

**Marriage, kids, dicks, and sex — Toronto comic knows no boundaries**

By Liam Lahey

Kate Davis is happily married, has three children, and she's lousy in bed despite being terribly horny.

The Toronto comic is unapologetic about who she is. Armed with only five years experience as a stand-up, but with a wry sense of humour that can catch you off-guard, Davis told *S&H.ca* her brand of comedy is based on keeping a long-term relationship alive and kicking.

"I'm not a male basher, I don't even go there. True, I pick on my husband (Cleve) a lot but I'm bad in bed as well," she says. "From the day I started I had people telling me that I couldn't be funny, sexual, a wife and a mother at the same time, but that's who I am - I'm a mother and a wife and I'm horny. How do you think I ended up as a mother?"

Fair enough. But sometimes, male stereotypes fall into play, and there is one that says female comics aren't funny. Davis acknowledged this attitude does exist, but she seems undeterred by it, adding Canadian audiences tend to respond to what's funny rather than what sex is on stage.

"I did an eight show tour in England and I remember getting booed off stage on my first night and my first joke," she said. "I opened with 'For those of you, who don't know, I do have a penis. It's at home tonight doing the dishes'. Well, the British audience didn't think that was very funny, and it wasn't just the men - the women were booing me off-stage too."

Go figure. England, the land of Monty Python, can't take a dick joke from a chick.

"I guess everyone expects you to be 300-pounds, sitting on a couch with a wooden spoon (as a mother)," she said. "I guess in their view women shouldn't be standing on stage with a big penis strapped onto themselves and speaking their minds."

Life is a juggling act for the comedienne. She recalled the hardships of making a name for herself on the Canadian comedy circuit, such as driving three hours to Niagara Falls while pregnant for a five-minute spot on stage. Despite this, she loves the gig - her career has blossomed to the point where she no longer holds down a day job - and she finds her audience to be primarily parents and couples. That shouldn't be a big surprise since Davis credits her inspiration for writing jokes to her own young: 4-year-old Madison, 9-year-old Jaiden, and 10-year-old Zenna.

"I'd like to think good humour is funny regardless of whether or not you have kids and it is, but I find a large part of my audience tends to be parents as they can relate directly to where I'm coming from," she says. "Madison wears coke-bottle thick glasses and she screams obscenities, Jaiden - I got his name from a Star Trek episode - is clumsy, and Zenna has a very dry sense of humour and she's quick-witted."

She admits improvising in front of a crowd as opposed to dishing out laughs from a script proved to be a bit of a stumbling block at first. But Davis credits local comic Kenny Robinson for helping her get over that fear early on in her career. Robinson used to host a weekly open mic comedy night at the Groundhog Pub on Bloor St. East. One night, he asked Davis to MC the event. At first she balked at the idea explaining she had no experience as a show's host, but Robinson persisted and gave her a valuable piece of advice.

"He said to me, 'Did you know how to give good head the very first time you did it?' I replied 'no, I didn't'. He said, 'Exactly, now get out there and start fucking talking'," she says. "As a result, a lot of my jokes now come from improvisation."

And Davis has advice for any aspiring female comics: "Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do what you want to do," she says. "Literally, it's all stage time (gaining live experience). No matter what, you are funny." ■



Comedienne, Kate Davis