



Sam Koletkar, Indian Seinfeld?

by Uduak Oduok



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At first glance, Samson Koletkar appears like your typical software engineer. At night, however, he transforms in a manner reminiscent of Superman of the TV series *Lois & Clark* [okay not literally] to a comedian whose sole presence on stage is to make his audience laugh, laugh and laugh some more!

Koletkar also another intriguing layer to him as he is the world's only known Indian-Jewish Comedian. Indeed his uniqueness has earned him the title among fans and fellow comics as "The Indian Seinfeld." TIE caught up with Koletkar, another of the BOLD acts that will be performing at TIE CON 2009, to get all the scoop about his work as a comedian and being the world's only Indian-Jewish Comedian! Enjoy.

TIE: Hi Samson! How are you?

Koletkar: I am intrigued about what you are going to ask me. [Smiles]

TIE: Don't worry. I'll go easy on you. [laughs] When I heard about you, I remember asking which one are you, Indian or Jew? Could you explain your background to our audience?

Koletkar: I am an Indian Jew. Just like there are Indian Hindus and Indian Muslims, I am an Indian Jew.

TIE: Correct me if I wrong. But there are not many of your kind, are they? [Laughs]

Koletkar: If you are talking about Jews in India, 5 to 6 thousand with 2000 years of history. If you are talking about an Indian Jewish Comedian - none, nada, nobody else!

TIE: Jewish-Indian Comedian! [laughs] One Indian comedian I watched and absolutely love is [Canada's Russell Peters](#). He penetrates and cuts across all audiences with his hilarious jokes. What are the similarities you think you share with Russell Peters, for example, when it comes to connecting with your audience?

Koletkar: Firstly, Russell Peters is a big reason why I became a comedian. I didn't know there were any Indian standup comedians in the business until he broke through. As far as similarities go, we are both Indian, so the audience gets to hear a lot of the Indian perspective of things. But he is a 2nd generation immigrant, while I am 1st generation, so there are a lot of differences in our perspectives.

TIE: I understand during the day you are a Software Engineer. Why oh why? [Laughs]

Koletkar: Because my parents spent 22 years of their lives making sure I become one. Actually software is not bad. It could have been worse. I could have been a doctor and very responsible for population control.

TIE: [Laughs] Okay. So, in the day time, you are an employee but at night, you basically switch to being a Comedian/entrepreneur i.e managing yourself. Nice website by the way! What has surprised you the most in taking on your entrepreneur role?

Koletkar: Thanks. The biggest surprise is the amount of surprise others have expressed in my dual career. As a 1st generation immigrant venturing into standup, my oblivion-to-cognizance story is like the *Slumdog Millionaire*, except that I wasn't really a slum dog and I ain't a millionaire...yet!

TIE: [laughs]

Koletkar: [Continues] Other than that, entrepreneurship is surprisingly fun. People say it is hard work, but when you enjoy what you do it doesn't feel too hard and it certainly doesn't feel like work.

TIE: **That makes for a great transition to my next question! TIE CON 2009 is all about being a BOLD entrepreneur. What to you makes a BOLD entrepreneur?**

Koletkar: Entrepreneurship itself is bold. It's the choices you make. You can make excuses for not doing something or find reasons for doing it. You can sit and ponder questions or you can go after finding the answers. I think there are 2 types of entrepreneurs: those that know exactly what they want and go after it, and those that trying to figure out what they exactly want and go after it until they find what they exactly want and then go after it.

TIE: **Interesting. Okay one fun question before you go, one I know you have a lot to say on this one.** [laughs] **Let's see how funny you are!**

[Laughs] **No pressure.** [Laughs]

Koletkar: [laughs] That is funny.

TIE: **What is your favorite American food and why?**

Koletkar: I dread American food! Whenever I have the misfortune of eating American food, like mashed potatoes, the first thing I do is put some salt and pepper, each and every time. That's why I really pity all those countries that are struck with natural disasters like tsunamis and earthquakes. Is it not bad enough that people there have lost their families and their homes, that America goes and makes food drops? As if to say, "Oh, you think your life sucks? Here, eat some mashed potatoes! Maybe that will help put things in perspective." And that's where, I believe, India has a good chance to build some public relations. Every place that America makes food drops at, India should fly behind and drop some salt and pepper.

TIE: [Laughs] **Thank you so much Koletkar. We look forward to your performance!**

Koletkar: Thank you! I look forward to a fun evening at the TIE CON!

[Watch Samson Koletkar here.](#)

[Visit Samson Koletkar's website.](#)

Samson Koletkar will perform on May 16th, 2009. Visit www.tiecon.org to register and purchase your tickets today!

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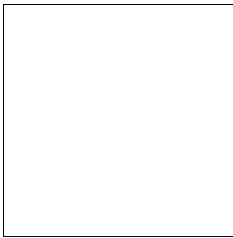
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