

CD REVIEW in "Q TEXAS"

"Gay Comedy Without A Dress" Jason Stuart Comedy CD - Grade: A
Laughter brings people together in strange ways. It breaks down barriers, shatters stereotypes and just plain makes life more enjoyable. But before I sound like I should be hawking self-help books on Oprah, he assured that the new comedy album from Jason Stuart accomplishes all those tasks, but in a wildly irreverent way.

Many of the topics are standard fare for comedians, such as crazy families, politics and relationships. But it's Stuart's gay spin that breathes life into stories that everyone can relate to. There's a really funny but about his incredibly shrinking part on a recent Will & Grace episode, too, so far not to make Hollywood seem too friendly (as if that could happen).

But Stuart's greatest strength lies in his ability to improvise with the audience. No matter how long a comic spends writing jokes and preparing an act, if he can't hold his own against the whims and rants of a live audience, he might not be all that funny to begin with. But rest assured, Stuart is a master of his material, rehearsed or otherwise, and absolutely no one is safe. A classic segment comes out of nowhere when an audience member goes into full detail about her tawdry relationship with another woman and a man. They all live together and even have kids, and Stuart takes their cue and cultivates some of the album's best material.

It's a great diversion from mundane rantings of radio station DJs and listening to Madonna's Music for the ten-thousandth time. For now, it's only available through his Web site, jasonstuart.com, so if you can't catch him live, this CD is the next best thing.

Reviewed by Steven Lindsey