

MAZ JOBRANI

PRESSKIT



BIO



Maz Jobrani was born in Iran, and relocated to Tiburon in the San Francisco Bay area after his family was forced to flee during the revolution. He went on to receive a B.A. degree from UC Berkeley, and chose to further his education by enrolling in UCLA's Ph.D. program, until he decided to change course to pursue his calling in "showbiz."

Jobrani starred as the title character in the award-winning indie comedy, JIMMY VESTWOOD: AMERIKAN HERO, a feature which he co-wrote and co-produced, and is now available on all major streaming platforms. He's graced the silver screen in such feature films as Sydney Pollack's THE INTERPRETER, Disney's DESCENDANTS and Ice Cube's FRIDAY AFTER NEXT. Jobrani's original standup special IMMIGRANT was filmed at the prestigious Kennedy Center and is currently available on NETFLIX. He's also released three additional solo specials on SHOWTIME including: BROWN AND FRIENDLY, I COME IN PEACE, and I'M NOT A TERRORIST, BUT I'VE PLAYED ONE ON TV.

Most recently Jobrani was seen in the feature film, A SIMPLE WEDDING, (from the producers of My Big Fat Greek Wedding) opposite Rita Wilson, as well as HULU's TASTE THE NATION, opposite Padma Lakshmi. Other credits include the loveable "Fawz" on the CBS comedy SUPERIOR DONUTS; GREY'S ANATOMY; CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM; THE DETOUR; LAST MAN STANDING; and SHAMELESS.

Jobrani additionally served as executive producer for EVERYTHING MUST CHANGE, a documentary about his late sister Mariam Jobrani, and her battle with breast cancer, which is currently available on iTunes.

No stranger to the comedy circuit, Jobrani was a founding member of THE AXIS OF EVIL comedy tour, which aired on Comedy Central. He is a regular panelist on NPR's WAIT WAIT...DON'T TELL ME! and has given two TED Talks. His LA Times best-selling book, *I'M NOT A TERRORIST, BUT I'VE PLAYED ONE ON TV: Memoirs of a Middle Eastern Funny Man*, was published by Simon & Schuster.

In the Spring of 2016, he performed at the White House where he had the privilege of introducing Former First Lady Michelle Obama. In 2017, Jobrani was asked to give the keynote speech to the graduating class at UC Berkeley, for which he is an alum.

He currently hosts his own podcast BACK TO SCHOOL WITH MAZ JOBRANI with the All Things Comedy Network. His new special PANDEMIC WARRIOR, produced by Jobrani and Mainstay Entertainment, premieres January 28, 2021 on Peacock.

IMAGES



How Comedian Maz Jobrani Reframed His Mental Health

Loss helped him be more present in life.

BY [KATIE DUPERE](#) PUBLISHED: APR 14, 2023

 [SAVE ARTICLE](#)



STORM SANTOS

If [Maz Jobrani](#) is good at one thing, it's making people laugh. The comedian, actor, and podcaster is a household name in comedy, touring the country and starring in specials like his recent YouTube special [The Birds & The Bees](#). While you may know Jobrani as a funny man, you may not know him as a man grappling with his own mortality and mental health. But that's about to change.

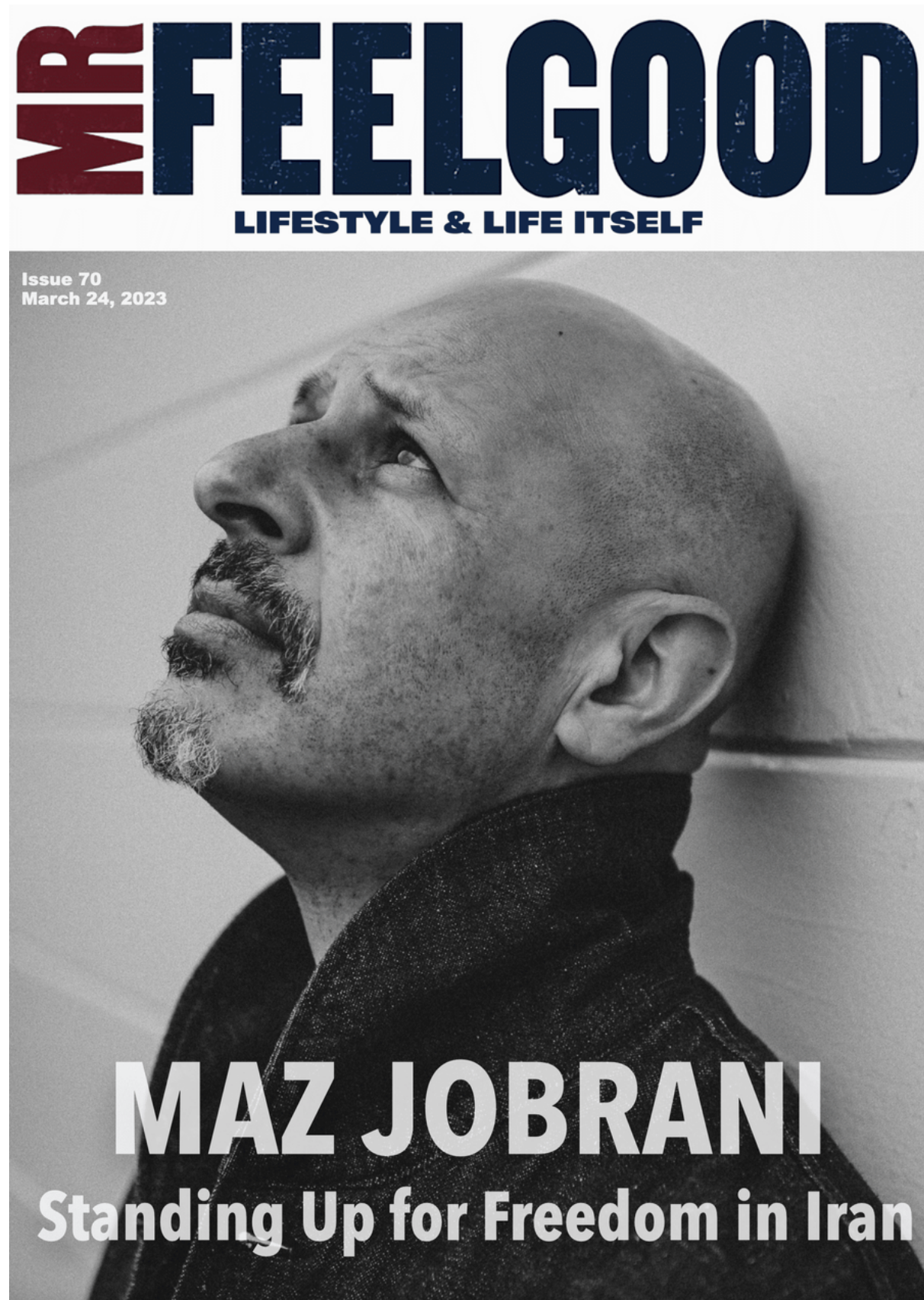
Maz Jobrani: “Do it now or don’t do it!”

