



SNL vet and sitcom stalwart
David Spade makes
The Venetian his Vegas home.

By E.C. Gladstone

SPADE'S NEW DIGS

photograph by Mary Ellen Matthews/Corbis Outline

Y ou know David Spade. He's *that* guy. The snotty "buh-bye" flight attendant on *Saturday Night Live*. Or you might recognize him as the lovably sardonic Finch from *Just Shoot Me*. Does Russell on CBS's *Rules of Engagement* ring a bell? Spade's even delivered big laughs to the big screen in movies such as *Joe Dirt*, *Black Sheep*, and *Tommy Boy*, one of the funniest films of the 90s.

Of course, it's just as likely you recognize Spade from the gossip columns. As one of Hollywood's most notorious bachelors, he's been linked to Kristy Swanson, Heather Locklear, Carmen Electra, Pamela Anderson, Lara Flynn Boyle, several Playmates, and most recently Nicolette Sheridan. (We may never know if the attraction is because women love funny guys or if it's the family discount on sister-in-law Kate Spade's handbags.)

Today Spade can be found here in Vegas—hitting the golf courses by day and rocking The Venetian stage at night with *Last Comic Standing*'s Todd Glass. So what's the snotty "buh-bye" guy like in person? We hate to blow his cover but he's, well, not so snotty.

Your MySpace Comedy page lists you as a "legend" and a "veteran."

"What is that, under my relationship status? I don't even do that page; I don't have a website anymore. There's something nice about having a little bit of mystery. On my level, there's not much mystery and nobody cares, but when you look up Johnny Depp, you don't know what he's doing every night. 'Here I am in France, I just opened a bottle of wine... current mood: indescribable.' I don't want to hear that from Johnny Depp."

You've done stand-up comedy, TV, movies, animation, opera, ballet.... What's been the most fun?

[Laughs] "There's something about stand-up that's still really fun because it's hard to make people happy. Being a spoiled guy on a TV show, you

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can say, 'I gotta go to the bathroom'; you can pretty much leave whenever. It's kind of a screw-off job. But stand-up is one hour where you cannot drift off, you cannot check your BlackBerry, you cannot go to the restroom, you just have to be 100-percent focused on 'what am I saying in the next 10 seconds.' You've got to be ready for whatever and adjust jokes for 'they're not laughing' or 'they are laughing' or 'they want it dirtier.' Stand-up started everything [for me]. I wouldn't have had *Saturday Night Live* without it; I wouldn't have anything without it."

That's cool that you have Todd Glass opening up. A lot of people might pick someone who wouldn't necessarily threaten them too much.

"Right, and I'm dumb; I pick someone that will. He's actually hard to follow sometimes because he does really well. I know we're different styles, so it's OK, and I want [the audience] to see a good show. But he's on the road all year and he really is a tight, fast-moving joke machine. My style slows down a bit, and I tell more story-type stuff, so it does take a second in transition. Also, I don't really write that many topical jokes, because two weeks later when I come back to The Venetian, I can't use it. I like the ones that are tried-and-true and work all the time."

What's good material for a Vegas crowd, and what's a hard sell here?

"The jokes come from things in town that are pretty easy to understand if you're not from Vegas. I make fun of how big the hotels are and I make fun of the themes. I talk about City Center—I think I said it looked like a crane convention, and it's such a realistic city, they even built in a bad neighborhood. I don't think anybody laughed, but...."

What do you do on your off days?

"Barneys, SushiSamba, Tao for dinner; I like AquaKnox. It's hard to just mosey around the casino, so I keep myself busy with golf. I usually have to pay one of my friends to come and golf with me. One of my friends is married, and he says, 'She doesn't like me to hang out with you anymore.' We don't do anything; we're so lame. If I go to a club, I'm done at 12. And my friend goes 'I can't, I've got to work... but if you give me \$500 a day, I can come out there.' Is this how bad it's getting in my life, I have to pay people to be my friend? I pay for the flight, the room, for golf, and then I pay you? He goes, 'Yeah, then I'll just tell her I'm working!' It's like a strip club."

Does this mean you're not as much of a partier as people perceive?

"I'm old and gross, so I shouldn't be out, but I kind of like the people-watching. So I come early, which is not cool, but I go against the grain. Then I watch everyone come in, and by the time it gets wall-to-wall, I split. There's no dignity when it's wall-to-wall—you feel like a jackass screaming your crummy jokes across the bar to your friends. And it's not enough that it's too loud; now they blind me with smoke. Now there's a strobe light. Great, now we shoot BBs at your forehead.... No, no, if Brody Jenner likes it, I like it.... Yeah, the club thing, I can't do it. Charging \$500 for a bottle of Jack Daniels—when did that start, and who OK'd it? At some point, you have to go, 'Are you kidding me?'"

You've been called a ladies' man. Would you care to offer any tips?

"I get asked about that, and it just comes down to, I'm single, so when I go out, it's a big deal. But really, the pool is smaller, a lot of people [in Hollywood] are married, a lot have serious boyfriends and girlfriends. These girls have to date me—it's really part of this big economy crunch."

Would it kill you to go out with a brunette once in a while?

[Laughs] "It's not my call. As long as they're kind of funny and cool to hang out with, I don't care."

Would anyone catch you polishing your star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame?

"Not that I won't, but I won't let you know about it. It would be a sad day when they catch me—he's over by his star, sitting on it, wearing the wig from *Joe Dirt*."

David Spade Live at *The Venetian Showroom*; tickets start at \$55.75 plus tax. Call 702-414-9000.