

Attitudes adjustment: an interview with comedian and actor Jason Stuart

By Gregg Shapiro

Now available on DVD from Culture Q Connection/Ariztical Video, *10 Attitudes* tells the amusing story of Josh (openly gay comedian Jason Stuart), a caterer in L.A. who ends his relationship with longtime lover Lyle when he discovers that he is cheating on him. Newly single, Josh's best friend Brandon (Christopher Cowan) bets him that he can find him a new lover in ten dates. However, if by the end of the tenth date Josh is still single, he will leave L.A. for the friendlier confines of home in Cleveland. Stuart, who, in addition to starring in the movie, co-wrote the screenplay, recently took time out of his busy schedule to answer some questions about the movie.

Gregg Shapiro: You co-wrote the screenplay to your movie *10 Attitudes* with the movie's director, Michael Gallant. What was that experience like for you?

Jason Stuart: The film is almost total improv! We wrote maybe twenty per cent with my partner Michael Gallant. (He is) only (my) partner on the film! I am still single. I know, hard to tell!

GS: Your movie *10 Attitudes* poses the question, "Can a regular gay guy find love in L.A.?" Regardless of the way that question is answered in the movie, do you, personally, think it's possible?

JS: Ohhhhhhh!!!!!!! I am still looking, hoping, and praying for Mr. Right, but too often end up with Mr. Right Now. My new show is called "The Looking For Mr. Right Comedy Tour." So I'm putting it out there. And with the film being released on Nov 23rd on www.ariztical.com and also on the 23rd I am on the new medical drama *House* on Fox TV, directed by Bryan Singer who did *X-Men*, maybe a man of my dreams will come my way.

GS: Fidelity is an issue in the movie. Your character Josh's lover Lyle cheats on him. One of the first guys Josh meets in a bar is all over him until his lover shows up and puts a stop to the flirtation, and one of Josh's 10 dates (Nick) about whom he is serious, is also unfaithful. Why do you think this type of infidelity is endemic in the gay community?

JS: Men are whores! What can I say? I myself have never cheated, but I have had my fair share of guys.

GS: Was it the gay culture in L.A. that allows that sort of disloyalty to thrive?

JS: I think its not just gay men; it's men in general. We are raised to be hunters. Wow, I sound butch!

GS: Josh calls L.A. a "crazy town with crazy people." Do you have a similar love/hate relationship with the city?

JS: Not really. Some of my best friends I met in LA. Alexandra Paul, from Baywatch, plays my sister in the film. All I had to do was make a call and she said, "Where and when?" I said, "Can we use your house?" and she said, "Come on over!"

GS: A fairly restrained Judy Tenuta plays Glenda, the woman who runs the "Looking For Love" therapy group. What was it like working with her?

JS: I have known Judy forever! Last week we were going to a movie and a fan yelled, "There goes the real Will & Grace."

GS: I love the fact that your mother was cast in the role of Joshua's mom. Please tell me something about that.

JS: My mom is not an actress, but has the best sense of humor. The director, Michael Gallant, said, "I am going to go to Palm Springs and film her." I did not expect much. He asked a few questions and she was great and soooo funny! I was proved so wrong. Every one loves her and howls when she comes on screen.

GS: 10 Attitudes has some serious moment, including the flashback scene where Josh is picked on by school bully Jack.

JS: That was taken from a real life experience and I did date a guy who used to make fun of me as a kid. We met years later and started to date a bit. It was hot, but did not last long. It happened (when I was) in my twenties.

GS: You co-star with Faye Dunaway and Tony Goldwyn in the drama Ghosts Never Sleep. What was it like working with Dunaway?

JS: She was a dream come true. She loves the work and is a pro. The only strange thing was she kept pulling her Oscar out of her purse, saying "I won this!" Just kidding. I have gotten to work with some

great actors. Last week I did the new Kirstie Alley comedy show (Fat Actress) that's going to be on Showtime in March 2005. She was a scream, sooo funny! I play the assistant to film director McG of Charlie's Angels 3: The Forgotten Angels. They were asking for names for their characters in the fake film and I said she should be called "Cayenne" and Kirstie said the other two girls should be called "Pepper" and "Sugar". Sugar was a little person. The show is improve-style like Curb Your Enthusiasm. I cannot wait to see it!

GS: The last time we spoke, in 2000, it was shortly before the presidential election. What about this years election?

JS: Well... I have so much to say. Where do I start? On gay marriage. It's the year 2004, straight people, if you let us marry each other we will stop marrying you! (The) war on terror. Bin Laden is 6'3" and attached to a dialysis machine and they can't find him! If he were in Japan, the Japanese people would be screaming Godzilla!

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