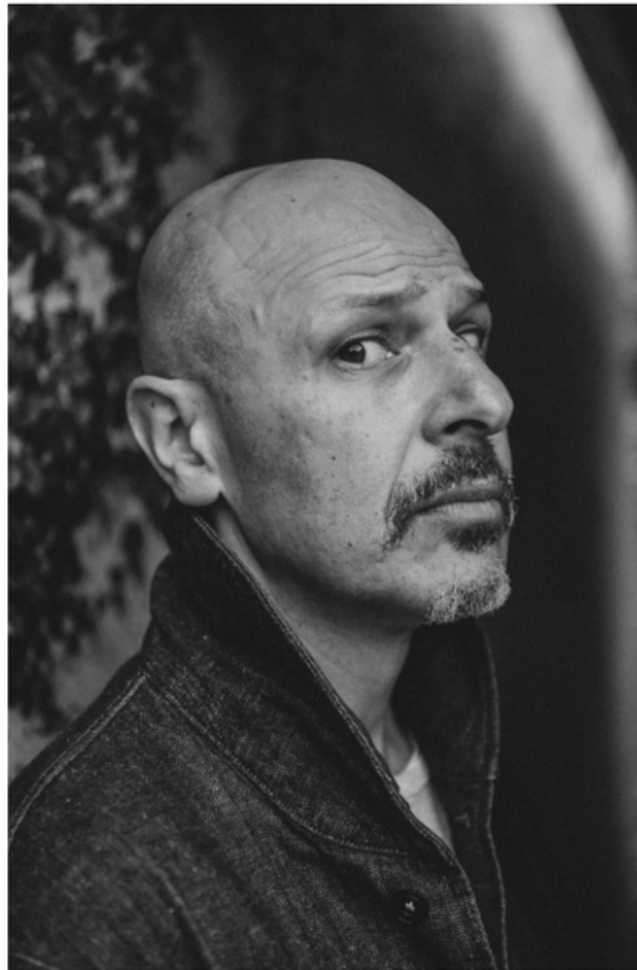
His parents wanted him to be a lawyer, doctor, or an engineer. But from an early age, Maz Jobrani had other ideas – he wanted to be a comedian. Here are the moments that have defined his career



MR FEEL GOOD

[LINK](#)





Maz Jobrani // 📸 : Reto Sterchi

Five Comedians Fighting for Social Justice

These sharp-witted stars are blending comedy and activism to cut through with their vital message.

MARCH 24, 2023 • COMEDY

Inside Maz Jobrani's Comic Evolution

By: [Haley Bosselman](#) | March 31, 2023 | [Culture People Feature](#)



Maz Jobrani wants his daughter to be a DJ.

"She loves music, she memorizes every lyric, she's got a good ear for it," the comedian explains to Los Angeles Confidential.

Jobrani isn't exactly pushing for a DJ career, but thinks she should at least give it a try (he's currently hired her to come up with a few mixes). His encouragement comes from his belief that if you're lucky enough to find what you love to do, do it.

He pushed the same sentiment a few years ago when giving the commencement speech at his alma mater, UC Berkeley. "Don't listen to your parents," he recalls saying. "They don't know what they're talking about. Go find what you love and do it."



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Wine Talk: Maz Jobrani's Wine Routine

The Iranian-American comedian talks about growing up in wine country, comedic wine rituals and his deep connection with Napa's Darioush Winery





PEOPLE ART FASHION MUSIC F L A U N T PARTIES VIDEO DETOX

MAY 20, 2021

MAZ JOBRANI | “PANDEMIC WARRIOR,” TOURING, HIS HIT PODCAST & HIS MESSAGE FOR BAZ LUHRMANN

BY SHIRLEY JU



BANI SAPRA | CULTURE | MAY 18

Is laughter therapy a joke?

A comic, psychologist, and yogi weigh in

Iranian-American stand-up Maz Jobrani may not be a doctor, but his job involves giving his audience the best kind of medicine.







Politics still pack a punch(line) for I...

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Politics still pack a punch(line) for Iranian-American comic



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By MALAK HARB May 31, 2021





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News

Catching Up with Maz Jobrani

By **Inside Fitness** - May 4, 2021



moves

THE FASHION & LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE FOR CITY WOMEN AND MEN

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celeb profile

MAZ JOBRANI



Maz Jobrani on His 'Pandemic Warrior' Comedy Special & Shooting in Dubai

Scott Fishman

JANUARY 27, 10:00 AM



1 COMMENT

Q&A





MAZ JOBRANI

AXIS^{OF} MAZ

SUMMER MYATT

In today's ever-evolving, and often-tumultuous, social and political landscape of America, Maz Jobrani, 48, boldly stays his own course – with refreshingly frank political humor, an ability to adapt to life's curveballs, and a little time away from technology. The Iranian-American comedian and actor cemented himself as a household name in 2007 with his boundary-breaking comedy group and international tour: the Axis of Evil Comedy Tour. Repurposing and reclaiming a term originally intended to stoke up fear and create separation, he used his sense of humor to make the immigrant experience universal and touchingly relatable. But he wasn't always on the course towards a career in the spotlight.

CIVILIAN MAGAZINE



orn in Tehran, Iran, Jobrani and his family immigrated to California when he was just 6 years old. Expected to make his parents proud with a career as a doctor or lawyer, he went to UC Berkeley to study political science (and Italian as a minor). But in his first year of a PhD program at UCLA, he realized his calling was somewhere else. "I dropped out of my PhD program the first year I was in it," he recalls. "And slowly but surely, I ended up working my way back into what my love was – to be on stage and on screen." Getting his start in the industry in his mid-twenties, he began taking the first steps toward the life he wanted for himself. "The idea was, you live once, and you can't live for your parents, or for anybody else, you've got to pursue your dream. So when I was 26, I decided to get into my dream of being a comedian and actor," he adds.





And that wasn't the only time he'd forge his own path in the face of criticism. To Jobrani, infusing politics into his comedy is less of a courageous career choice, and more of an inevitability. Combining his interest in social and political issues with performing and making people laugh, he has found his niche in that space. "I love it if I'm able to do comedy and also have a message," he shares. "I feel that it's raising my comedy to another level."

But despite bringing such a lovability to the stage and the screen, he's found that his jokes might not be for everyone, especially in the divided and politically-charged environment of today. Jobrani's work is, at its heart, a true expression of himself – and for the most part, he's unconcerned. "Ultimately, I don't necessarily set out to write my comedy with the reaction of the fans in mind, other than hoping that they laugh," he says. "It's about self-expression, it's about having a point of view." Although he tends to unabashedly comment on some pretty serious subject matter, Jobrani challenges himself to conclude on a lighthearted note ("I think as long as you're ending it with a punchline, you're still in the comedy game").

