

BIO

“Joe is one of the most brilliant, courageous and gifted artists on the globe. He tells difficult truths with unsparing honesty leavened with glorious wit and humor.”

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, Georgetown University

“Joe is a refreshing and seldom heard voice of the hip-hop generation that deserves listening and watching.”

Danny Hoch, Actor/Writer

“Joe’s work offers a fresh perspective that is both honest and insightful.”

Dr. Cornel West, Princeton University

“Joe is an inspiring voice and talent. His work is humorous and powerful.”

Saul Williams, Musician/Poet

“Joe ain’t afraid to be entertaining, in fact highly entertaining is what he is. Joe, I’ve noticed, likes to take chances and push the audience close to the edge.”

Marc Smith, Founder of the Slam Movement and Poetry Slam, Inc.

A two-time HBO Def Poet, Joe Hernández-Kolski is an actor/writer committed to creating work that challenges the audience while making them laugh. He currently lives in Los Angeles. Born and raised in the city of Chicago, Joe began acting professionally as a child. He is a graduate of Princeton University.

As an actor, he was cast in the summer blockbuster **Hancock**, starring Will Smith, and recently shot a scene with Robert Downey Jr. and Jamie Foxx in **The Soloist**, directed by Joe Wright (“Atonement.”). Joe’s short film **Afterschool’d**, which he wrote, produced and acted in, was chosen as one of seven finalists in NBC’s Comedy Short Cuts Festival. His two-person show, “So Fresh and So Clean,” with beatboxer/comedian Joshua Silverstein, has been receiving rave reviews since its debut at the bang comedy theater in Los Angeles. It will be presented at the Comedy Central Stage and will soon make its way to New York City. Joe’s first hip-hop theater piece, “You Wanna Piece of Me?” with DJ Jedi (Digable Planets, Def Poetry Jam Tour) has been performed all over the country, including Ars Nova NYC, the San Francisco Hip-Hop Theater Festival and the New York International Fringe Festival where the show received a great review in *The New York Times*. In addition, Joe received glowing reviews from both *Variety* and *The Los Angeles Times* for his dual-performance in Center Theater Group’s production of **The Stones** at the Kirk Douglas Theatre. Joe played both Yahoo, a 15-year-old boy in trouble with the law, and Russo, the detective investigating the case. Currently, he can be seen mixing it up with actors like Esai Morales, Danny Trejo and Judy Reyes as the host of Si TV’s **Not So Foreign Filmmakers Showcase**, a nationally-televised show dedicated to independent film that he co-wrote. The second season is currently airing. Before that, he was touring with **The Bomb-itty of Errors**, a Hip-Hop version of Shakespeare’s “The Comedy of Errors.” The cast performed in London’s West End at the famous New Ambassadors. The show’s also been to Dublin, Chicago, Florida and won the **STAGE Award for “Best Ensemble”** at the 2002 Edinburgh Fringe Theater Festival in Scotland.

As a Spoken Word Poet, Joe recently opened for John Mellencamp at the Charter One Pavilion in Chicago. He performed on both season four and season six of HBO's **Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry**. He currently tours around the country with his performance entitled, "Refried Latino Pride." His blend of comedy, social commentary and personal stories attracts fans from all different backgrounds. The audience response at colleges and universities nationwide has been unbelievably positive.

As a teacher, Joe continues to work with several organizations throughout Los Angeles teaching Hip-Hop Culture and Spoken Word Workshops. He currently hosts **DownBeat 720**, an open-mic for high school youth sponsored by the City of Santa Monica. The televised version, **Downbeat Showdown**, that Joe hosts and produces, received the **LA Emmy** for "Outstanding Youth Programming."

To see him perform or read his poetry online, check out his website:
HYPERLINK "http://www.pochojoe.com" www.pochojoe.com

JOE HERNÁNDEZ-KOLSKI Management:

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Adel Nur, Three Tier Entertainment (310) 888-7774