

Jason Stuart

by Blase DiStefano

Actor/comedian Jason Stuart seems to be one of the few openly gay comics who is deluged with work. He recently guest-starred on two sitcoms: "The Drew Carey Show" and "Charmed"; the latter stars Shannen Doherty, and there's a possibility his character (a restaurant boss) will become a recurring role. Then there's his role as a rude jewelry salesman in "Lost and Found," which is scheduled to open nationwide on Apr. 23. On that same date he'll be in Dallas for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Comedy Show, and the next day he'll travel to Houston for our HRC Comedy Show. And, finally, there's his dramatic film debut in the soon-to-be-released "Southern Man"; he plays a small-town teacher who is murdered because he is accused of being gay. Still, with his busy schedule, he took a few minutes to answer some questions by phone.

Blase DiStefano: So how are you doing today?

Jason Stuart: Just a little busy ... I was in acting class all morning, so now I've got all these things to do.

How often are your classes?

Once a week, when I'm home.

Where's home?

I live in Hollywood ... Los Angeles, California.

So the big news is that you're in the new movie Lost and Found. What part do you play?

I play the very rude jewelry salesman. I help David Spade find a stone in his engagement ring.

Is it a gay role?

Well, he has no sexuality ... there's no time.

[Laughs] You're openly gay, right?

Are you kidding?!

OK [laughs]. No, I'm not kidding.

I'm as gay as you can be. I'm so gay and so out, I could redecorate a room by looking at it.

[Laughs] All right. Is being openly gay a hindrance to get work? It doesn't seem to be for you ... your plate seems to be full. Well, you just never know. It's a double-edged sword. I certainly know there are some people who are prejudiced in that way. I think it's more that people think of me as limited. I don't think I am at all. One of the last scenes I did in acting class, I played a serial killer. And this was not a comedic serial killer.

[Laughs] No.

So when and where were you born?

I was born in the Bronx in New York.
And what year?

Oh honey, I'm not telling you that.
Oh, you're one of those. Damn.

I'm thirtysomething.
I guess that'll have to do, won't it?

You have absolutely no choice in that matter, I'm telling you right now. I went to your Web site, and I don't think your age was mentioned.

It's not "think," it didn't. It's not gonna happen.
OK, OK, I'm not gonna pursue it. I know it would be a total waste of time, anyway.

What else is going on with you?

I'm working on a film which I'm going to produce and star in.
Do you have a name for it yet?

It's called Going Straight. It's a romantic comedy about sexual conversion. It's in the midst of being written, the midst of being produced, the midst of...

Of getting people to come aboard.

Yeah.

You're keeping very busy.

I'm going to be in Dallas on the 23rd.

That's the day Lost and Found opens.

Fabulous.

And the next night, you'll be in Houston for the Human Rights Campaign Comedy Show.

I'm doing the show with Georgia Ragsdale.

Is there much preparation for a show like this?

I certainly try to be a little more hip as to what's going on.

Like with the impeachment trials?

Of course. I slept with him ... what's the big deal? I had to, I was in Washington, it was on the tour. Monica was there. I said, "Honey, get up, it's not going to happen."

[Laughs] But she was interested, wasn't she?

Definitely. Straight girls love us.

And why is that?

Gay men, straight girls. Same thing, girlfriend.

Is it true that gays recruit?

What's the selling point? We have no rights and everyone hates us.

Please come along and join us!

[Laughs]

Madonna, have you seen her lately? She's 40. Honey, it is time to wash that hair. She's got a kid that's two, and that kid's gonna have to

go through enough therapy because she had to breast-feed through a cone boob.

[Laughs] That's enough. So you're stranded on a desert island...

No, I'm not, I'm in my apartment...

Listen to me. You're stranded on a desert island, and you can only have one movie, what would it be?

Oh my God. That's a very difficult question because I'm a really big movie nut. I love movies. Ordinary People is one of my all-time favorites. Let me have two. Funny Girl. Ordinary People and Funny Girl. Or maybe The Way We Were.

OK, you can have three. On that same island, you could have one person with you.

Not a friend or a lover. Who would it be?

Does he get to be a lover eventually?

Eventually, yes.

Esai Morales.

That was a quick answer.

We all know our fantasies, don't we?