

# Lifestyle

RITA DEMONTIS,  
Lifestyle Editor  
416-947-2247  
rita.demontis@tor.sunpub.com

## FUNNY She's a rare combo of mother and comedian

# MOMMY

By **CHRISTL DABU**  
Special to The SUN

It's not the typical playground moms will find themselves in. In a few minutes, Kate Davis, one of the few professional comedian-moms in Canada, will get to play — hitting the stage with her stand-up routine. And within hours, she'll leave the booze-guzzling club in north Toronto for a different playground: Playing Barbies and riding swings with her three-year-old daughter, Maddison.

But tonight, her two lives — at home and in the comedy world — converge on stage. She candidly talks about her life in the other playground, from family foibles and mishaps to her struggles juggling a home life and a full-time career. She reveals her embarrassing moments with her children, such as when she had to discourage Zenna, 9, from doing research about bushes for her class project on the Internet.

"I'm like, 'Do not look "bush" up in the Internet,'" says the 34-year-old comedian, as she faces the crowd at Yuk Yuk's comedy club. "You have to be so careful nowadays."

### Independent, liberated

Davis says comedy gives her a chance, as a woman and a mother, to be independent, liberated and have some good laughs.

"I think my life is way more balanced than when I was just home with the kids. I actually have a life of my own," she says, while having a pizza dinner in her Beaches-area home in Toronto with her children.

The England-born comedian studied acting in college, and per-

formed in plays around Toronto until the births of her first two children — Zenna, 9, and Jaiden, 8, — while Cleve, her husband, worked to support them for three years.

The comedy bug only bit her in her late 20s when she checked out a comedy club for fun, and ended up in front of the microphone dur-

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— Ocean Varney,  
fellow comedian

ing amateur night, where anyone can have a shot at comedy.

Davis then started joining other amateur nights, and finally started working full-time as a professional comedian last January. She now performs in comedy clubs around the country, and does a lot of playschool and fundraiser events. She was even the opening act for Toronto's theatre production of *Puppetry of the Penis* last year.

Davis gets her inspiration for her comedy — both her moral support and ideas — from her family.

Her husband of 13 years, Cleve, says he supports her all the way,

even though she works three or four nights a week and doesn't get home until as late as 2 or 3 a.m.

However, Davis says she never brings her children to see her shows because they're too young to hear some of the adult content.

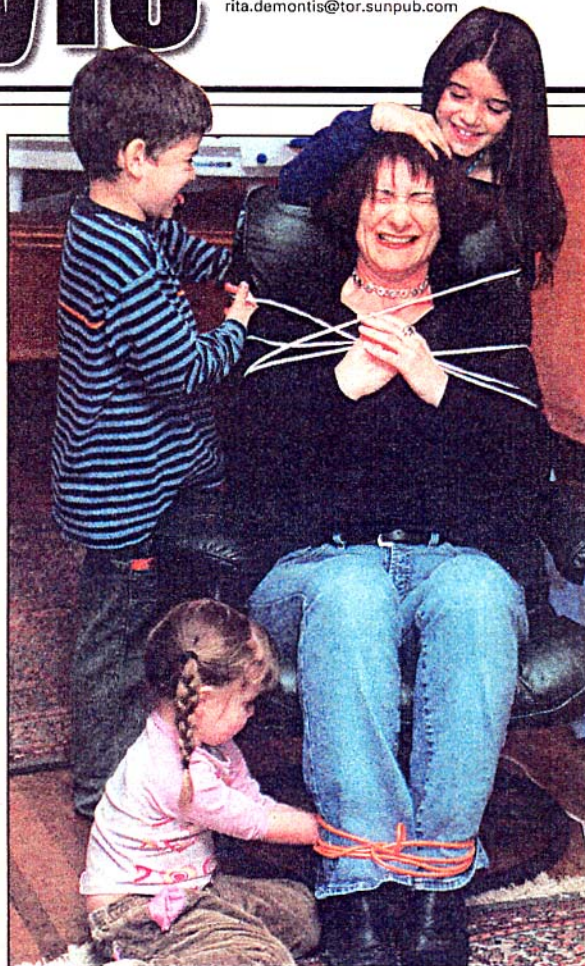
"I talk about my kids and they don't mind it, but the thing though that was really important to me was to talk about being a mom and being sexual with my husband and all those things," she says. "I found a lot of people had misconceptions of thinking that if you're a mom, you're supposed to weigh 300 lbs. with a wooden spoon on the couch, and I don't think motherhood is that anymore. I think women are liberated."

The big challenge, Davis says, is juggling her career with her family life. She says her time is more limited — but, to her, family comes first. While her comedian friends have more time to hone their craft during the day, she is committed to bringing her children to school and playing with Maddison.

"I'm her play buddy. I'm not going to compromise one for the other," she says. "I get to do my writing when she's napping, or when the kids have gone to bed."

Although her children think it's hard when she's away at nights and out of town sometimes, they say they like having a "funny mommy" at home.

Her children, especially Maddison, even try to be as funny as their mom. "Mommy, I've got a good joke," says the wide-eyed toddler with a cherubic face and sunshine-blond locks, as she climbs up on her mother's lap and makes a loud fart noise. "Hey



— Veronica Henri, SUN

KATE DAVIS, pictured with her three children, is a stand-up comedian known as "Funny Mommy."

mommy, you farted." Davis chuckles and compliments her daughter on how funny she is.

### 'Hasn't lost her sexuality'

"I think it's amazing that she runs a house, has three kids, gets out to do comedy and has really worked extremely hard to get where she is," says Ocean Varney, a fellow comedian who has known Davis for four years.

"The wonderful thing about Kate is that although she's a mother, she's still able to connect with the 25-year-old demographic that's so important to live comedy. She hasn't lost her sexuality even though she became a mom," adds Mark Breslin, the CEO of

Yuk Yuk's superclub in Toronto.

Davis was nominated for best female stand-up at the Canadian Comedy Awards this year. She says her goal is to branch out into TV and film. Already she's fulfilling some of her bigger goals, including her upcoming headlining gig at Yuk Yuk's (2335 Yonge St.) in Toronto, May 16 to 19.

"My greatest accomplishment so far is just being a mom, but comedy is definitely a quick runner-up to that," she says, before she gives her family a kiss goodbye and heads out for another night of laughs.

For more on Davis: [www.funnymommy.com](http://www.funnymommy.com) (She's still developing this site.)