Steve-O Spills his Dirty Secrets to Valley "Jackass" Fans

Written by Nadine Toren

Television personality and AZfoothills.com columnist Nadine Toren is scouring the area, finding savvy Valley features, bringing readers "on the scene." Every day she'll introduce you to celebrities, athletes, and give you an inside look into local events and hot spots. She'll touch on topical issues, and keep AZ fans posted on all the big talkers around town.



He's a very famous jackass, and he's visiting the Valley of the Sun. Yep, Steve-O's in town for some special comedy shows, but it turns out, the man is more than a crazy superstar. Here's your inside scoop on Steve-O--the guy beneath the insane stuntman.

A major jackass is visiting the Valley; in fact, he's probably one of the most beloved jackasses out there. Nope, it's not Knoxville or Wee Man; Bam, Ape, or Phil…it's 37-year old Stephen Glover—a.k.a., Steve-O.

Yep, the raunchy, radical, tattoo-infused stunt man is in AZ, sharing his filthy (yet entertaining) secrets to anyone dirty enough to listen. He's taking center-stage at the Phoenix comedy club Stand Up Live, sharing stories sure to make you laugh.

"I shamelessly divulge every detail of crazy things that have happened to me," said Steve-O.

Like the time he hooked up with a farting stripper.

But turns out Steve-O is much more than a reckless superstar; in fact, the guy's got soul.

"I work really hard to find a separation between my personal life and my career as Steve-O. When I get on stage, I'm on a mission to prove I'm as crazy as I've ever been, but I really live a simple life," he said.

The MTV celeb was born in England, but spent his childhood as a self-proclaimed corporate brat. His father took their family on quite an adventure, moving the family all around the world. Steve-O lived in Brazil, Venezuela, and Canada, but wrapped up high school in London.

"It was cool, but I was an uncomfortable kid—uncomfortable in my own skin. Moving around was interesting, to say the least."

After high school, Steve-O ventured to the University of Miami eager to earn a communication degree and get into advertising. However, things didn't quite go as planned—he instead majored in *not* going to class, and apparently, was very good at it.

"I was not cut out for school."

After dropping out, Steve-O didn't do much except for honor his love for film. He decided to ditch everything advertising; instead, pursuing making a career out of making videos—capturing crazy stunts via his video camera. However, he wanted to star in his own videos.

"I went to clown college to seek legitimacy."

Yes, you read right—Steve-O graduated from the *Ringling* Bros. and *Barnum & Bailey Clown College to earn respect as a stunt man. Believe it or not, he actually spent time working in a flea market circus and strutted his clown skills aboard cruise ships. But throughout his entire entertaining stint, Steve-O never surrendered his video camera; in fact, he made skateboarding videos on the side.*

"The (Jackass) crew and I were often featured in skating magazines, and the videos we created were pretty naughty."

And we all need a little bit of naughty.

Apparently the guy behind their vulgar videos went to Spike Jones, the creator of MTV's Jackass series. Steve-O's group of guys were so incredibly out there and entertaining, that Jones decided to give them a show of

their own: Jackass, strictly meant to showcase their ridiculous behavior and personalities.

"Ryan Dunn strangled me unconscious 6 times in a row one day. That's probably the craziest thing I've ever done."

The TV show launched in 2000, and gained quite an audience. They returned to MTV airwaves for 3 seasons, followed by producing popular Jackass movies. (The most recent one came out in 2010.) Aside from a couple broken teeth and countless tattoos, Steve-O says he hasn't suffered permanent damage from his insane stunts.

"We're all like family—it was a whirlwind of crazy fun."

And his like-brothers supported Steve-O when he opted for sobriety in March, 2008. He admittedly says he hit rock bottom battling alcohol addiction and the struggles that went along with it.

"I felt really bad about myself that I almost didn't want to live."

But he powered through the down times, and lives to tell his story. I'm sure his parents never expected their jackass son to end up on the New York Times Best-Seller List; yep, Steve-O is the proud author of *Professional Idiot: A Memoir.*

"I know my family appreciates the book recounts my *past* experiences, not what I do now."

Currently, Steve-O is a flourishing vegan and *kind of* on the market. He says he's in the potential process of making a special someone his girlfriend—he's into sober lovely ladies who value a healthy lifestyle.

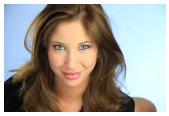
"I just want someone who I get along with."

The famed A-lister lives in Glendale, California, and enjoys his dogs, sleeping, and reading spiritual novels. (And take it from me, the guy has mad hacky sack skills.)

All in all, Stephen Glover is a simple, laid-back guy, but Steve-O undoubtedly resides inside him. He flawlessly flaunts a contagious smile, and knows how to work his magnetic personality. While you might call him a fool for his stupid laundry list of stunts, Steve-O is, by far, the opposite of a jackass.

To check out his show, visit www.standuplive.com.

For more on Steve-O, visit www.steveo.com.



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