

Issue #92

Journal an Openly Gay Actor

by Jason Stuart

I'm sitting here with my best friend David Hamilton after coming home from a very relaxing weekend in Palm Springs visiting my mother Gloria. (You all know her, famous for her high heels on the beach and her leopard bathing suit.)

David Hamilton: Right, what about our little twirl at the Cathedral City Boys Club!

Jason Stuart: OK, moving right along! Last year I was lucky enough to get a guest shot on Will & Grace. You know gay actor, gay show, gay part! Gay, gay, gay, gay, gay! What could be better, right?! I was in heaven! I got the call from my manager Damon that they wanted to see me again at the last minute when David and I were on our way to a retreat.

DH: Tell the truth girl, it was the nude one!

JS: Well, I was trying to spread my boundaries. Since I have been working out and getting into great shape, I thought I could do it, but it really didn't work for me. I just can't eat naked. Anyway, I went in to read for the casting director and she sent me right to the producers, which doesn't always happen. So, I walked into the office and read for Max Mutchnick and Jhoni Marchinko, the producers of the show, and Max has me read again and laughs. Then he stops me before I'm finished and says, "You're funny!" I feel I'm in this exclusive gay club and could not be happier! So I try to let it go and I'm off to the retreat!

DH: Nude retreat!

JS: Whatever! And we are in my new Toyota Rav 4 car.

DH: Leased Toyota Rav 4.

JS: Jealous? So we're driving maybe an hour and my manager calls to tell me I've got the job! And I'll be starting tomorrow, Wednesday! So I will have to drive back and forth to Malibu so I will be able to go to the nude retreat with David. I'm a good friend, so I keep my commitments.

DH: Right, he was hardly there! And if that wasn't enough, he had to go to his friend Alexandra Paul's wedding Saturday with her drop-dead

gorgeous husband Ian while I had to be nude with a bunch of fat guys wanting to take my picture.

JS: Sorry. So my episode is where Jack (Sean Hayes) debuts his new show Jack 2000 at the Duplex, because Just Jack is dead to him now. I played "Stuart" the high strung manager of the club where he performs.

DH: Get a grip, you were almost completely cut out of the episode!

JS: Slap me when I'm down! I was in good company, they even cut (the talented) Margaret Cho after the first day. Then I had three scenes, then one scene, then two scenes. The writers keep moving all my lines around into different scenes trying to keep me in, which felt good. Then I'm down to one scene but I keep thinking who cares, it's Will & Grace!" But at least I made it to tape day. Every day the staff of writers worked hard to make the script better and funnier. A different actor was banished out of the script daily. I felt like Richard Hatch on Survivor, but with bigger muscles!

DH: The conversation I am having in my head about your muscles is obviously not the same conversation you're having in your head about your muscles.

JS: Look if they don't pop out of a GQ magazine or they're not pushing a shopping cart, you don't want any part of them. I spent so much money on my trainer, I don't have a house!

DH: Bitch!

JS: Whore! God, I love you. I was so nervous they were going to cut my part because actors were coming and going so quickly, I felt like I was Elizabeth Taylor at the Betty Ford Center. So, I brought David to the taping as a source of support but...

DH: I tried my best! You kept getting in the way of my view of Sean's butt.

JS: For god's sake, I introduced him to you on the set. What else do you want from me!

DH: Calm down Jason, show me on the doll where they touched you? They said you're going to do another episode as soon as the right part comes along. I will have lost 25 pounds, you'll introduce me to Sean again and I'll pretend like I never met him before.

JS: You're five steps away from your own private O.J. trial. Back to my journey, So during the taping, David's hanging out with me. This was the first taping he had ever been to and had no idea how long it took.

DH: I was there so long I wanted to go on Prozac. I thought it would be an hour or two. I'm sitting in the audience and getting real hungry. So, I asked Jason to get me something to eat or I was gon-na faint. I hadn't eaten since breakfast.

JS: Now I'm bringing him food from the craft services table, but-of course he didn't like my choices because he was on a no- meat, no-dairy, no-sugar diet. (He's almost a lesbian vegan!).

DH: I had to get in shape for Sean!

JS: You're so Glenn Close! Here I'm guest starring on a major network sitcom and he wants me to find tofu!

DH: I was hungry!

JS: Guesting on this show the week after they won the Emmy for best sitcom was a high I will not forget. And it was a thrill to be a part of gay history. I've done a lot of the sitcoms this season and when a show is newer it takes even longer. So next time David, pack a lunch! Everybody can't be Will & Grace.

Jason Stuart is an actor and comic living in Hollywood. To catch his appearances check out [www.jasonstuart.com](http://www.jasonstuart.com).