

IN THE MIDDLE WITH JASON STUART

By Matt Kailey

[Outfront Colorado](#)

Oh, sure, you can probably name a few out gay television actors, some screen actors, a handful of stage actors, several comedians and a number of activists. But why bother? You can cover all those categories by naming just one man ? Jason Stuart. This heralded character actor and hilarious comic has a resume that would take up most of this issue, and he is currently starring in his first stand-up comedy special, Jason Stuart: Making It to the Middle, airing on here! TV through April 24. In addition, he has just completed an episode of Everybody Hates Chris, which will air on May 11 on the WC network; he is starring in L.A. in the dramatic stage play Biking with Andrew Scott; he will appear at The Improv at Harrah's in Las Vegas from April 22-27; and he is the founder and chairman of the first-ever Screen Actors Guild LGBT Committee. Check out Stuart's Web site for the lowdown on all his latest projects, and read on to find out what I learned when I interviewed him by phone at his home in L.A.

Jason Stuart: So I'd like to ask you, what interested you in doing this story?

Matt Kailey: I don't think we've featured you. And I think you've got a huge career that a lot of people might not be aware of.

JS: That's just so sweet of you, because that's just the reason.

Because what I really believe, between us gay men, is that if we do not start supporting one another in a big way, we will always spend our whole lives through the skirts of women and having them speak for us. And to me, the idea that a man is interviewing a man to support each other ? I'm supporting your paper and you're supporting my career ? to me is fabulous. ? It sounds really simple, but it really is important to me ? important on such a big political level.

MK: Do you think you're treated differently because you're gay?

JS: Yeah. First of all, people like you interview me. And that's a good thing. ... But when you're gay, people automatically think that's all

you can do. And reporters always ask you, 'Is that part gay?' Because what they're really thinking is that all you can do is play gay parts. Now to me, there's a million different kinds of gay people.

MK: What do you think about straight men playing gay men?

JS: I think when they let us play their parts more, then I'll let them play my parts more. Until then, there aren't enough gay parts to give them all away.

MK: You've got your new comedy show on here! TV now.

JS: Yeah, that's the whole reason for all of this ? Jason Stuart: Making it to the Middle. It's in the middle of the country, in the middle of my life, in the middle of my career. And it's about how it is to be an openly gay comedian headlining mainstream comedy clubs. I was one of the first people to do that.

MK: And how difficult is that?

JS: That was hard. It was really hard. It was scary. I've never really felt like the club owners in the country really ever supported gay people in the same way the audiences did. ? They've never really let a gay person move to the next level.

MK: Do you have a partner now?

JS: Oh, I knew you'd get to that! I'm so fucking single it's pathetic. I don't know how it happened.

MK: What kind of partner are you looking for? Our readers would be interested.

JS: Smart. Really passionate. Has a car. Has a job. Doesn't live in the car. Somebody who can't walk by me without touching me ? and me him.

MK: Why do you think gay men don't support each other?

JS: Well, because I think there's a competitive thing and there's a fear thing and I think that we're all looking to have sex. We just totally forget. We think with our penises, and I'm one of them, and I've got a good penis, so ... Do you want a joke to go off on? Come on, straight people, it's the year 2008. If you let us marry each other, we'll stop marrying you. ■

Although he gets a little overwhelmed, Stuart says he answers his e-mail personally. For more information on Jason Stuart, or to contact him, go to www.jasonstuart.com.

