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Colorado comedian Josh Blue's website states that he "puts the *cerebral* in cerebral palsy," a disability that provides the foundation for his self-deprecating humor. Born in Cameroon, Africa, his family migrated to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he grew up. He began setting the groundwork for his career in comedy while pursuing a creative writing degree in college.

Performing at open mic nights, audiences reacted enthusiastically to his work, which motivated Blue to make a name for himself on the comedy circuit. He has been awarded numerous prestigious comedy awards, but his career truly took off after winning the 2006 season of NBC's reality show, *Last Comic Standing*. He then became one of the big guns in the industry, and sealed that reputation by becoming the first stand-up to ever perform on *The Ellen Degeneres Show*.

He has played Vegas with comic superstar Ron White, appeared on *Late Night with Craig Ferguson* and *Live with Regis and Kelly*, and performed at the prestigious *HBO-Aspen Comedy Festival*, *Comedy Central's South Beach Comedy Festival* and *The Comedy Festival Las Vegas*.

As a single dad raising two kids, he said that touring is pretty difficult, but that if it came down to performing or staying with his kids, his family wins out every time. "If I wasn't doing comedy, I'd be living on welfare." But there's always the hint of humor in his voice in even the most serious of comments.

He is very much looking forward to performing in Salida. "Every town needs to laugh. I like playing the smaller towns. And if can bring that to them, that's even better."

Throughout our interview, he lauded the virtues of the *Bug-A-Salt* gun he purchased online, which is advertised to eradicate insects. "I've killed three just since we've been talking!" It "shoots" table salt at high velocity, but doesn't damage things like paint, or children. Of course, it does leave salt on everything, which probably has its own benefits unless you're on a low-salt diet.

Blue's truly improvisational style bled over into his early life, but says, "My kids have really grounded me. You can't just pack up and move to Tanzania." He eventually landed in Denver in just an improvisational way. While finishing college, in Olympia, Washington, a friend said, "Hey! Wanna move to Denver with me?" He says that moving to Colorado has been the best decision he's ever made.

When asked if he knew his Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon number, Blue said he didn't. He laughed when he learned it was 2: he performed in the movie *Ca\$h* in 2010 with actor Larry Neumann, Jr., who starred in *Stir of Echoes* with Kevin Bacon in 1999. "I'll probably throw that into my act somehow," he quipped. "I think it shows that I've made it. I like [B]acon."

When asked what a typical work day looked like, he said, "Well, I've listened to an interview I did with NPR to make sure I didn't sound like a total idiot, and read a Public Service Announcement script about people parking in handicap spaces illegally." He also recently gave a

commencement speech, which he felt was a true honor. “It wasn’t true stand-up, but I was standing up.”

The best (or maybe worst) advice he ever got was: “You gotta do the same jokes all the time so you can make them better.” However, Blue said, “It was more like, ‘You’re doing it wrong, dumbass.’ I’m glad I didn’t listen to it.”

Comedian Josh Blue, performs at the Salida Steamplant, Saturday, May 20th. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.





