

San Diego's

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Start spreading the news! Funnyman Jason Stuart is coming to town, and with his current show Comedy Without a Dress, he is sure to "drag" the laughs out of you.

However, before he arrives, we had to dial up and talk to this gay comedian, actor, producer and Jewish native New Yorker about his career, his plans for the future and his views on gays in the media. Ever vigilant in promoting his talents, from the moment he came out on national TV on the Geraldo show in 1993, Jason has been staying in front of the cameras demonstrating that gay talent is out there and ready for any role.

Jason has appeared in top shows like Will and Grace, Providence, Drew Carey Show and Charmed. He is motivated to be the quintessential role model for gay talent and readily admits it is not easy.

"They always place a straight actor to play a gay character," says Jason. The entertainment industry is scared to have a gay entertainer in charge.

With talent like Jason's, media moguls should take note; he is quite adept at making his own opportunities. Case in point: Jason is now promoting his debut movie, 10 Attitudes, a realistic romantic comedy performed by gay actors and without the usual Hollywood gay stereotypes. He is driven to create opportunities for gay talent that would otherwise be passed over by mainstream media.

But he is no stranger to Hollywood having appeared in films like Vegas Vacation with Chevy Chase, Kindergarten Cop with Arnold Schwarzenegger, and HBO's movie Gia with Angelina Jolie.

With a never ending passion for his first love - stand up comedy - Jason takes no breaks in his career. He travels all around the nation giving audience after audience a glimpse into this gay man's

perspective of life. Never uttering apologies, Jason dishes and interacts with his audiences, often making them part of his jokes. What exactly is so funny about Jason's comedy? For one, he excels at discussing his own dysfunctional family as though every member of the audience was his best friend. How many of us can do that, especially in public?

Jason's funny commentary has been captured in a CD, titled *Gay Comedy Without a Dress*. He takes punches at everything - Disney's overly commercialized views of love, celebrity dish, porno awards, to exploiting dysfunctional gay families. The CD was recorded during a live show at Minnesota's Acme Comedy Club.

As we approached this subject, Jason screamed out "you better mention my web page!" That's because if you want the CD - and trust me you want it - you need to log on to www.jasonstuart.com, the only place you can get it. Proceeds from your purchase go directly to Jason Stuart Retirement Fund, he says.

After all the funny businesses, we got down to some serious questions. We asked Jason to define the significance of gay's "coming out" of the closet.

"When you come out you're not only do it for yourself, you're doing it for me and I'm doing it for you. We are all united."

Jason also gave this impression about why gay people are important to society, "A gay in a family is a gift from God," he says. "They teach family and friends to become better people... to step up to the plate." Jason strives to be a force for the gay community in the media. Jason feels that Hollywood has a long way to go before gay talent is accepted, valued, and promoted - particularly into leading roles. Nevertheless, activists like Jason are laying the groundwork for the up and coming out talent of the future.

With a never-ending work schedule, when does Jason have a chance for love or romance? He answered, "Well, I'm looking for a smart, funny, sexy, out and good person." He made it clear that one of the most important things at this stage of his life is falling in love. "It's hard to find someone my age that is spiritual and mentally mature."

Need help with this translation? Strike while the fire is hot – never put off to tomorrow – Jason is available now.

All this talk about romance offered a suitable transition to ask if all of his dreams have been reached. (too cliché?). “Not yet,” he admits. “I want a wonderful role and the opportunity to have a creative connection with the director. I want to produce, act, love, be a good person, have fun and play.”

Scheduled to appear at La Jolla’s Comedy Store Nov. 16 and 17, we asked him about San Diego, and he happily replied, “It’s a great city, great place to vacation. I have great memories and feel just at home.”

So came the end of a great hour together. Before Jason went back to his busy life, he had one last thing to say: “Don’t forget to mention my web page and my CD.” He laughs.

It was a wonderful hour with a very funny man who is never at a loss for words and clearly the master of his own destiny. I can’t think of a better tribute to the spirit of this gay activist and entrepreneur than to show up at the Comedy Store and let him put you center stage.