Still packing a punchline, Jobrani has spent his recent days tackling the world of online and socially-distanced performance. With a global lockdown in March, the stand-up comedy industry has been forced to evolve, and Jobrani has found a way to adapt, bringing his signature freshness and pluck to the Zoom screen. However, in a world that becomes increasingly digital, he prioritizes spending plenty of time away from devices and screens to prevent "virtual burnout." In fact, that's Jobrani's most important piece of advice to humankind in our collective recovery and reinvention of society once the pandemic dust settles. Social media has a tendency (and an algorithm) to turn into an echo chamber for like-minded people, and it's been detrimental to our politics and our society. Jobrani aims to change that and to get people more active in their search for truth. "Get off your phone, try to research stuff before forwarding it, and if you can, go out and be in nature," he says.

Photographer & Videographer: Haldane Morris
Editor: Eiko Watanabe

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**I THINK AS LONG AS YOU'RE
ENDING IT WITH A PUNCHLINE,
YOU'RE STILL IN THE COMEDY
GAME.**

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Peacock Sets Comedy Special From Maz Jobrani

By **Peter White** 

January 4, 2021 2:10pm

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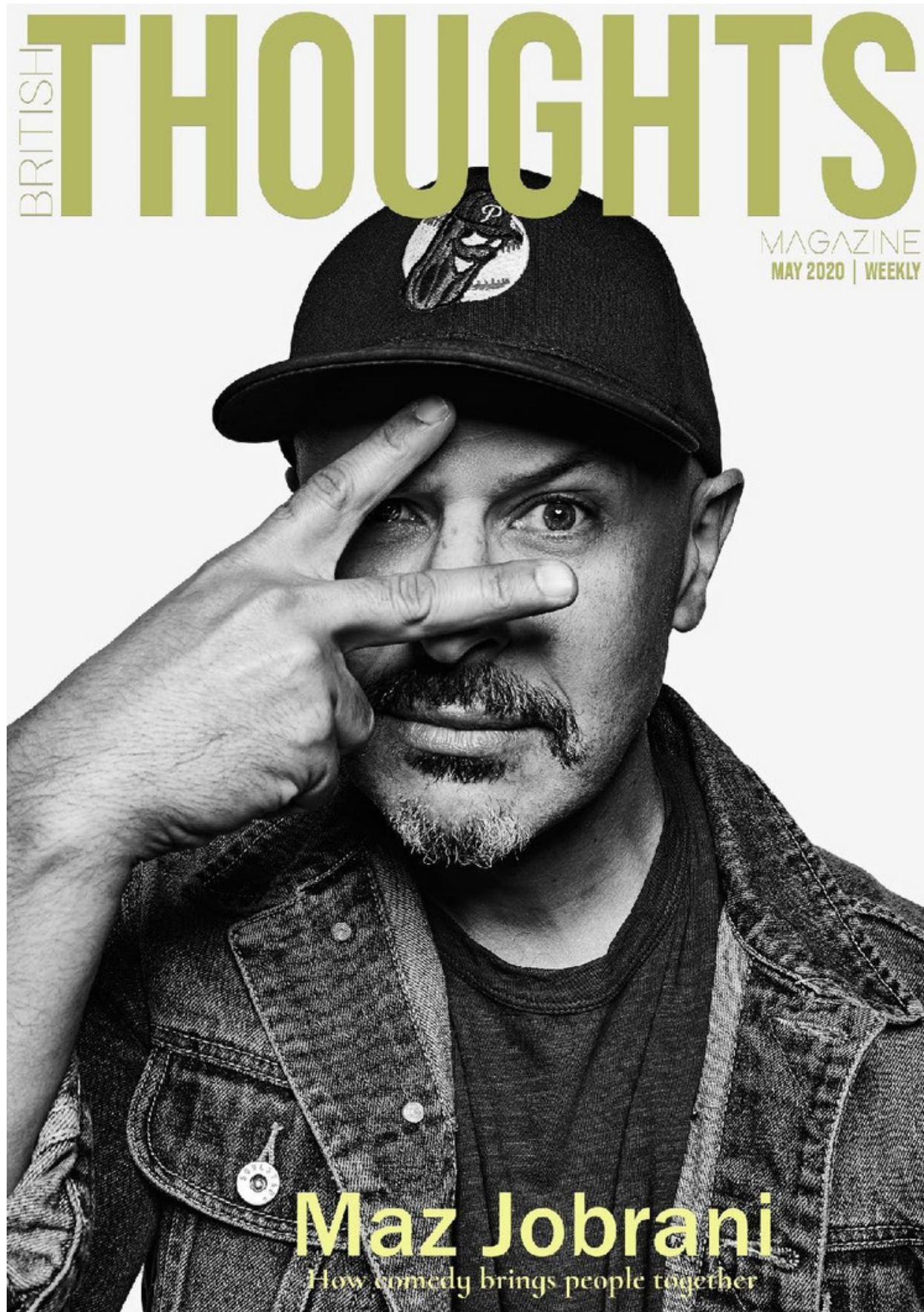
COMMENTS



Courtesy of Maz Jobrani / Peacock

EXCLUSIVE: NBCU streamer Peacock is growing its slate of stand-up specials with a new laughter from *A Simple Wedding* and *Superior Donuts* actor Maz Jobrani.

The comedian is bringing his *Pandemic Warrior* special to the service exclusively from January 28.



ART, LIFESTYLE — MAY 7, 2020

How Comedy Brings People Together : Maz Jobrani

by BRITISH THOUGHTS

#LockdownComedy

Maz Jobrani was born in Iran, and relocated to Tiburon in the San Francisco Bay area after his family was forced to flee during the revolution. He went on to receive a B.A. degree from UC Berkeley, and chose to further his education by enrolling in UCLA's PH.D. program, when he decided to change course to pursue his calling in "showbiz." Most recently Jobrani was seen opposite Rita Wilson in the indie feature "A Simple Wedding," (from the producers of My Big, Fat, Greek Wedding), and portrayed the loveable "Fawz" on the CBS comedy SUPERIOR DONUTS as a series regular. He has additionally frequented on television's most popular shows such as GREY'S ANATOMY, CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM, THE DETOUR, LAST MAN STANDING, and SHAMELESS. Jobrani starred as the title character in the award-winning indie comedy, JIMMY VESTWOOD: AMERIKAN HERO, a feature which he co-wrote and co-produced and is now available on all major streaming platforms. He's graced the silver screen in such feature films as Sydney Pollack's THE INTERPRETER, Disney's DESCENDANTS and Ice Cube's FRIDAY AFTER NEXT. His original standup special IMMIGRANT, was filmed at the prestigious Kennedy Center and is currently streaming on NETFLIX. He's also released 3 additional solo specials on SHOWTIME including: BROWN AND FRIENDLY, I COME IN PEACE, and I'M NOT A TERRORIST, BUT I'VE PLAYED ONE ON TV. Moving beyond the spotlight, Jobrani served as executive producer for EVERYTHING MUST CHANGE, a documentary about his late sister's battle with breast cancer which is currently available on iTunes. In the Spring of 2016, he performed at the White House where he had the privilege of introducing Former First Lady, Michelle Obama. In 2017, Jobrani was asked to give the keynote speech to the graduating class at UC Berkeley, for which he is an alum. No stranger to the comedy circuit, Jobrani was a founding member of THE AXIS OF EVIL comedy tour, which aired on Comedy Central. He is a regular panelist on NPR's WAIT WAIT DON'T TELL ME and has given 2 TED Talks. His LA Times Best Selling Book, I'M NOT A TERRORIST BUT I'VE PLAYED ONE ON TV, was published by Simon & Schuster. He's also given two TED Talks, 2 TED TALKS. Jobrani currently hosts his own podcast Back to School with Maz Jobrani with the All Things Comedy Network on his website, and is currently on tour with his Peaceful Warrior Tour (tickets and tour dates available at MazJobrani.com). You can additionally catch him bringing viewers a daily dose of laughs with #LockdownComedy on his Instagram platform.

