Weird News Radio*, of course) are: the *Young Company Summer Performing Arts Camp*, a four-week day camp bringing intensive musical theatre instruction to young actors aged nine to sixteen; and the improvisational comedy improv troupe, *Good On Paper*.

When not performing or directing, Kate is half of *Traverse City Web Design* along with her husband, Ray Weigel IV.