

ONES TO WATCH

actress /lisa david dean

Lisa David Dean's popular one-woman show, "The Monster Under My Bed Drank My Vodka" weaves a memorable tale of addiction, neurosis and 12-step dating. Memorable characters include her 8-year old cousin Jeffrey, little Lisa, rebellious Lisa, bulimic Lisa and two brothers she dates from the program—one of whom breaks up with her at the podium of a meeting.



It opened in Los Angeles at The Zephyr in October of 2003 and has been playing to sold out audiences in LA and NY ever since. She's currently working with Fox Television Studios to develop "The Monster Under My Bed..." into a hybrid comedy series. She's also a stand up comedian who initially chose the meanest audiences to perform to on open mic nights around Hollywood. You know the ones where people yell out "F-you Bitch get off the F'ing stage". She

shook off her fear factor and stuck it out with the hardest audiences thinking if she could get through that, the nicer more PC crowds might be a breeze.

She started hearing she should be a stand up even as a little kid and then the acting bug hit when, at 5, she saw "The Fantasticks" off-Broadway. Originally from New York, her family moved to Los Angeles when she was 12. In school, she acted in plays, studied acting in college and then took some stand up classes. But a class she took four years ago on one-person shows taught by Beverly Sanders in North Hollywood really struck a chord. Her stand up had become more story-based than joke-based, so the timing was right. She still loves stand up because people bring their own perspective and experiences to it, but she thrived in the freedom of being in a theatrical experience where audiences are a tad more patient with the overall journey than they are in comedy clubs. She also loved delving into different characters. From these classes she started developing "The Monster Under My Bed Drank My Vodka" where she discovered the show actually presented itself to her:

I love the one person format, it can be anything you want it to be and every individual can create their own style and put their own personal stamp on it. I knew thematically what I was going to be dealing with, but I didn't have a preconceived notion of what 'The Monster Under My Bed...' was going to be. It was such a turn in the road because the show actually showed itself to me and that's an incredible part of the creative process.

Lisa wrote and performed in her first one-woman show, "God's Will, Not Mine," after realizing that her life experiences were funnier and more real than most of the sides she was reading in auditions. She is a recurring sketch comedy actress on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" and does stand up at The Improv and The Icehouse. She also does voice over work in film and television and performs in theater. She originated the role of Sally Youngblood in the award-winning comedy, "Hazing The Monkey". Her one word of advice for fellow comedians and actors is "even if you think what you're doing isn't perfect, it never will be, so get it out there, you'll learn that much more once you do." ■