ESQ & A

PANDEMIC

Amid a worldwide health crisis and a political civil rights movement, stand-up comedian still believes in the global healing power of comedy

WARRIOR

MAZ JOBRANI

INTERVIEWED BY MATTHEW BAXTER-PRIEST

16 SEPTEMBER 2020
esquireme.com

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STORM SANTOS, GROOMING BY ANGIE MIKELIAN FOR EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS, AND STYLING BY LAUREN TAYLOR

July 2, 10:00pm, via Zoom from his house in Los Angeles
ESQUIRE: Maz, tell us, is it a tough time to be a comedian at the moment?
Maz Jobrani: You know, it is actually been okay, considering all that is going on in the world.
ESQ: How so?
MJ: There's so much material coming out of the lockdown situation that I've been able to do couple of standup gigs via Zoom, and I've also started a talk show called 'Maz In The House', where I bring on a few guests, do some jokes and riff on what's going on in my life or on the news to a live audience of 150 people. There is so much going on that if I had the capacity to film it all in higher quality, I reckon I could release two or three comedy specials this year alone!

ESQ: That's awesome. So it has been a super productive time for you?
MJ: My productivity has been interesting one. I am very easily distracted as a person, so I find that I work better with other people. The other day a friend of mine was encouraging me to start writing a screenplay that I'd been talking about for ages, but I kept coming up with excuses as to why it wasn't 'the right time'. He told me to stop worrying about it being perfect. He said 'perfection is the enemy of good' and that is so true.

ESQ: What is the normal process of releasing a 'comedy special'?
MJ: A special is a filmed version of your stand-up set. So my life is basically getting up on stage around five times a week to do

stand-up, which also allows me to work on new jokes. I do this for about a year or two, until I have around an hour's worth of material— then I'll film it, release it as a special and start the cycle all over again.
ESQ: Does telling the same jokes over and over for a year get exhausting?
MJ: Not really, as you are continuously experimenting with new ways of delivering it so you can get the most laughs. The trouble is as soon as you do a joke on TV then the joke is done and you have to retire it. It's funny because if you compare comedians to rockstars, the fans want the rockstar to play their old stuff, whereas with comedians a joke is at its funniest the first time you hear so you have to keep writing new material.

ESQ: Speaking of comedy specials, you have a new one ready to drop, aptly called *Pandemic Warrior*. Tell us about it?
MJ: Last December I was doing a tour in the Middle East and while in Dubai I filmed a special of my show 'Peaceful Warrior'. We started editing it in early 2020 but then suddenly everything stopped because of the Coronavirus. Following the shows I was doing on Zoom, we ended up reworking the Peaceful Warrior show and adding some elements from me doing stand-up at my house on Zoom—the way I was been doing it during the pandemic, so it felt apt to change the name.

ESQ: Are the crowds in the Middle East much different from where you live in the US?

ESQ & A



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"The main difference between a comedian and a rockstar is that fans want to hear rockstars play their old stuff. The funniest a joke will ever be is the first time you hear it, so you have to constantly come up with new ones."

MJ: My crowds always tend to be pretty diverse, but the ones in places like Dubai are even more so. I've been lucky to witness the evolution of comedy in the Middle East. I first toured in the region in 2007 with a bunch of other Arab-American comedians as part of the Axis Of Evil Comedy Tour. It was the first time that a group of Arab-Americans did standup in the region and, in fact, there really wasn't much standup culture at all. It has been great watching the audiences grow and learn about the art form. Arab men tend to be very macho, so if you start kidding around with them they used to get offended easily. Whereas now, there is a much more widespread understanding that it is all just a joke. The promoters always used to meet us at the airport in Kuwait or the UAE and say to us 'no sex, no religion, no politics!'... except for Lebanon, they would say 'more sex, more religion, more politics'! It feels like things have

evolved because now, we don't get that same warning as before, but it is still important to respect culture. Ultimately, today, the audiences are more understanding and savvy.

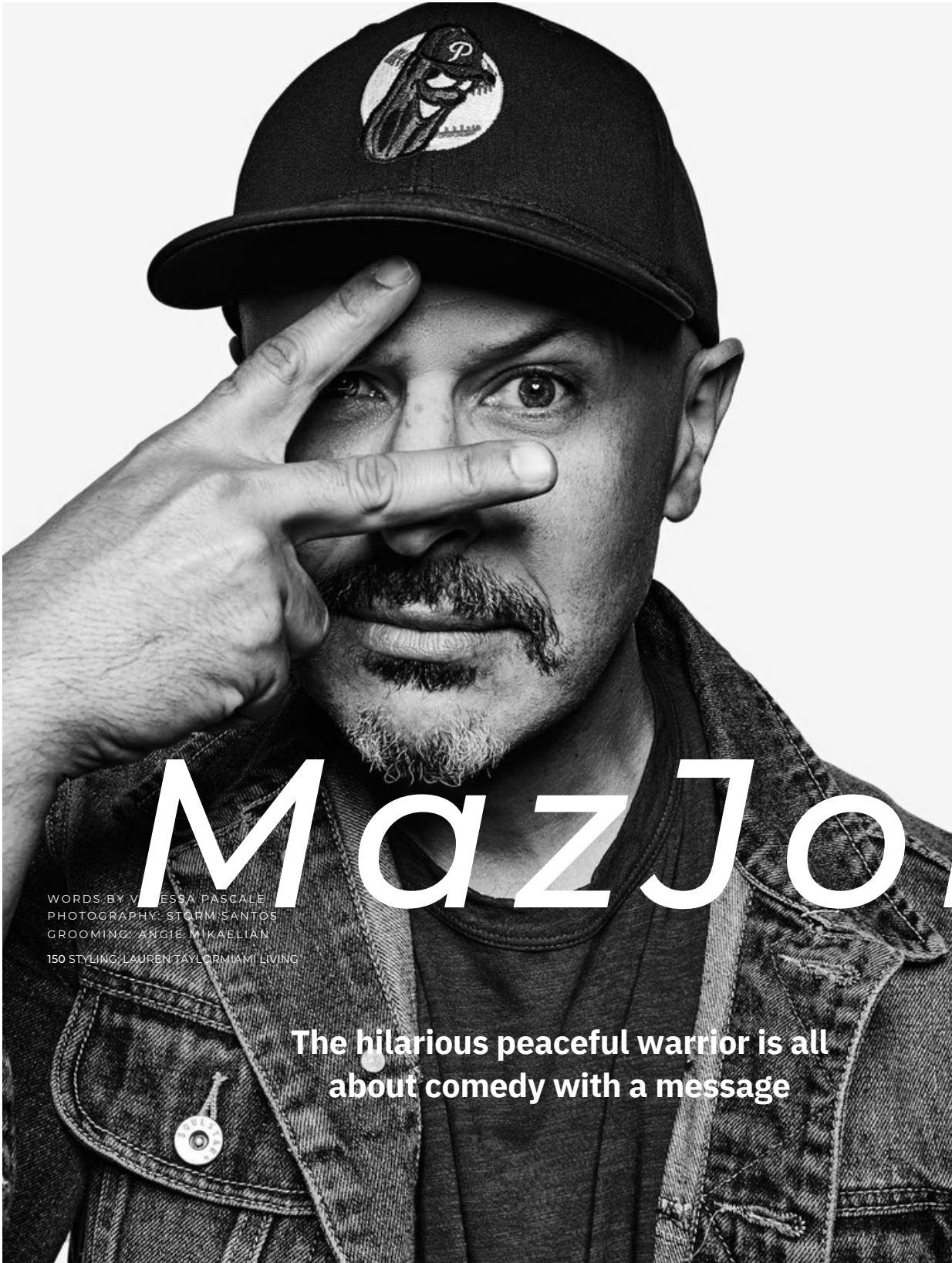
ESQ: Does an audience's diversity make things more of a challenge? Say for example you're not sure they will all get the same reference points.

