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LEE'S SUMMIT CARES @LEESUMMITCARES
"VOLUNTEERING! HOLLY FESTIVAL BY LEE'S SUMMIT
CARES, BLUE SPRINGS YMCA HOLIDAY AUCTION. BOTH FUN,
WORTHWHILE ACTIVITIES!"

JILLIAN BERGER @JILLIANPRSSA
"MY FAMILY & I ENJOY SPENDING THE HOLIDAYS
TOGETHER & TRAVELING TO THE PLAZA TO ENJOY THE
LIGHTS AND HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES."



MOLLY HAMID
"SEEING THE PLAZA LIGHTS!"

RANDY BORTZ, REALTOR
"MY WIFE AND I LOVE TAKING OUR DAUGHTERS TO SEE THE
COUNTRY CLUB PLAZA LIGHTS!"



THE LAUGH FACTORY

When he's not leading a technical team at VML, Brad Meehan celebrates the funny side of life as a standup comedian.

by KATY SCHAMBERGER



Golfing. Running. Painting. Cooking. Many professionals opt to pursue a hobby—or several—in their spare time, whether as a way to escape, unwind or simply fulfill a lifelong passion.

Brad Meehan, group technical director at VML, spends his free time behind a microphone or in front of the camera making a longtime dream come true. “I’ve always loved to make people laugh,” he says. “It’s my favorite sound in the world.”

The Grand Rapids, Mich., native started standup comedy and commercial acting 11 years ago after auditioning for an indie film and performing at an open mic night. The rest, as they say, is history.

FROM SERVICE TO SOFTWARE

It’s not every day you meet someone who juggles a full-time career with acting and comedy, but then again, Meehan tends to take the road less traveled. After serving with the U.S. Air Force, he decided at age 30 to pursue a career in technology, a move that presented him with “a big learning curve,” he admits. “There was a lot of work involved.”

He moved to Kansas City from California and started working at VML, first as a contract software developer before being promoted to a full-time position as a technical architect. Now, as group technical director, Meehan leads the technology professionals for a particular client alignment within the company, overseeing pretty much anything having to do with Web or mobile—or, as he puts it, “any device you’re supposed to turn off when you’re on a plane.”

He’s spent more than a decade working as a software developer, cultivating an enviable career that’s allowed him to work with “an amazing list of clients.” But for Meehan, one dream job isn’t enough. He’s made his second office the stage.

BRAD MEEHAN: CLASS ACT

If you’ve seen a local television commercial, there’s a good chance you’ve seen Meehan in action. From Shawnee Mission

Kia and Bob Hamilton to Prairie Brand Casino and Sunflower Broadband, Meehan has provided on-camera talent for a large number of local brands. His work proved so compelling, in fact, that he’s earned two Emmy nominations. Yet with no wins as of yet, he calls himself “the Susan Lucci of the commercial world.”

Because Meehan is as comfortable on stage as he is in front of a camera, he regularly performs standup comedy at venues around the city. His most common subject matter? Parenthood. “I’m a single dad at 43, so it really does make for some great material,” he says.

Since Meehan has no shortage of comedic inspiration, he not only channels his real-life experiences into his material, he also shares daily anecdotes and hilarious quotes from his kids on his Facebook page. A recent example:

Meehan: *Connor, I swear. You’re the only person I know who can take a 20-minute shower and still come out with dry hair.*

His son, Connor: *You’re the only person I know who can come out of the shower with less hair.*

Meehan: *Touché.*

Connor: *You mean, ‘Toupee?’”*

Because his comedy is largely centered on his family life, Meehan says he keeps his material clean, which also helps with his work and bookings.

Not only has he received local recognition and acclaim, he’s also appeared on national stages. Meehan was one of three finalists on “The Today Show’s” Quest for the Best: Finding The Funniest Comedian. He’s also submitted numerous top 10 jokes for “The Late Show with David Letterman.”

Two full-time careers and raising a family? There’s no doubt that Meehan knows how to juggle a crazy schedule. For him, making people laugh is the payoff—and if he can help a worthy cause, even better.

“I lost my mom to breast cancer when I was 9,” he says. “When I was younger, I wanted to cure cancer, but I didn’t get the grades. Now, any chance I have to volunteer for anything cancer-related, I’ll do it.”

Now that deserves a standing ovation. **KC**



IMPROV



“I’VE ALWAYS LOVED TO MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH. IT’S MY FAVORITE SOUND IN THE WORLD.”

- Brad Meehan

10 random facts about Brad Meehan

10. He’s never seen “Bambi.”
9. He speaks Italian.
8. His favorite f-word is “fatherhood.”
7. His life goal is to play Plinko on “The Price Is Right.”
6. He gets the hiccups when he eats a Burger King Whopper.
5. He irons his clothes on the floor instead of an ironing board.
4. He’s been to more countries than states.
3. He once ate a flower in protest of not being able to keep a stray dog. He got to keep the dog.
2. Whenever he’s in a meeting and someone says “stakeholder,” he pretends they said “steak holder.”
1. If you rearrange the letters of Brad’s last name, it spells Hee-Man.