

JOE HERNÁNDEZ-KOLSKI

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Representation:

American Program Bureau (800) 225-4575

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’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



A two-time HBO Def Poet and Emmy Award-Winner, Joe Hernández-Kolski is an actor/poet/comedian who is constantly in demand, known for his live performances that are hard-hitting, truthful and incredibly funny. He has opened for everyone from legendary musician John Mellencamp to Hillary Clinton. He has performed at over one hundred high schools, colleges and universities around the country. His blend of comedy, social commentary and personal stories attracts fans from all different backgrounds. Click [here](#) for an article about a recent college show. Click [here](#) for detailed testimonies about his performances.

Originally from Chicago, Joe now lives in Los Angeles. He is a graduate of Princeton University where he worked closely with Cornel West and Toni Morrison.

As an actor, Joe stays balanced between film, television and stage. Most recently, he appeared as Dr. Maurice Acevedo on NBC’s Law & Order. He also appeared in the Netflix reboot of **Gilmore Girls** in a role that was written for Lin-Manuel Miranda. Joe writes a lot of his own material, from [award-winning short films](#) to numerous [solo shows](#). His work has received glowing reviews in the [The New York Times](#) and [LA Weekly](#). Joe’s first solo hip-hop theater piece, **You Wanna Piece of Me?** was published by the University of Michigan press in a hip-hop theater anthology, [Say Word: Voices from Hip Hop Theater](#).

As a spoken word poet/comedian, Joe created a very personal storytelling video with Rainn Wilson’s web company [Soul Pancake](#). Joe was chosen to warm up the crowd for Hillary Clinton’s speech at the [Unidos US annual conference](#). He performed on both season four and season six of HBO’s [Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry](#).

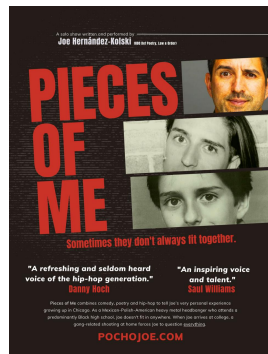
Joe is currently touring four shows:



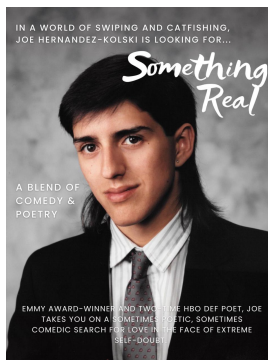
Refried Latine Pride - Joe’s most requested show, Joe pokes fun at his childhood, his insecurities as a Mexican-American self-proclaimed “pocho” and his college experience. Watch as Joe gives you some advice on how to survive college based on his own mistakes!



How to be a Bad Latino - Joe has always struggled with fitting into the box checked “Latino.” Joe starts by talking about his own insecurities, growing up Polish & Mexican in Chicago and how that affected his experience as a Latino student at Princeton University. He didn't fit in ANYWHERE. Once he graduated, he moved to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career. Joe planned to redefine what it means to be Latine in entertainment but... that’s not exactly what happened.



Pieces of Me - A solo show that combines comedy, poetry and hip-hop dance to tell Joe’s very personal experience growing up in Chicago. As a Mexican-Polish-American heavy metal headbanger who attends a predominantly Black high school, Joe doesn't fit in anywhere. When Joe arrives at college, a gang-related shooting at home forces Joe to question everything.



Something Real - Joe takes you on a sometimes poetic, sometimes comedic search for love in the face of extreme self-doubt. During this performance, Joe challenges his own entitlement, including current ideas of masculinity and what it means to be a "real man." He also talks openly about his own romantic relationships and he challenges what it means to be a “nice guy.”

All of Joe's college and high school shows take a high energy interactive approach at discussing diversity on campuses. As Joe says, “My goal is to always help students find their own voice and be their best version of their self.” To watch his college demo reel, click [here](#).

As a teacher, Joe continues to work with several organizations throughout Los Angeles teaching Hip-Hop Culture and Spoken Word Workshops. He co-created **Downbeat 720**, an open-mic for high school youth sponsored by the City of Santa Monica. For over twenty years, they have created a safe and supportive space for high school performers. The televised version, **Downbeat Showdown**, that Joe hosted and produced, received the **LA Emmy** for “Outstanding Youth Programming.”

To learn more, go to pochojoe.com/college-shows