

# Jason Stuart

By Darrell McLaurin

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Who is that man? You know you've seen him before. He was hilarious on that TV show, or that commercial. His name is right on the tip of your tongue. Don't worry, you're not alone, but pretty soon, everyone will know Jason Stuart.

Born in New York and raised in Los Angeles, Jason knew from a very young age that he was destined for a career as a performer. Studying acting at a young age, Jason discovered that he truly loved taking the stage and creating characters. After experiences with a variety of performing outlets, Jason discovered an obviously innate aptitude for comedy and truly began his journey. With his ability to take his own personal triumphs and tragedies and turn them into laughs, Jason soon found himself performing all over the country, entertaining crowds in comedy clubs, colleges, and Gay events to sell out performances!

In 1993, realizing that he could no longer hide who he was from the world, and not wanting to, Jason came out nationally on The Geraldo Show and has never looked back. Jason has said, "Coming out professionally in 1993 was one of the highlights of my career. People don't understand the power in coming out. I feel privileged knowing that some young gay person might get a sense of his life's possibilities by seeing what another 'openly gay' man has accomplished. Actors like Bill Brochtrup, Alex Mapa and I are breaking new ground. I'm extremely proud to be part of this 'second wave' of openly gay performers who are out there, following in the footsteps of performers like Lea Delaria, Kate Clinton, and Harvey Fierstein, people who are out there demanding respect and just 'asking for a little more'. I get e-mail everyday from fans who are honored that I'm out there, doing what I can as an openly gay actor." And he's doing quite a bit.

Probably best known for his recurring role on the ABC sitcom "My Wife & Kids" starring Damon Wayans, playing a gay shrink, Jason is a very talented character actor, whose many diverse roles include the AIDS drama "Letting Go", last years controversial indie comedy "A Day Without A Mexican" and the upcoming drama "Ghosts Never Sleep" costarring opposite Oscar winner Faye Dunaway. Additionally, Jason has proved his mettle in the independent film world, starring in and co-producing the semi-improvisational romantic comedy "10 Attitudes". He has recently appeared on both the new medical drama "House" and Kirstie Alley's "Fat Actress", and will soon be appearing in two original VH1 shows as a celebrity panelist on "Love Lounge," and as an interview subject (along with k.d. lang and Melissa Etheridge) on an episode of "The Coolest Year," in which he talks about what it was like growing up gay.

Says Jason, "Ideally, the fact that I happen to be gay would be a non-issue to casting and film directors. I think that most people don't really care about that sort of thing. Unfortunately, the problem lies within the entertainment business itself. There just aren't any diverse roles being created for openly gay actors. For some reason, we aren't seen as being able to carry a role other than the, usually one dimensional, stereotype. I don't think that it's done purposefully. I think that it's done out of habit, and ignorance. They just don't think that there's anything wrong with that mindset."

Since his art is usually about his life, I guess it doesn't take a genius to figure out what's been on Jason's mind lately. His recent romantic comedy, "10 Attitudes", about a thirty something, fairly normal, gay man who's looking for love, as well as his current comedy tour, aptly named "The Looking For Mr. Right Tour," are fairly convincing evidence of a desire to settle down. Jason, a hopeful romantic, says, "I'm at a place in my life, where I realize that I have a really good life, and I would love to find the perfect person to share these things with. I just don't know where to look anymore, and trust me, I've tried everywhere."

“But, you know what I want? What I really want is to get a really interesting supporting role in a movie, get tons of great press, and have to fight off paparazzi. Get nominated for a Golden Globe, and then the Oscar, have the greatest experience of my life, and then for the next 10 years do big studio variations on the role that made me famous and get paid tons and tons of money. Then, while I’m starring in a hot television show, I’ll get a really great role in a movie, playing a straight guy, and surprise everyone by winning the Oscar.”

He just may get his wish.