

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2004

Little JJ finds chair in MGM's 'Beauty Shop'

By Chris Gardner

Thirteen-year-old Little JJ — best known for his stint on “The Tonight Show With Jay Leno” and for winning the “Coming to the Stage” comedy compe-

**Little JJ**

— will be cracking jokes in the “Beauty Shop” for MGM. Shooting starts in April.

The pint-sized actor has signed on to star in the Queen Latifah starrer, which will be directed by “Honey” helmer Bille Woodruff

See **“BEAUTY”** on page 20

‘Beauty’

Continued from page 8—

and produced by Mandeville Films’ David Hoberman, State Street partners Bob Teitel and George Tillman, and Latifah’s producing partner Shakim Compere. Mandeville president of production Todd Lieberman is executive producing. At the studio, Elizabeth Cantillon is overseeing.

Penned by Norman Vance, “Beauty Shop” is a spinoff of MGM’s franchise “Barbershop” and follows a day in the life of a beauty shop run by Latifah’s character Gina. Little JJ plays Willie, a street kid who helps out Latifah’s character.

Little JJ is repped by WMA, managers Ken Bright, Cheryl Abbot and Philip Brown and attorney Nina Shaw. ■



Lil' JJ Takes the "Stage"

By James Hill, BET.com Staff Writer

Posted Jan. 7, 2003 -- First Lil' Bow Wow took over hip-hop. Now 13-year-old Lil' JJ (James Lewis) is poised to take over stand-up comedy. Already the pre-adolescent funnyman competed on, and won, "Coming to the Stage," BET's competition game show where he went up against, and beat, comics more than twice his age to become the show's ultimate winner.

Hailing from Little Rock, Ark., Lewis' beginnings are not unlike those of other comedian superstars. A class clown at Mitchell Academy Elementary, Lewis was known for keeping his schoolmates in stitches, even as he kept high grades. He modeled his humor and delivery after his idols -- Chris Tucker, Rickey Smiley and Bernie Mac and caught the attention of his physical education teacher who helped get his career started.

Soon enough, Lewis was playing local clubs, getting standing ovations at the Atlanta Laffapalooza Comedy Festival and opening for such acts as Jahiem, Amerie, Ricky Smiley and Mike Epps.

Lewis was a run-away favorite on "Stage," where he finally won over the celebrity panel to be deemed "The Next Superstar of Funny." He will now get his own BET comedy special to air later this year.

Aside from winning BET's Coming to the Stage, Lewis was also featured on "It's Showtime at the Apollo."



NEWS

Wednesday, March 17, 2004, 12:03 PM.

Rapper Lil JJ Joins 'Beauty Shop'

Thirteen-year-old Lil JJ—best known for his stint on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" and for winning the "Coming to the Stage" comedy competition—will be cracking jokes in the *Beauty Shop* with Queen Latifah.

A spinoff of MGM's *Barbershop* franchise, *Beauty Shop* follows a day in the life of a beauty shop run by Latifah's character Gina. Little JJ plays Willie, a street kid who helps out Latifah's character.

Shooting starts in April, with "Honey" director Bille Woodruff at the helm.



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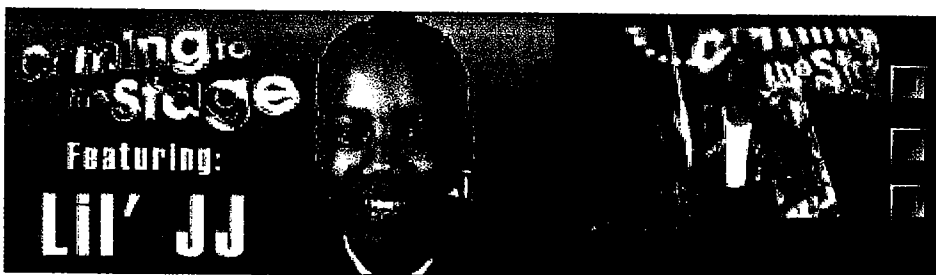
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COMING TO THE STAGE



MORE LIL' JJ

Lil' JJ Takes the "Stage"

What were you doing at 13? Had you opened for Jaheim or won your own TV comedy special? Probably not, but meet the kid who did. Introducing Lil' JJ, the winner of BET's "Coming to the Stage."

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Coming to the Stage is Coming Back! Auditions are Coming Soon! Keep it locked on BET and BET.com to find an audition city nearest you.

