

Jason Stuart's Attitudes

Comedian with deep desert ties chats about pain and his first full length film on DVD

By Marc Thomson

The first time I saw Jason Stuart's stand up, he did this bit about his mother (who, by the way, still lives in Cathedral City), who wore sexy high heels everywhere, even to the beach.

The memory of Stuart tramping across the stage, balancing an imaginary cigarette in one hand while affecting a movie starlette's hippy swagger as he'd puff, step sink, step sink, step sink, still makes me chuckle.

Since then, he's appeared in "Kindergarten Cop" with Arnold Schwarzenegger, "My Wife and Kids" with Damon Wayans, "Will and Grace" and many other television shows.

Stuart is everywhere these days.

Bryan Singer, the director of "X Men," conducts him in an episode of "House" on HBO, which airs Tuesday, Nov. 30.

He's also on the video shelves in the DVD "A Day Without a Mexican" and "Ghosts Never Sleep" with Faye Dunaway, Tony Goldwyn and Sean Young. This March, he'll co star with Kirstie Alley in the new comedy film "Fat Actress."

Stuart still does a lot of stand up. Outrageous, personal and often political, his topics range from growing up gay in Southern California to the issue of gay marriage. He tells his straight audiences, "Look at it this way. Let us marry each other, and we'll stop marrying you."

The big news for Stuart is that he's finally got his own film. Put together with the love, sweat and money from his fans, especially

friend and producer/director Michael Gallant, "10 Attitudes" was released on DVD on Nov. 23.

It's the tale of a young, gay Los Angeles professional whose relationship blows up, so he decides to move back to Cleveland that is until his best friend begs him to try to find a new relationship. He agrees to give love a try, but no more than 10 tries, 10 blind dates, before he chucks it for good.

As you might guess, each of the 10 dates turns out to be more hysterically tragic than the last until he finally finds love when he least expects it.

David Faustino, Jim J. Bullock, Judy Tenuta and many other familiar faces star in the flick with him.

The Weekly caught up with Stuart soon after his latest gig on a cruise ship and just before "10 Attitudes" hit the shelves

WEEKLY: Your lead role in "10 Attitudes" is comic, but also very romantic.

JASON STUART: I'm a big romantic. You know, this was supposed to be a short film, but it turned into a long film because I just couldn't shut up. You know the whole thing was improvised?
Really?

About 80 percent. Michael Gallant would talk to the other people in the scene and I didn't even know what they were going to do. On the DVD there's a gag reel and bloopers, a lot of the stuff that didn't get into the final cut.

Well, I think you're quite a natural actor.

Thanks! Remember to put that in print. And publish the Web site so they can buy the movie?

You do political stuff in your stand up. What did you think about the election?

I was upset! I just wonder if all the voting has gone in. There's a chance of voter fraud.

I hate to say it in print, but I just don't know. I just put one foot in front of the other and just don't give up the fight. It's now more important than ever to be "out" and not give up the fight. I want to be funny about this, but I don't know how, yet.

I know it's going to affect me financially. It already has because I don't get as many college jobs as usual because Bush has cut back money to the colleges.

How did you know you wanted to be in the spotlight, to be a performer?

I was in a play when I was a kid called "Santa Claus for President." They put these pillows under my clothes and I looked pregnant. I did the whole Santa Claus role as if I were Lucille Ball pregnant on "I Love Lucy" I copied her. And I got all these laughs, and I thought 'This is cool! I can do this!'

What were you like as a kid?

I was funny, but it was all about fear. You can't hit a moving target kind of thing.

Which do you prefer, stand up or film acting?

I like them both. I find stand up a little lonely, but I do enjoy my fans. I do like being around creative people, though.

How much do you interact with your audiences? Do you do question and answer like Ellen DeGeneres?

I did it before her. She took that from me.

What sort of questions do you get?

When did you know you were gay?

And?

It was a Thursday. There was a meeting at Elton John's house and they picked me.

What's the second most popular question?

Are you a top or a bottom?

Really? Isn't that a little personal?

I think so! I say 'That's a little too specific.'

How much of your comedy comes from pain?

All of it. It's funny, you know, that I'm working on that right now.

Getting deeper. I'm talking about getting older and things that really matter to me. Before I just used to talk about my family and now I'm talking about things that really touch me in my soul.

How do you know when pain becomes funny?

Everything is funny.