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Comedian Seeks Co-Host Gig on ABC's "Live With Kelly And Doug" *Doug Hecox says his winning personality and rapid-fire wit will warm America's heart*

WASHINGTON – After 25 years of performing in comedy clubs, and for conferences and conventions nationwide, Doug Hecox says he is ready for the next chapter in his entertainment career – co-hosting “Live with Kelly Ripa” on ABC.

Hecox is no stranger to television, having made numerous appearances on CMT, CNBC, XM/Sirius and – briefly – as an audience member on “The John Davidson Show” in 1981. He has worked in a prison, a radio station, a refinery, and in the White House.

He has worked as a college professor, as a joke writer for “The Tonight Show Starring Jay Leno,” and once met Neil Armstrong. Hecox has appeared on NBC’s “Last Comic Standing,” and has published two humor books, hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles, and recorded two comedy albums.

His strength is his diversity, he said.

"I've had a lot of different jobs over the years, and learned that a good sense of humor helps. Everyone likes a co-worker with a sense of humor," he said. "Comedy is a lot like being a TV co-host – both require creativity, self-confidence and a commitment to reaching everyone in the audience – and the diversity of my work experiences help me relate to anyone, and any audience."

Hecox, who was the first comedian to perform in Washington, D.C., after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, said he got his start in comedy by telling jokes to his high school classmates – a habit he continued as an undergraduate student at the University of Wyoming.

Shortly after moving to the Nation's capital to work on Capitol Hill in 1992, Hecox debuted at the Laughing Lizard Lounge in Old Town Alexandria, Va.

"It was 'open mic' night down in their basement," he said. "I remember my so-called 'East Coast debut' had a crowd of three people - me, another performer and the guy running sound. It was pretty humbling."



In the years since, Hecox has performed with the biggest names in comedy – from George Lopez and Doug Stanhope to Emo Philips and Kathleen Madigan – at the DC Improv and other stages around the city, and comedy clubs nationwide.

Once, he gave Vice President Dick Cheney lessons in joke telling in the Vice President’s residence.

"Obviously, he was a poor student," Hecox said.

Earlier this month, readers of the Washington City Paper voted Hecox “Best Twitter Personality” in the nation’s capital – for the second year in a row – calling him “the Sultan of Snark.”

“I have done a lot, and seen a lot,” Hecox said. “That breadth of experience would make me a perfect co-host to Ms. Ripa. Hopefully she’ll give me a chance!

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For more information, visit Doug online at www.DougFun.com or on Twitter @dougfun