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-KATE CLINTON

JO: You've talked about your admiration for Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert. Why do you think it is always men in their positions and not women?

Clinton: I had a theory once that estrogen is only on during the daytime and then after 9 o'clock you can have this raging testosterone, and only testosterone. It mirrors pretty much what's happening in the comedy clubs. And I'm glad they're there. I think they're great and very funny and I don't buy something about "women don't have a sense of humor." We do. We just don't have the power to get it on the air. If we had the power we could flood the channels every night and it would be a women's point of view.

JO: How has the show gone over in Provincetown and how do you expect it will go over in less gay parts of the country?

Clinton: It's very weird. I sometimes look at my show and I think, oh my god, I haven't talked about anything gay. I remember performing in L.A. at The Improv in the early '80s and the manager saying to me after, "You can't talk about gay stuff here. It just doesn't go over," and going, "Well, all right." And then 20 years later doing a show there and, not the same guy, but a guy saying to me, "I thought you were going to do more gay stuff." That changed... I think straight people are not as—what [writer] Paul Monette used to say—homo-ignorant, they just know. I think that's great. I have always thought that what the job of the comedian is—gay, straight, whatever—is to comment on what you're going through, and I've never denied that I'm a lesbian. It's been very in-

teresting and I've always talked about it. You know originally it was a great gimmick and nobody stole my material. After 30 years of doing it and 30 years of really great organizing and courageous people coming out, it's a changed audience.

JO: What are the themes that come up in your show?

Clinton: I've noticed this summer that there's, in the context of so many liberatory movements in the Mideast or Midwest, people just standing up. In that context of liberation, I've been talking about how the LGBT movement is proudly in that context... A lot of really great radical LGBT people kicked the doors open and a lot of conservative people came through and started yelling at the people who kicked the doors down: "You kicked those doors down, damn it!" We have to guard against losing that radical energy and the part of liberation and the movement that works, [which] is really hooking up with other movements.

JO: What's your muse?

Clinton: I do think anger is a big part of it... You say things that people are thinking and there's—I felt it certainly after 9/11 and after invading Iraq—there's a way this summer I feel like you can't release it, it's really deep. People are afraid. They're freaked. Their freaking freak is on. ☪

KATE CLINTON presents The Glee Party Tour, Sat., October 29, 8 p.m.; The Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 NE Alberta St.; \$30 advance, \$33 at the door; albertarose.com.



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