



Stop It Now! Georgia

The Campaign to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

Press Release

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Musical Confronts Family Secrets

Atlanta, GA: Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Georgia is working with Actor's Express as they prepare for the world premiere of *Love Jerry*. In this intense family drama, the issue of child sexual abuse is sensitively portrayed in a honest depiction of a family in crisis. *Love Jerry* opens a window for the audience to view a family drama unfold as generations of secrets are exposed.

"Actor's Express has addressed the complex and difficult issue of child sexual abuse in a unique format that invites an open dialogue without minimizing the traumatizing ramifications of sexual abuse within a family. *Love Jerry* exposes secrets shared by millions of families in a way that offers hope for healing while recognizing the conflicting emotions and reactions of the entire family," says Sally Thigpen, statewide coordinator for Stop It Now! Georgia, a program of PCA Georgia. "This balancing act is played out in homes every day but is rarely, if ever, portrayed in such a mainstream environment. "

Statistics show that child abusers are likely to be people that victims, and their families, know and trust. Almost ninety percent of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone who is a part of the child's life, most often someone within the family. Moreover, child sexual abuse occurs at an alarming rate. At least one in five girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused at some point in their childhood.

As part of this unique collaboration, PCA Georgia will provide information about preventing the perpetration of child sexual abuse to the audience as part of its **Stop It Now! Georgia** program. In addition, representatives from PCA Georgia will lead a discussion of the play following select performances.

For information about how to create a safety net around children at home and in communities, please call the Stop It Now! Georgia and Prevent Child Abuse Georgia Helpline at 1-800-CHILDREN (244-5373) 8:00am-8:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Stop It Now! Georgia is a program of Prevent Child Abuse Georgia and is one site of the national Stop It Now! organization. Stop It Now! was founded in 1992 with the belief that adults can prevent child sexual abuse before a child is harmed. PCA Georgia is a statewide private nonprofit organization dedicated to child abuse prevention and relies on community support and volunteers to assist in its effort to end child abuse in Georgia. For more information about Stop It Now! Georgia and PCA Georgia's services, resources and educational programs, please call 1-800-CHILDREN or go to www.stopitnowga.org.

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