



Steve Harvey is Big Time

By Alecia Goodlow-Young

It's all about the family for this brotha'

Hear the name Steve Harvey, and you immediately think "Very funny movie star!" But he's so much more than that. In fact, he takes exception to that limiting description: "I'm a lot of things, but I'm not a movie star. They asked me to do those movies. I've never read for a movie, yet I've done six of them. What I am is a man who hosts both a radio and T. V. show. I do stand-up comedy, I have a suit-collection clothing line, and I develop land in Texas. Now, that's what I do."

There's no question that he is very funny, though. Steve revealed that he "kinda knew" he was hilarious when he was around 10

or 11 years old. But he didn't let it loose until he was about 17 years old and in college. That's where he learned how to perform in front of a real, live audience. He's been performing ever since. "I just try to be me," he says about his work as a comedian:

"And, because I'm serious about my jokes, you can always count on them to be funny" This question was number one from all of the fellas at Bangin': What is the secret to Steve's always perfect hair? "I have bad hair days like everybody else. I just know how to get help when I need it. You gotta know when to get some back-up. I mean, on the real bad hair days, I wear a hat.

"I'm not a movie star. What I am is a man who hosts a radio and TV show. I do stand-up comedy, I have a suit-collection clothing line... Now, that's what I do."

On my good days I wear all of my hair. Yes, this is all of my damn hair. I travel with a barber, and he scissor-cuts my hair before each performance, so every strand is in place. It looks fresh 'cause it is fresh!"

Steve gave us his recipe for success. "In order to be respected, and I mean really good in whatever field you choose to be in, you need to first determine whatever it is that you want to specialize in. Then do it every day for 12 to 18 hours a day, 365 days a year, for five years, and mix in some praying time with God. This is how you become an expert on that particular thing and get people to pay you for your expertise. I'm telling you, this is what equals success."

One would think that, beside this successful man, there must be a beautiful, supportive woman who laughs at all of his jokes, even when she's mad. Steve shatters that myth: "Yes, she's beautiful to me. But, when she's mad, she's mad. She tells me straight out 'Steve that shit ain't funny.' We've been together for 16 years. Marriage is not easy. It takes a lot of work. But what's the alternative? You gonna get somebody else to argue with? No, you better stick with the one you know and the one who loves you. It's a conscious decision to stay together, and that's just it."

Steve and his wife have five children: three sons and twin daughters. They know when he's joking and when he's not: "They have to think Daddy's funny 'cause I pay for stuff. But they know Daddy's not funny when he's mad."

Even with his life in balance, Steve Harvey still has dreams and aspirations. He says he would like one day to do a radio show that would encompass hip-hop and R & B of the 70's and 80's. "It would be the best in the world. It would be like having a Bangin' party every single day, and I would relive my glory days in today's time. Now that would be something."