



Alec Mapa, cohost of
Transamerican Love Story
with bachelorette Calpernia Addams.

person and not the genitalia.

Calpernia also wants to challenge transsexual clichés so prevalent in the entertainment industry. "One of the things we've [trans activists] been talking about in Hollywood for the past five years is that we're always portrayed as prostitutes, punch lines or psychos in film and television. And people are so used to these *Jerry Springer* images, these *Silence of the Lambs* images. Getting real images out there, like this show I think, is going to let people see... 'Oh, there's a transwoman who is funny, who isn't bad looking, who can hang out with regular people, be cool—I would date her!' It's a good image to get out there."

It's also a personal renaissance for her. "This show has really given me a chance to remind people or show them that I have a wild, twisted sense of humor. I'm funny, I try to

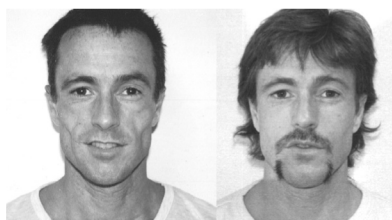
be sexy, I never know if it comes off or not," she giggles. "I wanted that side of me to come back."

But can Calpernia find true love on reality TV? "I will never be secure in saying I have true love until I've been with someone for a long time. But I definitely met somebody who I think is really cool and attractive and has a lot going for him ... but we have to keep it undercover since we can't let out who won the show." You could almost imagine Calpernia giving a big wink when she said this over the phone line. Just like her entire show is a wink and a nod to the dating game reality show genre.

So if you want to find out who the lucky feller is, you're going to have to tune into *Transamerican Love Story*, to find out, because like a good girl—Calpernia won't kiss and tell.

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