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Meshelle Indie Mom of Comedy

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| Objective |  | To build bridges of oneness, compassion, and empathy for humankind through the art of stand- up comedy and performance. |
| Skills & Abilities |  | Astute in story telling utilizing varying ethnic and mainstream intonations. Adept in understanding and speaking Spanish, and small amounts of indigenous languages throughout the African Diaspora. A quick study of colloquial ethnic languages, customs, mores and norms. Able to unearth and speak universal truths through the use of humor, to small and large groups promoting solidarity and group think.  Proficient in managing social media outlets.  Proficient in MAC and PC programs and systems.  Avid writer and researcher.  Skilled speaker, facilitator, presenter and team member.  Program development, design and implementation. |
| Experience |  | PsYchodramatist, Urban Behavioral Associates 1997-1998  Using tenants and practices of traditional mental health and psychotherapy, I engaged clinical outpatients by creating humorous and dramatically infused presentations. Scripted and improvisational mini-productions were rehearsed and performed by clients to assist with the relief and release of trauma. Improvisation was a key element of each session, as I guided clients to use its components for future self and home care. Principal, Touring Production; “Woman Thou Art Loosed” Written by, Bishop TD JAKES 1998-1999  Lead actress in the touring Production, “Woman Thou Art Loosed” a contemporary theatrical debut based on the New York Times Best Seller, of the same title, written by Bishop TD Jakes. Cast out of Los Angeles, CA, I portrayed the lead character, Michelle, whose traumatic childhood and familial struggles lead to a life of bad choices from prison and ultimately redemption through a metaphysical and spiritual encounter. Facing her demons lead to a triumphant ending. Toured 7 US Cities.  \*The Production was ultimately adapted to a feature film, Directed by Tyler Perry with Kimberly Elise (supporting actress in Oprah Winfrey’s; BELOVED) portraying the character, Michelle.  **TOURING STAND UP COMEDIENNE**  **1999-PRESENT**  Appeared on 5 seasons of **Black Entertainment Television (BET):**COMICVIEW (1999, 2002, 2008, 2010, 2014)  Comicview, BET’s highest rated showcase for comedic talent, airing nationally and internationally weekly. Hosted by celebrity comedians such as Cedric The Entertainer (Kings of Comedy), Sheryl Underwood (Co-Host, THE TALK) and DL Hughley (Kings of Comedy).  Appeared on **Nickelodeon’s Search for the Funniest Mom in America 3** (Hosted by Roseanne Barr) (2007)  Nickelodeon docu-series aimed at finding/discovering the next funny mom, offering a cash prize, comedy showcase special and talent deal. Over 300 women competed as executives scoured the country with comedic veterans in tow (Hal Sparks, Queer as Folks: SHOWTIME) and (Kim Coles, In Living Color: FOX, Living Single, Paramount) acting as judges. I was selected and advanced as one of the 12 semifinalist, while in the third trimester of pregnancy with my third child.  Appeared on **STARz** Networks’: **Martin Lawrence Presents; First Amendment Stand Up**, SEASON 3 (Hosted by Doug Williams) (2008-airing nationally/internationally, 2009 and currently ON DEMAND)  STARz and Martin Lawrence (MARTIN, Fox, BIG MOMMA HOUSE, Directed by Raja Gosnell) partnered to showcase comedic talent, filmed in Washington, DC at the historic Lincoln Theater.  Appeared on ASPIRE TV Network’s; LaffMobb Presents WE GOT NEXT SEASON 1 (2014)  Magic Johnson’s newly launched network (ASPIRE TV) garnering 6 million viewers in two short years; created a weekly comedy showcase of the country’s “next” comedic stars. Created by LaffMobb/Spivak Management team Bob Sumner (Star Maker, Talent Curator/HBO Def Comedy Jam (all seasons), with Russell Simmons) and Arthur Spivak (Veteran Hollywood Manager). Season one is currently on Hulu and iTunes.  **THEATRE:**  **2010-PRESENT**  **Diary Of A MILF: Mom I’d Love to FOLLOW**  **Written and Performed by: MESHELLE “The Indie-Mom of Comedy”**  **Directed by: Rain Pryor**  **Baltimore Theatre Project (December 2010)**  "It takes a fearless woman to be a MILF!"  **Description**: Can a "Mom" have it all? Join Meshelle "The Indie-Mom of Comedy" and Actress as she dares to create a flow of motherhood and marriage while creating and living her dreams as a Stand Up Comic! Can she be a classroom parent, bake a vegan casserole, maintain during the yuletide season, perform nightly, and still be a sexy woman? Come laugh with her through this journey. MESHELLE portrays 5 unforgettable characters.  This was the debut performance, which SOLD OUT at the Baltimore Theatre Project. Production is sans public relations and marketing representation, social media and grassroots promotion only.  **Greenhouse Theatre Center ( March, 2011) Diary of A MILF: Mom I’d Love to FOLLOW**  **2257 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614**  **Description:** One week, special engagement performance. Produced and performed by MESHELLE.  **DC BLACK THEATER FESTIVAL (July 2011, 2012) Diary of A MILF: Mom I’d Love to FOLLOW**  **Sitar Arts Center**  **1700 Kalorama Road NW**  **Washington, DC 20009**  One of over 100 productions featured in the festival.  WINNER, One Act Battle (2011, 2012)  WINNER, Audience Choice Award (2012)  **ATLANTA BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL (October, 2013) Diary of A MILF: Mom I’d Love to FOLLOW**  **14 Street Playhouse**  **1280 Peachtree Street NE**  **Atlanta, GA**  One of 40 productions featured during the 4 day festival.  WINNER, Favorite Overall Theatrical Experience (2013)  **MIDTOWN INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL: NY, NY (August, 2014) Diary of A MILF: Mom I’d Love to FOLLOW**  **Abingdon Theatre Company**  **312 West 36th Street**  **New York, NY 10018**  One of 60 productions featured throughout the 3 week festival Off-Broadway in midtown Manhattan.  WINNER, Outstanding Solo Performer (2014)  Nominated: (Rain Pryor) Outstanding Direction of a Full Length Feature |
| Education |  | Bowie State University Bachelor of Science, Psychology (1994)  **TEMPLE UNIVERSITY (1995-1998)**  Matriculated in College of Education, School Psychology Program  \*3 years of full-time doctoral study.  \* Leave of absence, 1998 to pursue Artistic endeavor as a full time Stand Up comedienne. |
| Communication |  | Identified as a proficient presenter, and speaker, I offered key addresses for Open Society Institute-Baltimore, TEDxBaltimore, WOW Conference (Women of the World, Meyerhoff Symphony Hall), Congressional Black Caucus in support of Congressman Elijah Cummings, US Dream Academy, American Visionary Arts Museum, The World Bank, National Cares Mentoring Movement, Rainbow PUSH Coalition and numerous schools. In addition, before and after care coed and gender specific programs for public and private sector advocacy and service provision organizations, |
| Leadership |  | Founder/President: MESHELLE LLC.  Founder, Executive Director: Goaldiggers The Sankofa Project  Co-Founder, GirlsBELIEVE Conference  Co-Founder, The Cambio Group LLC |
| References |  | Susan l taylor President, National CARES Mentoring Movement/ Editor Emeritus, ESSENCE Magazine  212.920.7750  c/o Debra Parker, Executive Assistant, [dparker@caresmentoring.com](mailto:dparker@caresmentoring.com)  **RAIN PRYOR**  Director/Actress  410.900-8442  [mixedrain@aol.com](mailto:mixedrain@aol.com)  **Harlan R. Halper**  **The Kinkead Entertainment Agency**  1776 Broadway | Suite 900  New York, NY 10019  W: 646.467.5200 | C: 646.734.3980  E: [HHalper@KinkeadEntertainment.com](mailto:HHalper@KinkeadEntertainment.com)  [www.KinkeadEntertainment.com](http://www.kinkeadentertainment.com/)  **LOUIS SALMONE**  Managing Director, Midtown International Theatre Festival  646.373.8876  917.709.1833  [afterschoolprods@yahoo.com](mailto:afterschoolprods@yahoo.com)  **GLENN ALAN**  Founder, Artist Director, DC Black Theatre Festival  212.403.7191  [thedramadept@yahoo.com](mailto:thedramadept@yahoo.com)  **ANDREW UNGER**  Owner, Magooby’s Joke House  443.250.5509  [andrewunger@magoobys.com](mailto:andrewunger@magoobys.com) |