MJ: One of the things I love about stand up is the boarder-crossing potential of it. It's amazing to see how much in common everyone in the world has. When I complain about my kids on stage, other people relate to it; when I talk about my parents, other people relate; when I talk about being discriminated against, other people can relate. Performing to a mixed crowd like in the UAE is one of my favourite things for that very reason.

ESQ: What is a pet hate of yours?
MJ: I hate it when people introduce me as an 'Iranian' comedian. I am a comedian, who happens to be Iranian-American. I pride myself on jokes that you can understand regardless of where you happen to be from, so why does it matter where I'm from? It's like the TV show, *Ramy*. You don't have to be an Egyptian-American male to get it. It is a great show about a young guy in New York City, regardless of the nationality of the main character. You don't have to look like the person who is on stage to get what they are saying, and I'm finding that more and more with stand up these days for sure.

Pandemic Warrior is out on Netflix now

SEPTEMBER 2020 17
esquireme.com



Maz Jobrani

WORDS BY VANESSA PASCALE
PHOTOGRAPHY: STORM SANTOS
GROOMING: ANGIE MIKAELIAN
STYLING: LAUREN TAYLOR MIAMI LIVING

The hilarious peaceful warrior is all about comedy with a message

I only recently discovered Maz Jobrani (while watching CBS’ *Superior Donuts*, which sadly, only aired for two entertaining seasons —2017-2018.) and the breadth of his talent. I did my research, watched his Netflix special, *Immigrant* and found that, not only is he funny, he is quite accomplished. In entertainment for over twenty years, Maz has done stand-up specials for Comedy Central, Showtime, Netflix...; appeared in TV shows (*Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Shameless*, *Last Man Standing*) and films (*Friday After Next*, *The Interpreter*), is helming his second podcast, and penned the book, *I’m Not a Terrorist, But I’ve Played One on TV: Memoirs of a Middle Eastern Funny Man*.

It’s late November when I meet up with Maz at The New York EDITION hotel. The place is packed to the brim with people imbibing after-work libations. “I’ll hold it like that so you can hear,” Maz offers as he takes my phone, which I’m using to record our interview, and holds it up to his mouth. “Here, you go ahead, ask the questions.”

Presently, Maz is on his Peaceful Warrior comedy tour, which he has taken all over the U.S., as well as to Europe, Australia, and the Middle East, where he recently shot a special in Dubai. “The reason I call it the Peaceful Warrior tour is because if you look at the *Immigrant* special, I talk about my kids, but then I talk about politics, about Trump—that was recorded in early 2017, shortly after he became President. The Kenner Center in [Washington,] D.C. Obviously, people in D.C. tend to be pretty liberal. During the election, people were still letting you do the Trump jokes without getting too agitated, but after the election, some people got offended at Trump jokes and they need to be reminded that in America, we can make fun of our President, whether he’s a Democrat or a Republican,” he says lightheartedly.

He recalls a few shows where he offended members of his audience. “Rather than yelling back, I said, ‘That’s fantastic, you can have your own opinion. That’s the beauty of America. We can have opinions!’ So I’m trying to deal with anybody that comes at me aggressively

from the audience when they get offended by political jokes, in a very peaceful way. Continue to still make my points... continue to be a warrior, but in a peaceful way.”

Maz has always appreciated meaningful comedy. “I actually said, ‘What point is art, if it’s not saying something?’ My first comedy hero was Eddie Murphy, and he wasn’t political, but he was a rockstar when I was a kid. But when I really started getting into it, I started listening a little bit more to what Richard Pryor was doing, George Carlin, and then later, things like *The Daily Show*. I’ve always liked it if somebody can have something that they’re doing, but also have a political message in it... If I can come up with jokes that have a message or if I can bring up an item, let’s say my audience might not be aware of, then I feel like my jokes are more, I don’t want to say effective, but I prefer those types of jokes.”

The Iranian-American (Maz was born in Tehran, Iran and raised in the San Francisco Bay area) comedian is passionate about using his platform to create awareness, but wants to make it clear that he doesn’t represent anyone, but himself. At the time of our interview, an increase in the price of gasoline had caused protests in Iran, which then resulted in their government shutting down the internet across the whole country. Maz shared that he had been using hashtags and doing a lot of social media posts to try to get Iranian people to talk about Iranian problems more as there wasn’t much coverage. “It is a very complicated place, ‘cause there’s a role that war in America to get involved they want to overthrow the government, the government can be corrupt. But a lot of Iranians don’t want a war, so it’s a very complicated issue. You gotta kinda tread lightly. Some people message me: ‘You’re not saying enough about this.’ And I’ll say something. ‘You’re saying too much. You’re a comedian, stick to comedy,’” he says, shaking his head.

Maz tries to tune out the negativity and not read the comments on social media. “As a person who is a creator, I can’t be too worried about these opinions, unless something happens

PEOPLE

What would fans be surprised to find out about you?

