

Look who's coming
JASON STUART, COMEDIAN
That funny, Jewish gay guy
By MATT EHLERS, STAFF WRITER

You might not know his name, but if you've ever turned on a television or gone to the movies, Jason Stuart is one of those actors you'll probably recognize.

He's scored recent parts on Kirstie Alley's Showtime series "Fat Actress" and the Fox drama "House." He played a recurring character on the ABC sit-com "My Wife and Kids," and was a hairdresser in the Arnold Schwarzenegger movie "Kindergarten Cop." When he's not acting, Stuart tours with his stand up act, which visits Raleigh this weekend. The show at Charlie Goodnight's is being advertised with the tagline, "he's Jewish, he's gay and he is funny!"

Stuart, whose first break came with a bit part on "One Day at a Time," spoke recently from Los Angeles.

Q: How did you make the transition from "One Day at a Time" to stand up comedy?

A: I had a manager that I tried to get with, that I basically just wore down. She said, "You know, you're very funny. You should do stand up comedy." And I said, "I'm really not that funny." And she said, "No, I think you should do it." So I started doing it. And I started going to the Comedy Store. The first time I did my show, I was so nervous that I was funny.

Q: What about your own sitcom? Is that something you're looking to do?

A: Well, I've had different deals. I've had around five or six deals with people, producers, to develop it. I am working on doing something now. But well see. You never know.

Q: What's happened in the past?

A: I think people are really afraid to have a gay person in any sort of powerful position.

Q: Why is that?

A You could probably tell me better than I could. I really don't know.

Q: Would you be willing to break that ice?

A: Are you kidding me? I don't have a thing about being gay. It doesn't matter to me. It's not an issue to me. It's just who I am. It's more important for me to be who I am than it is for me to be in show business. I want a happy life.

Q: What kind of audiences do you get at your stand up gigs?

A: Very eclectic. I'd say a portion of gay men, a smattering of women, lots of straight couples, some Jews, some black women and I guess a couple of I don't-know-whats.

Q: Are you still on the "Looking for Mr. Right" tour?

A: Oh yeah, that's it.

Q: Have you had any luck with that?

A: I'm working on it. It's not easy finding a good man. I'm looking for Mr. Right, but I seem to be settling for Mr. Right Now.

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