

Jason Stuart is still 'Looking for Mr. Right'

BY OLIVIA FORTSON

Staff Writer

When Jason Stuart called us last week from LA., he was in a salon getting fluffed and buffed in preparation for a photo shoot the next day.

The actor has recurring roles on TV shows including "Fat Actress" and "My Wife and Kids," and he's made a name for himself on the independent movie circuit (he just finished filming "Easier, Softer Way" with Mekhi Phifer and Danny Masterson).

But his roots are in standup comedy, which is why he's in Charlotte this week. His "Looking For Mr. Right" tour started Wednesday at the Comedy Zone with a benefit for the Charlotte Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

Stuart is the first openly gay comedian to headline a show at the Comedy Zone; his performance there continues with shows at 8 and 10:15 p.m. today and Saturday.

We talked to Stuart about how serious he is about finding the perfect man, what he really thinks about some of the famous people he's worked with, and what to expect at his show.

[Q. Among the many stars you've worked with are veterans Faye Dunaway and Joan Rivers, and new star Mekhi Phifer. What do you think of them?](#)

Faye Dunaway is amazing. The funniest thing about her is that she kept pulling her Oscar out of her purse and saying, "I won this." Joan is just so sweet and she's been there, so she treats everyone with respect. She's the grandmother of comedy. Mekhi is gorgeous, smart and sexy.

[Q. How did you come up with the idea for your tour?](#)

I'm looking for the right man, state by state. I really want to get married. I say to straight people that it's the year 2005 and if you let us marry each other, then we'll stop marrying you.

[Q. What can audiences expect at your show?](#)

My show is for everyone - gay or straight. I'm not dirty I'm just flirtatious. I talk about my family, dating, gay marriage, politics and pop culture. I talk about my life and things that have happened to me.

[Q. What are the characteristics of your Mr. Right?](#)

He has to have a career that he likes. And a car, one that he doesn't live in. And he has to be willing to relocate to LA. Hopefully he'll come

to me during this tour because me going to them has not worked at all!

Q. Why did you decide to do a benefit for the Lesbian & Gay Community Center?

I always call the club where I'm performing and get information about gay groups there so I can be supportive of my community. The Lesbian & Gay Community Center offers all kinds of help to people who are coming out, people who are HIV-positive. You can make a donation to them at any of my Charlotte shows.

Q. When did you publicly admit you were gay?

I came out 12 years ago on the "Geraldo" show. I'm not some white trash on "The Jerry Springer Show," so I told my family first.

Q. On your Web site (www.jasonstuart.com) you talk about being Jewish. Did that make a difference in how your family reacted?

My parents are weekend Jews. If there's a wedding, funeral or bar mitzvah, they're there. Otherwise, we're just like you. My sister is an Orthodox Jew. She walks around like she's in the road company of "Fiddler on the Roof." She hasn't spoken to me. I live a few miles from her and she has four children I've never met. But my mom and dad are terrific. My dad asked me why I can't just be gay and shut up about it. I told him that I make a lot of money talking about it so now he tells me to keep talking.

Q. When you're auditioning for a role, do you audition just for gay characters?

I don't care whether the character is gay or straight. I take what I can get.