“That I’m really not that funny in normal, day-to-day life. I love comedy, but I can be pretty serious, even shy at times, especially at parties, when I don’t know people. I’ve reflected upon it. There’s some people that are comedians and they’re larger than life and they get into an environment and they feel they have to put it on. If I’m in an environment where I don’t know people, I’m like, ‘Let me go sit in the corner and look at my phone until somebody I know shows up.’ I’ve actually had people at charity events bid to have me come to their homes for dinner and they’ve paid a lot of money, they’re rich people anyway, but they paid \$10,000 for me to show up at dinner. I think they thought I was going to show up and be like, Don Rickles, busting everybody’s balls... I don’t have a lot of street jokes, ‘cause there’s a difference between stand-up and street jokes. A lot of times, people see you do stand-up in front of a crowd and you’re on and everything’s great. So they’re like, he’s going to come to our house and be like that... This happened a few times, where I showed up and I think they were underwhelmed. I don’t know if they wanted their money back, but the charity got the money, so take one for the team.”

PEOPLE



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MIAMI LOVE

"I'm a big fan of Miami! I was just there this past year to do the Miami Improv, then I did West Palm Beach, which was interesting to be in Trump territory doing stand-up, but it still went fine. I was right there by the beach. The only thing that worried me, I went into the water and these little tiger sharks were swimming by me and I went up to some guy and go, 'Hey man, there's a shark in there.' And he goes, 'Oh, it's just tiger sharks.' I'm like, 'Really? You sure?' It's OK, until they bite you once. I enjoyed Miami... The weather is such that you can't not be out until 3 in the morning, it's a very interesting place. This one guy we know, it was after my show, 'Let's get on my boat, we'll go to some happening club!' So we got on the boat, took us like an hour to go out, and then we showed up at this club and it ended up being the wrong club. It wasn't what we thought it was going to be, it was an after-hours Russian karaoke club. It was the weirdest. It was another dimension. We went in and we're like, 'What the hell is going on here?' They're obviously looking at us like, *Who are these guys?* But yeah, Miami was fun. Miami feels to me— 'cause I'm in L.A.— like a whole other world."

where it's an overwhelming response like, 'You're doing X, Y, and Z, which is hurting such and such people,' at which point, I would probably have my people who are close to me saying, 'Dude, you gotta take that post down.' Or whatever that is, or 'You can't do that joke.'" He finds comfort in knowing that he's not alone — that people like Howard Stern, David Letterman, and Stephen Colbert experience this too. "I remember one time, David Letterman, when he had the *Late Show with David Letterman*, he did one joke where he said, 'Now, they have free WiFi in Central Park, which is great, because that means I can take my laptop out there during lunch and read all my hate mail.' I was like, Oh my god, how much hate mail must he get or a guy like Stephen Colbert for expressing their opinions? So you can't let those opinions really alter who you are and what you're saying, as long as you're true to your beliefs, you'll be fine."

In early 2019, Maz gave podcasts another go (his first podcast was called, *Minivan Men*) and launched *Back to School with Maz Jobrani*. This time around, Maz chose a theme that allowed for endless topics. "My kids, who are 8 and 11, kept asking me questions that I did not have the answers to, things as simple as: *Why is the sky blue? How does rain work?* I'm always like, I think I know, but I'm not sure, let me Google it." Maz then decided that he would much rather bring in the experts — professors, authors, etc.— to answer these questions. "Every episode starts with questions that my kids have asked, for whoever the guest is and then we get into it and try to learn something," he explains. Former guests include, writer/producer Reza Aslan, basketball player Enes Kanter, and scientist Firouz Naderi. "It's all over the place, but it's a lot of fun and you realize there's a lot of interesting people out there." People he would like to invite onto his show in the future, include Valerie Jarrett, Frank Figliuzzi, Spike Lee, Martin Scorsese, and Al Pacino.

This month, Maz's latest film, *A Simple Wedding*, will be released in select theaters and available on most streaming

platforms on Valentine's Day. The indie film, from the producers of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, is about a young, Iranian American woman who goes to great lengths to appease her parents and their need to see her settled down. And he has two projects in development: a TV show based on his life and an animated series. He compares the former to ABC's critically-acclaimed TV show, *Black-ish*, except it's with his family. "I'm Iranian and my wife is Indian...and our kids are confused," he says with a smile. "It's that, in a setting of just trying to raise kids and also being in the middle of this divided world that we're in." Maz is co-developing/co-writing the script with Nastaran Dibai and has Jonathan Goldstein and John Daley — writer/directors of *Horrible Bosses*, *Game Night* — producing it. The animated series, which he has teamed up with Courteney Cox on, is about an immigrant family from a fictional immigrant country that comes to America. "They love America, America is skeptical about them. It's like *The Munsters*, but with immigrants. These things are a long shot, but at least we're writing something we're really happy with, so fingers crossed on that."

I really liked you in *Superior Donuts*, it's a shame they cancelled it. "I know! It was a fun show to do. Again, I'm happy to be able to, hopefully, do my own thing and we'll see. It's such a long journey and you really don't know what's going to be the thing, you just keep going. I tell my kids, the hard part of doing what I do now is being away from the family. So touring, I love being on stage but I don't like getting away from the family, but I do tell them, whatever you do, you're going to have problems, issues, there's going to be difficulties, but the beauty of it is, I really love doing what I do, so I'm not miserable going to my work, which I think, [only] a small percentage of people in the world can actually say. So I'm lucky and I'll keep going." ML

