

■ When Christina Applegate shot to fame as scantily clad temptress Kelly Bundy on *Married...With Children*, we'd never have guessed that the actress's image would get even *sexier* over time. Gone are the high hair, up-to-there minis, and F-me makeup. In their place is a refreshingly different variety of foxiness that has as much to do with Christina's newly acquired self-assurance as it does with her natural-born assets (namely, a gorgeous blond mane, mesmerizing green eyes, and a smattering of freckles that scream *sex kitten*).

In fact, *Cosmo*'s deemed Christina the poster girl for Hollywood's new kind of sexiness—natural and easy beauty that comes from inner confidence, not from the right hair-and-makeup team. No wonder all of Tinseltown has taken notice! Recently, Christina's had memorable onscreen stints with such co-stars as Cameron (*The Sweetest Thing*) and Gwyneth (*View From the Top*), and she won an Emmy for her 2002 guest stint on *Friends*, which she reprises this season. And in 2004, she shares top billing in three films with Ben Affleck, Will Ferrell, and Matt Dillon.

mama in the club, the one that guys all wanted to look at and grab, but I just could not be that person.

**Q And now?**

**A** I'm a little bit freer now. I wore a dress to an event last weekend that at first I thought was the shortest thing in the world. But I was okay showing my legs. In fact, I was into it.

**Q When do you feel most sensual?**

**A** In dance class, when I'm in my own world, moving my body and being in touch with myself in every way that I can be. But I also feel the sexiest when I'm the most confident, like when I'm doing a scene and it's funny and wonderful. So I guess I feel the sexiest when I can accomplish something.

**Q Who do you think is sexy—besides Johnathon?**

**A** Angelina Jolie is freakishly sexy, as far as a woman is concerned. And Jack Nicholson is sexy because he's confident. Who cares that he's 60-something? He makes no apologies.

## Christina Applegate:

# The Sexiest

But Christina's favorite male actor is the one that has the lead role in her real life: Johnathon Schaech (*That Thing You Do!*), her husband of two years. Over coffee, she spilled on her hot costars, her sexy marriage, and why parts of her past still haunt her.

**Q How do you feel about being on the cover of *Cosmo's* Sexy Issue?**

**A** [laughs] The truth is, I was the ugly, dorky duckling growing up. Even when I would do the show [*Married...With Children*], I would walk away wearing baggy clothes. I was just so underconfident in what I looked like. I never looked in the mirror and thought that I was a pretty girl. Boys never hit on me. I really wanted to be that hoochie

**Q What do you do to turn up the heat for Johnathon?**

**A** My poor husband—probably nothing! You know, it's so nice to be in love with someone where you really don't have to do much for the other person to be really happy when he's with you. My husband thinks I'm sexy when I've got bed head and I'm in pajamas. That's when he is just like "Wow." And I'm just like "Honey, I smell, and I'm disgusting right now." I love it when we go out to dinner, and I can put on nice clothes for him and smell great and wear lipstick.

**Q Does he get all groomed for you?**

**A** You know, he stands in front of the mirror and flexes [laughs]. No. But he knows that

