

# Hollywood takes notice of Kansas City Comedian

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## HOLLYWOOD TAKES NOTICE OF KANSAS CITY COMEDIAN

Nashville, TN, May 9 – There was a time when Michael Joiner looked up to heaven and said, “God, if you want me to be an actor, you better show me right now, 'cause I'm about to apply at Kmart.” Lucky for movie audiences, Joiner has landed dozens of roles since.

Joiner is fresh off the set of “11 Seconds,” a film shot in Nashville that also stars Casper Von Dien (Starship Troopers) and his wife Catherine Oxenberg of TV's “Dynasty” fame. Joiner plays a high-strung, ambulance chasing lawyer who provides some light moments to an otherwise serious drama.

While he continues to perform more than 50 comedy dates a year, his acting career has offered him opportunities he never would have imagined. “To work alongside Academy Award Winners and A-list actors has been an unbelievable experience,” says Joiner.

His big break came when cast as the lead in Sony Pictures' 2011 police drama, “The Grace Card” alongside Louis Gossett, Jr. (Iron Eagle, An Officer and a Gentleman). He then went on to star in such films as “Broken Faith” and “The Identical,” a star-studded film with Ray Liotta (Field of Dreams, Goodfellas), Seth Green (Austin Powers, The Italian Job), Ashley Judd (Double Jeopardy, Dolphin Tale) and Joe Pantoliano (The Matrix, The Fugitive).

This all came after spending years in Los Angeles chasing his dream to become an actor. Joiner studied under some of Hollywood's top acting teachers, landed an agent, then appeared in some commercials and a few TV shows. “I counted 350 auditions in five years, but nothing led to any major film roles,” says Joiner.

When the economy declined in 2009, Joiner packed up his family and moved back to his hometown of Kansas City. “I was devastated. I had to kiss my dream goodbye, but thought it was the best thing for my family.” Two months later, he got the call to play the lead in “The Grace Card,” receiving rave reviews from critics including The Hollywood Reporter and Variety. Since his break out performance in “The Grace Card”, Joiner has gone on to become one of the most in demand actors in faith based films, having starred or co starred in no less than ten features since 2011. His career is showing no signs of slowing down. The secular film and TV industry appears to be taking notice as well. “I have an agent in LA who is pushing me hard, and it's finally starting to pay off,” Joiner says.

Along with his busy acting career, Joiner is now booking comedy dates for his new tour, “Why Am I The Only One Who's Not An Idiot.” He is also busy producing several of his own film projects

that he has written, which he will also direct and star in.

For news and laughs, visit [www.michaeljoiner.com](http://www.michaeljoiner.com) and follow him on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#).

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