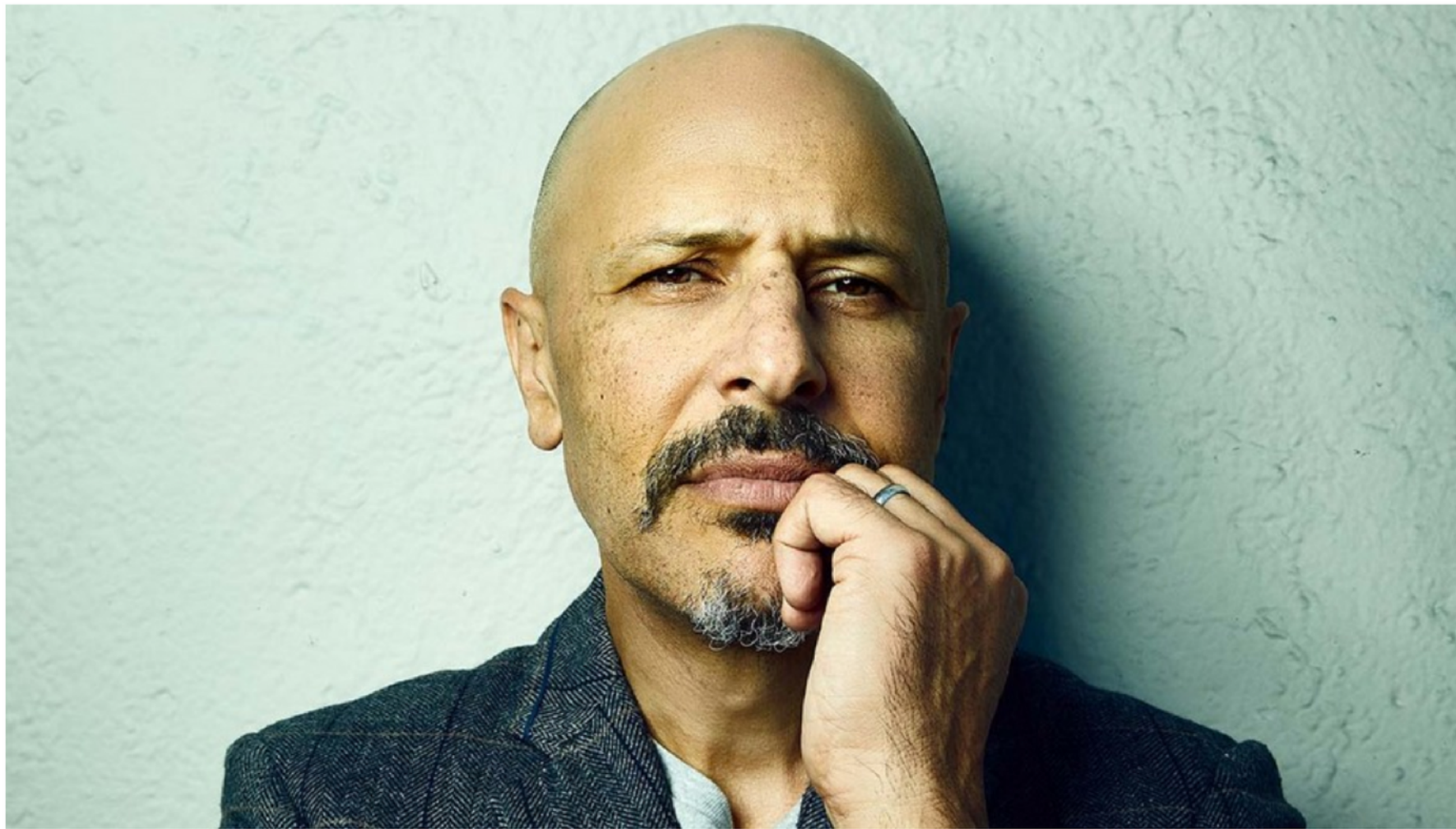
Keep up with Maz on Twitter and Instagram: @MazJobrani and <https://www.mazjobrani.com/>.

The Hollywood
REPORTER

MOVIES TV BUSINESS STYLE TECH AWARDS

Comedian Maz Jobrani on Trump, Election Volunteering and Getting Back to Touring

1:38 PM PDT 10/28/2020 by Degen Pener



RI MAG INTERVIEW: MAZ JOBRANI



Politically-minded comedians working in the Trump era have found the job fraught with more scrutiny than at any other time in memory. Iranian-born comic Maz Jobrani has found a way to toe the line brilliantly, never resorting to anger or insults and fighting for his point of view with joy. It's a tact that's bringing together both sides.

INTERVIEW BY MATT TUTHILL

friends were all different; I was friends with the athletes, I was friends with the drama club kids, I was friends with the stoners, I've always been friends with everybody. I also will say that I, as a kid, when I first came to America and the hostage crisis happened, back then they would call us effing Iranians and they would bully you, and so from a young age, I've always been someone who has always tried to stand up for the underdog and always tried to see the hypocrisy in anything coming from people in power.

So, I do get pretty passionate about the stuff that I see. I can very specifically point to the travel ban that happened and the way that it was implemented and the way that it affected people from all the countries that were on that travel ban. I was getting emails from people saying, "Hey, my parents flew in from the Middle East. They landed, they had their Visa and they were coaxed into signing away their rights and put back on a plane and sent back to the Middle East." I had people telling me that they had dying relatives that they had planned to come to see and they had the Visas and they were revoked. So it was this big mess. I saw firsthand what was happening. Something like that really gets me passionate. It gets me upset. And so maybe I'll take to social media and get angry a little bit. I always ultimately try to be funny, but at times you're passionate and you just express

yourself that way.

All of that led to me trying to go a little deeper onstage. I wouldn't call it anger, but I was just trying to analyze a little bit as to why I'm so upset by Trump and his policies, and I was digging deeper about Trump and trying to discover my problem with him. I will say that that led to a couple of times getting into arguments with some of the audience mem-

"There was a time where at least we could agree on the facts. Now we live in a very strange time..."

bers who were hardcore Trump supporters. And that's when I stepped back and realized, "Okay, you know what? I can't lose myself to this." And that's one of the reasons I called the tour 'The Peaceful Warrior tour.'

Recently at Flappers in Burbank there was this drunk lady who started yelling at me when I did my Trump jokes. And I just handled it with a smile. I said, "Hey, it's okay. You know, you have your opinion, and I have mine so you don't have to stay here. It's okay."

(You can see the full clip [HERE](#).)

One of my pet peeves is when people would say, "You're a comedian, you shouldn't be talking about politics." And I go, "That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard." You know, you're an accountant, so you shouldn't talk about politics either, only politicians should talk about politics? No, I have an opinion. I'm expressing my opinion and my job is to hopefully do it with laughs.

RI: Is there anything funny to you about the fact that we're so sharply divided and no one listens to each other? Forget policy: He's a monster to one side and the second coming to the other, and there's no in between. The absurdity of the time we live in: is that in itself funny to you?

Maz: I mean, it's absurd. It's unfortunate because I was talking to a friend of mine about this, about how there was a time where at least we could agree on the facts, and we could go from there. Now we live in a very strange time because, I keep referring to this one, which was with the whole Pizzagate thing where it came out that Hillary Clinton and Jonathan Podesta were running a child sex ring in a pizza restaurant in Washington DC. Now, just hearing that it's the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard in my entire life. It's so outlandish and yet there was a group of the population that believed it. So when you hear that, you're just

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How Maz Jobrani deals with hecklers

