



MEET *MAD MEN*'S FUNNY GIRL
CRISTA FLANAGAN
 A WOMAN FULL OF SURPRISES

BY ARANYA TOMSETH

Her disastrous joyride on a John Deere tractor was perhaps the most memorable moment of season three (it was certainly the bloodiest), and her character's oddball antics have made her a fan favorite. As the quirky and flighty Lois Sadler on *Mad Men*, Crista Flanagan has gone from being a nosy switchboard operator who blindly lusts after a gay man to a clueless secretary who accidentally lops off the foot of her company's head honcho.

Her deft portrayal of the dim-witted Lois is hardly surprising—Flanagan is a pro when it comes to funny, having honed her comedic chops on *MADtv* and in such parody films as *Disaster Movie* and *Meet the Spartans*. The actress spoke with us about learning to drive a tractor and her decision to bare all for *PLAYBOY*.

PLAYBOY: How did you end up landing the part of Lois?

FLANAGAN: *Mad Men* hadn't aired yet. It was a brand-new show and I didn't know much about it, but I got an audition. I went in, and it was great—but I did not get the part. They called me back two weeks later for a different episode and a different role, and it worked out because I was so much more excited about this role and what I would get to do over time.

PLAYBOY: How did you find out about the John Deere episode?

FLANAGAN: I got a phone call from the *Mad Men* production office, and I hadn't seen the script and had no

idea what I was doing. They called and said, "You have tractor rehearsal on Thursday." I honestly had to stop and say, "What show is this?" because I thought either they'd gotten the wrong number or it was a different show I was recurring on. I said, "A tractor? I need to drive a tractor?" I'd actually driven a tractor, so I thought it wouldn't be too hard. But I'd forgotten it would be a 1963 tractor—it was much trickier.

PLAYBOY: What do you like most about playing Lois?

FLANAGAN: I know that if they're writing something for me it's probably going to be crazy. I get to do the funniest things ever, and I just say the dumbest stuff. Lois misses the mark so badly, and I love that. I know I'm going to step out on a limb or something and get it wrong, and that's pretty fun.

PLAYBOY: What made you decide to pose for *PLAYBOY*?

FLANAGAN: Part of the reason was because it scared me, and I thought it was exciting that something still scared me.

PLAYBOY: So how did it go?

FLANAGAN: I was really nervous about it, and then I thought the only thing that would be embarrassing would be if I hated my body. But everybody was so great. I got there and they had a little area for my wardrobe, and I felt okay when I walked in and saw all the beautiful shoes. I was like, "Oh good, I'll get good shoes," which is pretty funny because I hardly got to wear shoes.

