

A CHORUS LINE – SHEILA

SHEILA

I'm Sheila Bryant. Really Sara Rosemary Bryant, which I really hate. I was born August 8, 1946 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. And I'm going to be thirty real soon. And I'm real glad. ... What do you want to know about me first?

(Why are you in this business?)

I wanted to be a ballerina. Because my mother was a ballerina – until my father made her give it up. *(Sheila, come downstage. Closer.)*

Can I sit on your lap? *(Do you always come on like this?)*

No, sometimes I'm aggressive... Actually, I'm a Leo... *(What's that supposed to mean?)*

It means the other eleven months of the year have to watch out... I'm very strong.

(Maybe too strong.)

Am I doing something you don't like? I mean, you told me to be myself.

(Just bring it down.)

Bring what down?

(Your attitude. Tell me about your parents.)

My parents?

(Your father.)

Him?

(Your mother.)

My mother was raised like a little nun. She couldn't wait to go out – she couldn't even babysit.

(Sheila, don't perform. Just talk.)

(in monotone): But she wanted to be a dancer and she had all these scholarships and all that.

And when she got married my father made her give it up ... *(breaking monotone)*

Isn't this exciting? ... And then she had this daughter – me – and she made her what she wanted to be. And she was fabulous the way she did it. First, she took me to see all the ballets.

And then, she gave me her old toe shoes – which I used to run down to the sidewalk in – on my toes – at five. And then I saw "The Red Shoes" – and I wanted to be that lady, that redhead.

And then, when she saw I really had to dance, she said "You can't do it until you're eight. "

Well by then, I was only six, and I said, "BUT I'VE GOT TO DANCE!" I mean, anything to get out of the house. ... Let's face it My family scene was – not good.