

Life & Work with David Kiouss

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Hi David, we appreciate you taking the time to share your story with us today. Where does your story begin?

Growing up, I have always been a fan of comedy, from Jack Benny to Johnny Carson and many other comedians. Being a class clown and participating in school plays and other activities allowed me to make others laugh, which I truly love. After college, I attended and graduated from the Columbia School of Broadcasting and then later, I moved to Pasadena, California where I attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. While in California, I joined my first improv comedy troupe and was eventually cast in ComedySportz in Kansas City. As a result, I moved back home. After performing in various plays, performing improv and being on the radio for about 10 years, I decided to try stand-up comedy. I began attending the Open Mic at Stanfords Comedy Club every Monday night. After about 9 months, I was hired to emcee shows, which eventually led to me featuring, leading me to headline shows. Since then, I've worked full and part-time radio, along with various others jobs, while still performing comedy. I specialize in clean corporate comedy but occasionally I perform in bars and comedy clubs. Currently, I host a morning radio show on a Classic Rock station in Burlington, Kansas (97.7 The Dawg), along with stand-up and singing telegrams. I am a licensed real estate agent in Kansas and Missouri, specializing in residential leasing.



We all face challenges, but looking back, would you describe it as a relatively smooth road?

The struggle has been that I have never made much money as a performer and usually have to have what I call "waitering jobs" to pay the bills. That's been everything from sales to retail and now residential leasing. I realize that I probably will not be discovered performing at an Elks Lodge in the middle of Iowa, but I love stand-up comedy too much to give it up.

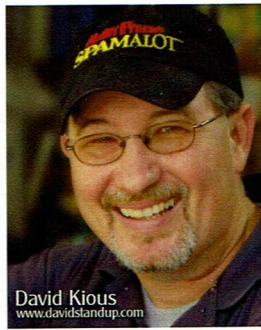
As you know, we're big fans of you and your work. What can you tell our readers who might need to be more familiar with what you do?

When I first started performing stand-up comedy, I was nervous every night. I would go through half a roll of Tums just to keep my stomach from churning so that I could get the courage to go up on stage. And there were a lot of bad shows in the early days. They don't call it "dying on stage" for nothing because that is how your gut feels when the show bombs. But, after many years of improving my material and stage presence, I now go on stage with all kinds of confidence. I do say a little prayer before each show: "Dear God, Please remove my fears and direct my thinking and oh, yeah, please help me to be funny because that is what I am here for." It helps

DAVID Today we'd like to introduce you to David Kiouss

We all have different ways of looking at and defining success. How do you define success?

As I mentioned, I've never been financially successful performing comedy, but I base my success not on how much I am paid but on the laughter I hear. Life is tough for everyone and if for 45-60 minutes, I can help people forget about their struggles and laugh, then I am doing something special and it gives me great gratitude.



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