

## There's no faking his comedy

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A conversation with Ant can feel like a coy comical whirlwind. The gay comedian, most famous for NBC's *Last Comic Standing* and VH1's *Celebrity Fit Club*, is performing Friday at Nova 535 in St. Petersburg, and is also scheduled to appear in Saturday's St. Pete Pride parade.

### What do you think of St. Petersburg and its gay community?

I typically don't go out. I'm an old queen. I never go out to bars anymore, it seems like. So I have a hard time sort of connecting with communities when I'm out unless they come to the show. I hear that they're smart, and quite attractive, I might add.

### What is one of the craziest things you've done, or not done, in Florida?

I met this guy who was a contestant in a male beauty pageant. He took me to go get a waxing. I spent the day preparing with him. He did a Brazilian wax. And I have never said this out loud before — I faked mine. I got on all fours and told the lady, "Don't touch me with that wax. I'm keeping my clothing on. And I'm just going to scream as loud as I can when you go 1, 2, 3." . . . I don't like pain. You know what I like? I like huggy, touchy, cutesy, let's go to the movies. That's what I like.

### You live in California. What are your thoughts on gay marriage?

When the gays got all upset about gay marriage, I didn't march because the marches when gays have them don't march anywhere. They all pass by a bar and the next thing you know the crowd is gone by half.

Here's a reason I wouldn't want to get married: Who would show up at my wedding? My entire side and my spouse's would be empty because everybody we know as gays would be working our wedding. Raphael is doing the flowers. Jose and Nick and Tim and Paul would be cater-waitering. The only people who would be at my wedding would be my parents, outside the church picketing.

### Do you change your routine for Pride shows?

I've got to be me. I don't really play a lot of gay-centric rooms. I just try to be mainstream because I figure, look, gay people live in the world. If I just do one thing for one niche, I'm just eliminating myself and that sort of goes against what we as gay people are trying to accomplish, which is visibility.

In the very beginning, I was in the closet. I used to talk about Marcy every show and I was bombing for like six months. Bommbiiiiing every night, sometimes twice a night. Marcy was my "girlfriend." . . . Well it's really Mark. . . . I started slowly creeping out of my shell a little bit. I started telling the truth. Badabing. Badabang. Badaboom. They started laughing.

### What are you going to wear when you perform?

Oh, I'm such a bad gay when it comes to that stuff. I have a stylist because . . . I don't know what good fashion is.

### For those curious, are you single?

I am single. Recently single. I was broken up on March 13 through a text message . . . I got a text message from my

partner, or ex-partner, saying, "I'm breaking up with you, consider this your notice."

Why? Do you think the men of St. Petersburg or Tampa would be interested in meeting me?

## **. IF YOU GO**

Laughter in Paradise

The event is from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Friday at Nova 535 Art Lounge, 535 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N, St. Petersburg. It features Ant, with comedian Christine O'Leary of Portland, Maine. \$50 advance, \$55 at the door. [www.stpetepride.com](http://www.stpetepride.com).

### **More Ant talk**

To hear parts of the zany interview with Ant, go online to [entertainment.tampabay.com](http://entertainment.tampabay.com).

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