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A Family Nite Out with Lil JJ, Denny Live, and Arvin Mitchell - At COBO Center on 15 May 04 at 0630 PM

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Laugh all night with the funny from Lil JJ and friends: Denny Live and Arvin Mitchell. This is the Hottest group in comedy. You will laugh from start to finish.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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(PRWEB) April 15, 2004 --

BET's Coming to the Stage WINNER Lil JJ (www.liljj.com) with Denny Live & Arvin Mitchell. Will Be at COBO Center on 15 May 04 at 1830 for Comedy Show live on stage, "A Family Nite with Lil JJ". Humor is a form of entertainment we all need, laughter at some point of the week is wanted and needed. So come out and laugh with your family or friends at a live comedy show. Five star talent doesn't come around Detroit at this low price very often! Go get your tickets today!

ATTACHED FILES

Lil JJ
Come Laugh with Lil JJ
Uploaded: Apr 18, 2004
File Name: LIL_JJ_2.bmp

This is an event for the whole family to laugh out loud at great jokes. This show will be what the kids need to welcome them to the summer, a Hot Show. As parents we must tell and show our children that we can all go out and laugh and have a great time. These comedians are all on their way to the top.

BET's Coming to the Stage WINNER Lil JJ (liljj.com) with Denny Live & Arvin Mitchell. Will Be at COBO Center on 15 May 04 at 1830 for "A Family Nite with Lil JJ".

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Lil JJ Prince of Comedy (www.liljj.com)

Hidden behind the walls of Mitchell Academy Elementary James Lewis (Lil' JJ) was discovered by his P.E. teacher who looked beyond his classroom anecdotes and saw something great. Lil JJ was a class clown, but always had high marks in school. He credits his favorite actor Chris Tucker, favorite comedian: Rickey Smiley, and favorite TV actor: Bernie Mac for his comic inspirations. Now the "class clown": has a stage thanks to Kenrick Bright of 2Bright Productions.

Born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas, Lil JJ has been blowing up stages all around the country. He got his start doing little comic skits at Juanita's Bar and Grill in conjunction with the Mental Buffet, which is an open mic poetry/comedy program.

Lil JJ recently received a standing ovation while performing in front of 4,600 people at the Atlanta Civic Center during the "Laffapalooza" Comedy Festival.

This little comedian is really going places and hasn't even reached puberty yet!!

"Denny Live"

The multi talented "Denny Live" has conquered the comedy scene and is currently one of the most requested comedians in Philadelphia. With many upscale performances under his belt, this dynamic and spontaneous young comedian lights up the stage with his quick wit, boyish charm, and dazzling stage presence. Bursting with energy, he captivates his audience with a unique style, creating very funny, true to life stand up comedy. Among his many accomplishments, Denny Live has two (2) film credits, the latest being the starring role in the 2001 Independent Film release "Creepin".

DENNY "LIVE" is a rising star who continues to achieve notoriety by keeping audiences laughing across the east coast. Whether it's a first appearance or a return engagement, the hilarious comedic styling of "DENNY LIVE" will leave you with a highly favorable, lasting impression.

Arvin Mitchell Biography (www.arvinmitchell.com)

Arvin Mitchell is a standup comedian and engaging host and is familiar to television viewers for his appearances on Black Entertainment Television's (BET) Coming to the Stage comedy show. His reviews highlight his technical comedic skills, engaging and authentic connection with the crowd, and dazzling smile. He is now known as the "Man of Many Faces" for his hilarious impressions of Michael Jackson, Ice Cube, DMX, and many more. He began his career in 1999 and has progressed from a four-minute opener to the producer of his own local comedy show. His comedic beginnings have paved the way towards accomplishing his aspirations to be a successful actor, comedic writer, and standup comedian.

Mitchell has graced the stage with well-known comic performers in St. Louis, MO and on the road, such as: Buzz Sutherland, Michael Colyar, Ralph Harris, Kim Whitley, Sommore, Dee Ray, Leon Rogers, Jr., Mark Simmons, Bob KuBota, Dan O. Sullivan, Cocoa Brown, Earthquake, Rodman, Kenny Howell, Lavelle Crawford, Mista McGriff, Shawty-Shawty, Nard, John Morgan, Shotty K, and Ron Ramy.

Detroit these comedians will be on stage and after the event you will have time for a meet and greet. This is the first time for all three will be in The City of DETROIT!!

Ticket Price: GA \$30 and Reserved \$60, at the door GA \$60 and Reserved \$75 tickets goes on sell 16 April till 14 May at Ticketmaster. There will be a Meet and Greet after event for reserved ticket holders. For info call Ticketmaster at (248) 645- 6666. Thank you for working with Bridge Promotions LLC.

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