

Funny Boy

BY STACIA MOMBURG

Nice Jewish boy meets homeboy. That's a pretty good description for some of the humor that stand-up comedian **Eric Schwartz (JOUR '96)** uses in his routine.

"I'm the ultimate homeboy," he quips, "because I live at home, with my parents."

For at least a while, though, in the mid-1990s, he did not live with his parents. He was a student at Cal Poly, where he says he spent his free time lugging audio equipment up the hill from Media Services to Backstage Pizza to put on comedy shows.

Now he is a rising star on the comedy-club circuit, winning comedy competitions, appearing on national TV shows, writing song parodies that have garnered international attention, and playing major comedy venues.

Schwartz got his start in radio on a Thousand Oaks station called KNJO, writing and performing comedy bits for "The Dick Whittington Show." Whittington is considered a legend in Los Angeles radio circles.

Schwartz continued to hone his skills at Cal Poly's radio station, KCPR, as a DJ and news director. As a senior at Cal Poly, he interned at KFI in Los Angeles, parlaying that gig into a part-time job

further sharpening his writing and producing skills.

Schwartz recently placed second in the San Francisco International Stand-Up Comedy Competition — a competition that has helped jump-start the careers of comic greats Robin Williams, Ellen Degeneres, Kevin Pollack and Mark Curry, all of whom also placed second.

"It was amazing," Schwartz said of the competition. "I played 30 shows over three weeks to a variety of crowds. The diversity of the crowds made me realize the universal appeal of my comedy."

Schwartz already has a long list of credits, including appearances on such television programs as BET's "Comic View," "The Sharon Osbourne Show," SiTV's "Latino Laugh Festival,"



Eric Schwartz (Photo by David Carlson)

'I'M THE ULTIMATE HOMEBOY, BECAUSE I LIVE AT HOME, WITH MY PARENTS.'

after graduation. Also while at Cal Poly, he was runner-up in the Funniest Person in the San Fernando Valley competition.

He went on to work at Premiere Radio Networks, one of the nation's top syndicates of radio comedy. At Premiere, he wrote and produced his own material,

"Inside Joke" and "The Drop." He is also the host of the nationally syndicated show "Animal Atlas."

His song parody "Hanukkah Hey Ya!" and the accompanying flash animation were the buzz of the Internet and airwaves this past season, beating out Adam

Sandler's "Chanukah Song" as the most-requested Hanukkah song.

Schwartz currently has two series in development that will showcase his musical and comedic talents. He also wants to add to his career credits by making more comedy records and playing larger roles on television and in movies. And, he'd like to come back and play Cal Poly.

"I do a mean impression of some of my old journalism professors," he says.

For more information about Schwartz and his shows go to www.suburbanhomeboy.com. ■