

# 'Eternally Tired' — Wanda Sykes as mom

BY KEVIN KELLY  
*Daily News Staff Writer*

Wanda Sykes, star of stage, screen and cartoons — and who has newborn twins to help take care of — maintains a hectic pace.

The sharp-tongued comedian is on tour, fleshing out new material for an HBO special in late August; starts shooting the next season of CBS' "The New Adventures of Old Christine" in August; and will host a late-night talk show Saturdays on Fox in the fall.

"After this interview, I'm off for a week and then I'm back on the road," Sykes told *The Daily News* on Wednesday. She will stop off in San Francisco for four performances at Cobb's Comedy Club on July 17-18. The early shows have already sold out.

Sykes stormed onto the world stage as the headliner at this year's White House Correspondents' Dinner in May, where she roasted the Obamas and also famously skewered radio right-winger Rush Limbaugh when she called him the 20th hijacker — "but he was just so strung out on Oxycontin he missed his flight."

"I have no idea why the association chose me," she said, adding that she never had to run her material by anybody at the White House before she hit the podium. "Of course, you jump at the chance to do it, but then you're terrified. But I just thought, 'I hope they know what they're getting.' If it goes wrong, then I would say, 'What the hell were you thinking?'"

"It was wild because my wife is French and her family was calling up saying they were watching it," she said.

Sykes and her wife, known only as Alexandra, married in October 2008, and Alexandra gave birth to fraternal twins Olivia and Lucas in late April. The pair had been dating for two years, but Sykes didn't go public that she was a lesbian until the California Supreme Court handed down its ruling on gay marriage and they were married.

"(Coming out) was never about my career," Sykes said. "My choice not to go public was to live my life like everybody else. I don't consider myself an activist, but I am active."

As she put it on a previous special, "Wanda Sykes: Sick and Tired," which was nominated for an Emmy in 2007, "It's very simple: If

you don't believe in same-sex marriage, then don't marry somebody of the same sex."

Her current act focuses more on the joys and travails of being a new mother. As such, she joked that she might call her upcoming HBO special, "Eternally Tired."

Sykes, 45, was a comedy late-bloomer. Having just gone to work as a contracting specialist for the National Security Agency in 1987 after earning a bachelor's degree in marketing, she entered a talent show in northern Virginia on a whim.

"The first time was great," she said. "I was just telling 'Seinfeld'-like jokes, 'You ever wonder ... ,' just these observations, but I definitely knew I had a knack for telling jokes."

Sykes said if it wasn't for the comfort of a good-paying job to fall back on, she might never have been able to switch careers. But after five years of honing her talent, she quit the NSA job, moved to New York and was discovered by Chris Rock, eventually working as a writer and guest star on "The Chris Rock Show" from 1997 to 2000.

Although Sykes stars on a hit TV show, has been in a string of feature films such as "Evan Almighty," "My Super Ex-Girlfriend" and "Monster-in-Law," and performs voiceovers for animated films, Nickelodeon's "Back at the Barnyard" and Applebee's commercials, she says her first and true love is stand-up.

"It's just so rewarding, that's when I feel the funniest," she said. "Having a talk show will allow me to be more stable."

Meaning with her weekly monologue, Sykes won't have to go on the road and can spend more quality time at home.

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Wanda Sykes



Photo by Roger Erickson; digital manipulation by Daily News

**When:** 8 p.m. (sold out) and 10:15 p.m. July 17-18

**Where:** Cobb's Comedy Club, 915 Columbus Ave., San Francisco

**Tickets:** \$40.50; 415-928-4320 or [www.cobbcomedyclub.com](http://www.cobbcomedyclub.com)