The 'peaceful warrior' is blissed out and rising above the f-bombs



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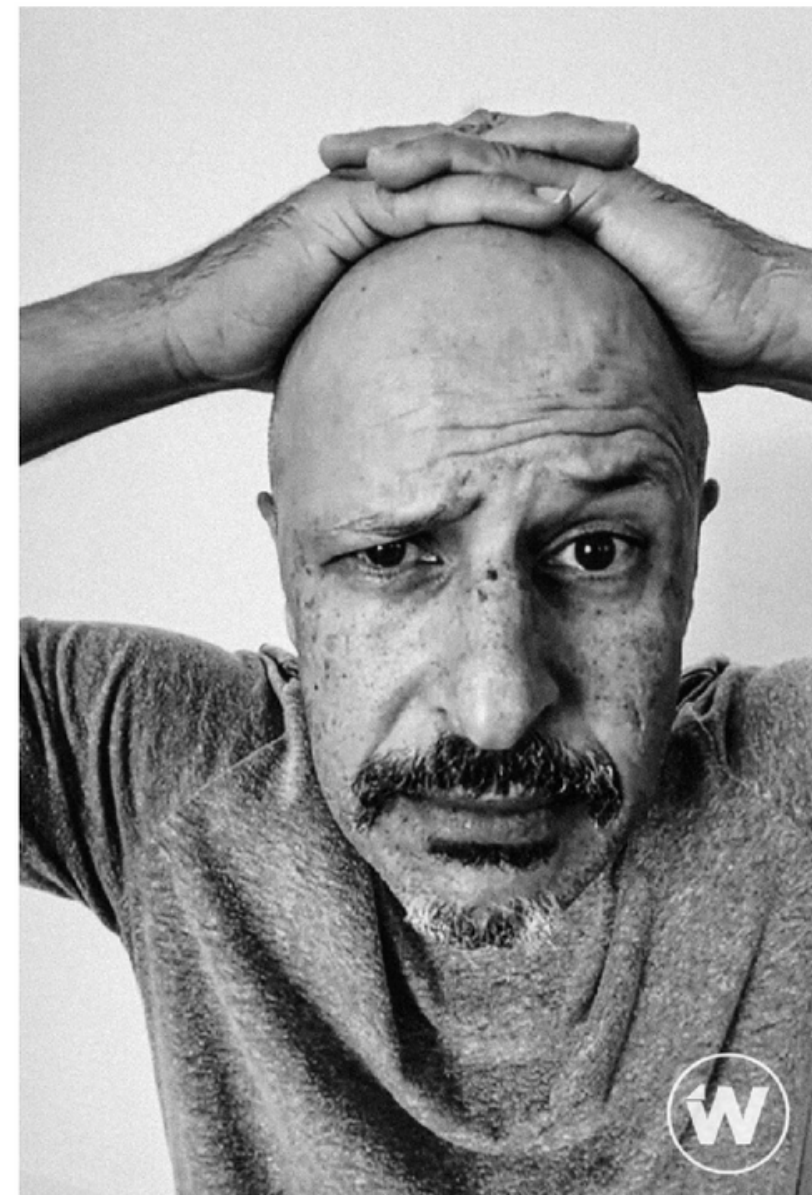
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Maz Jobrani, actor and comedian Photographed by Chris Loupos for TheWrap



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Maz Jobrani, "Pandemic Warrior"

6 minutes left



GOOD DAY LA

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Maz Jobrani, "Pandemic Warrior"

The comedian talks to Michaela about his new special now available on Peacock and explains how he turned questions from

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by GOOD MORNING WASHINGTON | Tuesday, January 26th 2021





MAZ JOBRANI

Iranian-American Comedian Maz Jobrani Dishes on Why Comedy Transcends Political Barriers

Comedian Maz Jobrani joins NBCLX and pulls back curtain on his comedy special 'Pandemic Warrior' which will air on Peacock.



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0:10 / 7:40

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Full Interview: @MazJobrani talks about staying busy with his remote podcast "Back to School", his postponed tour, the government's response to COVID-19, and how to keep us laughing under quarantine

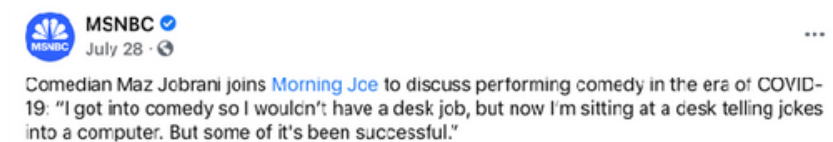


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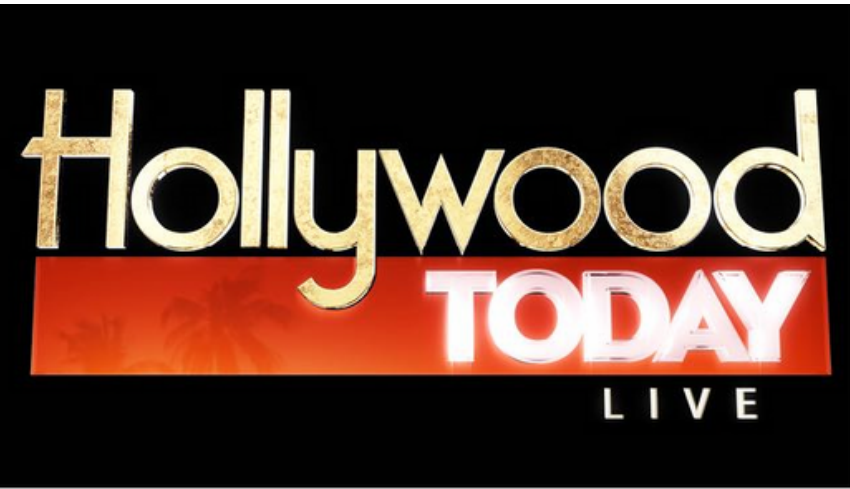
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Maz Jobrani

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Back to School with Maz Jobrani Podcast



BACK TO SCHOOL WITH MAZ JOBRANI
Ghosts, Spirits, and More with Paranormal Research...

"Back to School with Maz Jobrani," is the podcast where professors, experts and successful people from all walks of life come in to educate Maz on a variety of subjects while Maz and his team make the lessons funny. The show was inspired by Maz's 10 year-old son who asked Maz a question that he didn't have an answer for. Rather than turning to Google to answer his son again, Maz decided it was time to bring in the experts to help expand his knowledge once and for all.

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had things like September 11th, and we've had economic crashes, but you realize, you

0:58 1.4K views, places like Syria where they had



MORNING YO

By Maz Jobrani

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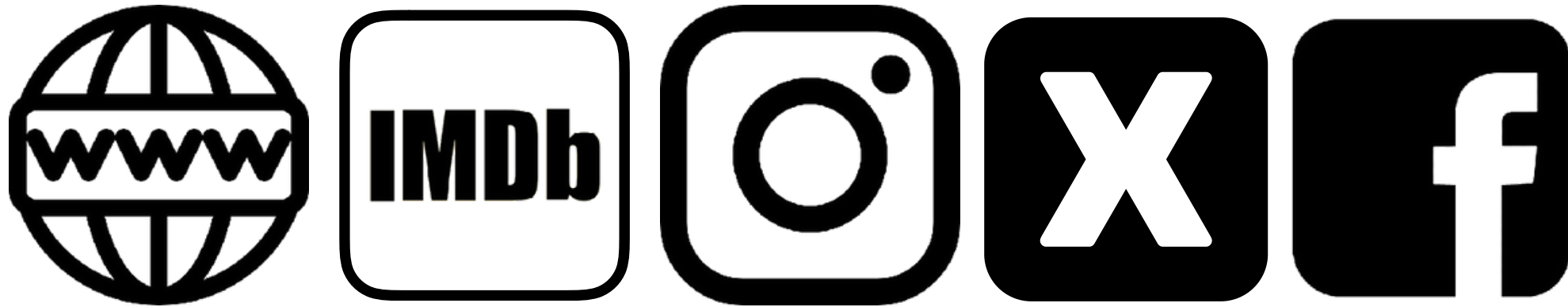




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