

M I C H A E L
Ziegfeld

Michael Ziegfeld's professional career began in Philadelphia at age 16 when his high school allowed him to utilize the "work-study" program provided to seniors after he got himself a job as an intern at **WPHL-TV** for the local, "Dancin' On Air" and national sister show "Dance Party USA" on the **USA Network** in 1986.

1987 he became the youngest production assistant hired at an **NBC** o/o station at **KYW-TV** in TV Programming where he was assigned to production formats including magazine, talk, late night, telethon, parade & news with now-established producers including **Ed Glavin** (*The Ellen DeGeneres Show*), **Ray Murray** (*Trading Spaces*) and **Glen Davish** (*The View*).

Before graduating high school in 1989 his contract ended and Michael needed work or he would have to go back to class full time. By day, he got a job in **WCAU CBS** – News Talk Radio's PR/Marketing Department, which he landed after being the only applicant to venture out in the biggest blizzard of the season for the interview. Within each job medium that began in production, opened the door to casting as "talent" as well including stints as the "Eyewitness Teen Reporter", and radio host of "Turn For Teens".

He also accepted a night job with **Greg Thompson Productions** at a local theater as a stage technician. Over the next several years he toured with the casino revue show producer, mounting shows in every major resort location around the globe as performance coordinator, road manager, technical director, special appearances coordinator or casting and scouting.

Exposed to live entertainment Ziegfeld was drawn to the comedy acts he befriended, slowly experimenting in stand-up comedy and eventually going on tour. After three years and eventually headlining name clubs like **Caroline's**, **The Comedy Stop** and **The Funny Bone**, he was introduced to name ventriloquist, **Ronn Lucas** who inspired him to revisit his childhood love of puppetry when another club circuit staple, **Dan Horn** taught him the basics of the ventriloquism technique.

The over-saturation of comedy clubs, TV shows and comedians in the 90's, Michael added the ventriloquism into his stage show giving him a marketing edge in bookings. The 17 year comedy career had him opening or sharing the bill with names like **James Brown**, **Wynonna Judd**, **Joan Rivers**, **Don Rickels**, **The Mills Brothers**, **The Beach Boys**, **Kenny Rogers**, **Jeff Foxworthy**, **The Pointer Sisters**, **Lisa Lampanelli**, headlining stage shows in Las Vegas, Atlantic City, Reno, Tahoe, Biloxi, New York, Hollywood, cruise lines, and corporate clients with an act that included stand-up, improv, audience participation, music and his ventriloquist characters, "Willie Swallow ... *The International Bird of Prey*", "*The World's Oldest Gymnast*, *Nadia Coma*" and a talking plate of food.

Michael held an audience with **Her Royal Majesty, Queens Elizabeth II**, in 1998 he was voted **Atlantic City's "Act of the Year"** by *Atlantic City Magazine*, and branched out into acting with a voice over career lending voice to **Saturday Night Live's TV Funhouse**, **Ritz Crackers**,

The Moodsters, The American Music Awards, Coca-Cola, Mc Donald's, "Crank Yankers" and a puppeteering career creating characters for **The Jim Henson Company, Pixar, MTV, Disney** and **Comedy Central**.

His on screen appearances include **The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Comedy Central Mix, The Grammy Awards, The Jerry Lewis Telethon**.

In 2007, he co-starred with **Winona Ryder & Paul Rudd** in **David Wain's The Ten** playing dual roles of "Harlan Swallow" and "Gary" a disturbed assistant to superstar agent Fielding Barnes (Ron Silver). He also premiered his critically acclaimed, off-Broadway show "**Ziegfeld's Folly: My Rise to the Middle of Show Business**" later running in Los Angeles.

In 2008 Michael played opposite **Katherine Heigl** in **27 Dresses** when after the audition, the character was given a threaded role in the film and renamed "Ziggy", Michael's actual nick name. [See www.MichaelZiegfeld.com]

Currently Michael is bi-coastal, living in Hollywood, California while his main office of 'The Ziegfeld Company Incorporated' is based in New York City. Originally known as "**The Doctor**", he built the company including **Emmy© nominated choreographer, Brian Thomas**, TV production services director, **Nick Buzzell** (NBTV Inc.) and others as the go-to creative team resuscitating live production shows, scripts, music, flow & continuity, castings, technical design, and consulting to provide untapped sources for packaging, advertising and the PR of a Product with clients **like David Gest, NBC, Siegfried & Roy, Club Med, Global Industries, Texas Instruments, Health South, The Miss America Association, Mystic Lake Hotel & Casino, Dick Clark Productions, Anheiser-Busch International, Caesars Palace, Comedy Central** and **Celebrity Cruises** providing the stamp of a unique, creative eye to new projects in stage, television and print transcending each entertainment medium.
See [www.TheZiegfeldCompany.com]

Currently Michael is directing and developing television and digital media content for cable and network television. In 2009, he was plucked to direct the long awaited tribute to songstress, **Phyllis Hyman** live from the **Apollo** theater and the magazine/fashion TV show "Heel Me". His study of the business has allowed him the sensibility to create and direct for multiple genres including the *variety show, children's programming (animation, puppet, etc), cooking show, scripted, reality* and more.

He is represented by **Michael Pines** (*Everybody Loves Raymond*) of **Pines Management** in Los Angeles California.