

Comic and actor Jason Stuart says he doesn't fit in anywhere, not even in Provincetown. "I'm not slim enough to be a circuit boy but I'm not heavy enough to be a bear," he says, "Maybe I'd be more successful if I did drag, but that would be hard because I'd look like an ugly Russian peasant woman.

Stuart's status as a single, Jewish gay man living in Hollywood has long provided him with comic fodder. His 2007 show "Making It to the Middle" — as in middle age, mid-career and performing in middle America — premiered on Here! TV and is now available on DVD. He's happy to return to the Provincetown stage for the first time since 2001 when he performed "Gay Comedy Without a Dress" at Tropical Joe's ("I still remember that coconut shrimp."). This time, he'll share billing with his pal Poppy Champlin for two shows, at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 2 and 3, at the Art House in a show called "Boy on Girl: No Touching, Just Laughing."

Stuart, like Champlin, lives in L.A., so the pair have worked together several times including on Logo's new comedy series "One Night Stand-Up" (it will air Sept. 1) and in a benefit that Stuart produced as chairman of the comedy shows for Lifeworks Mentoring Program for gay youth. The upcoming Provincetown show, he says, will feature stand-up and singing, including the comic's version of "The Lady Is a Tramp," called "Comedy Is Champ."

Besides his stand-up work, Stuart is a busy character actor. His resumé boasts recurring roles on many TV shows ranging from "Everybody Hates Chris" to "The Closer," with Kyra Sedgwick. In addition to several indie films, Stuart's stints on the small screen include "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," "House, M.D.," "George Lopez," "Charmed" and his role as "Dr. Thomas," the gay family therapist on "My Wife and Kids."

Beginning Aug. 16, audiences can check out his appearance as "Ira, the skinhead who's really a Jewish accountant" on MTV's "Warren, the Ape," a new show about a sock puppet that Stuart describes as "Curb Your Enthusiasm meets Alf." This month, he's in the indie romantic comedy "Finding Mr. Wright" as one half of the gay couple "who are neighbors of the good-looking younger leads," he says.

Despite his productivity, Stuart says his career took off only after he came out in 1993 — 17 years ago is centuries in terms of gay visibility in Hollywood. He was a guest on the Geraldo Rivera talk show for a segment about “unconventional comedians.” Even though Stuart describes himself at the time as “so gay I could redecorate a room just by looking at it,” he wasn’t out professionally — until that show. “It was very scary. It was a very different time,” he says. “I wasn’t sure if I was ever going to work again, but it was more important for me to be who I am than to be in show business.”

Not only did the acting jobs continue to come his way, but Stuart found his voice as a stand-up comic. He also became the chairman for the first ever Screen Actors Guild LGBT Committee, formed to provide support to LGBT actors and to educate the membership, the industry and the public on LGBT actor’s issues. Stuart writes frequently on the topic of LGBT actors in the workplace on his website (www.jasonstuart.com) and recently addressed the controversial Newsweek article by a gay writer that asserted that openly gay actors such as Sean Hayes aren’t believable in straight roles.

“No one got on board with that. It was very 1983; it’s not what’s happening today,” says Stuart, who has played plenty of straight characters. (“I love straight people. They are gay-makers. They pop us out like Pop Tarts — look, this one has frosting!”)

He’s looking forward to spending a few days with Champlin in Provincetown where he hopes to “meet great men and hang with lesbian pals” before dashing off to Boston where he’ll audition for a feature film. He says he’d love to be married, but until the right guy comes along, marriage will continue to be a source of humor. A popular item on his website is a T-shirt that reads, “Come on, straight people ... If you let us marry each other, we’ll stop marrying you!”