



JIVE ON STAGE

BY VANZ CHAPMAN

Gilson Lubin is like the De La Soul of stand-up comedians.

Gilson Lubin is one of those rare YBCs (young black comics) who doesn't step to comedy like a rapper. Instead of spitting jokes, he muses on them, teases them towards laughs as rhythmically as Dave and Maceo on the mic. Honing his skills on the Yuk Yuk's stand-up circuit for the last few years, Lubin is now considered such a hot talent in the jokes department that he recently nabbed a Holy Grail of comedy quests ahead of more established comics – an opening slot for Dave Chapelle. If you saw it you know: Gilson Lubin is the funniest comic still left in Canada. But he has his green card, so he could be gone soon. Until then, check the black dude on MTV Live.

What do you do at MTV Live?

I'm a comedian and host on MTV Live. The black dude.

How'd you get put on?

I happened to have worked with some of the producers and executives from MTV Live in some form of comedy or another and they all thought I would be a great fit for the groundbreaking show.

What's the coolest thing about your job there?

I can't point out only one thing as the coolest part of my job, but I do enjoy having a voice with my own segment called Gilson's Word From The Street. It's a voice I think is necessary in Canada.

Is MTV a means to an end or the ends to a mean?

A little bit of both. MTV came at a time when I really needed a break from the traveling as a comedian, and I'm fortunate. But at the same time, I can't be a host on MTV forever, so the idea is to become as well-rounded as possible to better equip myself for what's next.

What is next? L.A., NYC or T.O.?

I definitely prefer the warm weather of Los Angeles over NYC, since I'm from St. Lucia. But I gotta admit my dream would be to spend time between L.A. and Toronto. I don't think I could build or replace friendships like the ones I've built in Toronto.

Why should our readers watch MTV Live?

Because the black dude promises to call it as he sees it, and I could care less if it's about George Bush or Paris. I'm not here for the more fortunate.

Have they put you in a dress for a skit or a joke yet?

My first sketch. I was like, 'Get it over with. But I'll remember this.'

What's the cast of the show like?

I think we have every demographic covered, or at least close. If someone got sh*t to say, contact your representative and we'll handle it. They're all extremely hard working and opinionated individuals.

Who has the most groupies? Daryn?

Believe it or not, me. Naw, just playing. It's Paul the Intern.

Where do you hang out to meet easy girls now that you're on TV?

I don't get out too much, but you can find me at a comedy club on most nights working out material or following the band Track Dirtyaz. I feel like their music represents my comedy.

Americans or Canadians: which girls are nicer to comics?

Canada. They can relate to cold-ass winters better.

Are you strictly a TV comic now or can you still rock the mic on the club circuit?

Man, I'm not insecure about that part of my life at all. Especially battling. People forgot that stand-up competitions are how I got started, so not many comics step to me. I think it's my ugly side. Some people in Toronto got to see me open for Dave Chapelle recently and so far the feedback has been overwhelming.

Who are some of your comic heroes?

No one mentions Dick Gregory, the early Cosby era, but he was probably the most honest comedian when it came to calling it as it was. He's now a civil activist. I think pitching in around the world should be a part of everyone's career. Other than that, Bill Cosby and Richard Pryor are the greatest. And Dave Chappelle is carrying the torch nicely.

Eddie Murphy once said that when he went to Hollywood his big dream was to meet Byron Allen which, in retrospect, is pretty ridiculous considering Eddie's success. Who is your Byron Allen?

I've met Bill Cosby and Dave Chappelle. I've even met Snoop Dogg. Ha ha! What I'm trying to say is that any black entertainer who has had to put up with a certain type of adversity is worth looking up to for the mere fact they stuck it out. Unfortunately, I won't get to meet Pryor. Still got a chance with Dick Gregory.

Finish this sentence: Yuk Yuks rocks because...

It's the venue where you could catch the next All Black Comedy night every last Sunday of the month.

When are going to start on www.gilsonlubin.com?

Should be ready by summer 2007. There are many ideas in the works: Soulkr8z Productions, Track Dirtyaz and much more, God willing. Stay in touch at myspace.com/gilsonlubin for the dirty news.