Dan Savage grew up in “a loud, argumentative, and very Catholic” family, and came out as gay as fruit cocktail.

Originally known as a gay-sex columnist, he is now a household name thanks to his “It Gets Better” video project on YouTube. The project, which has gained immense popularity since its creation in mid September 2010, asks people to make and upload short positive videos about their experiences about the LGBT community. Millions have viewed the videos and participated so far, including President Barack Obama and entertainer Janet Jackson. Advertising Age has called “It Gets Better” one of the top social media campaigns of 2010. In March 2011, he released the book, It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying and Creating a Life Worth Living. In February 2012, Mr. Savage hosted a television special, It Gets Better, on MTV and Logo.

In June 2011, Mr. Savage won a Webby Special Achievement Award from the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences for the project. A month later, Mr. Savage was named one of the 2011 “Power 50” as well as the “Out 100” by Out magazine for the campaign’s tremendous impact on the LGBT community and was also selected for O, The Oprah Magazine’s 2011 O Wow! list of breakthrough achievers.

If the religious right really wanted to stop gay sex, says Mr. Savage, “they should get behind gay people adopting, because nothing puts a stop to gay sex faster.”

In addition to writing his column, Mr. Savage is now the editor of The Stranger. He’s also active in theater, directing queer plays under the name Keenan Hollahan. Keenan is Mr. Savage’s middle name, and Hollahan is his grandmother’s maiden name.

“Dying is easy,” Mr. Savage says. “Coming out is hard.”

The once-a-week column is funny, informative, outrageous, nonjudgmental (about consenting sex acts), and very judgmental (about moronic letter-writers). “Savage Love” is now syndicated to better alternative weeklies across America. In his new MTV series, Savage U, which premiered on April 3, 2012, he travels the country, dispensing sex advice to college students.

Mr. Savage is the author of The Commitment: Love, Sex, Marriage, and My Family, Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America, Savage Love: Straight Answers from America’s Most Popular Sex Columnist, and The Kid: What Happened After My Boyfriend and I Decided to Go Get Pregnant. The latter book tells how Mr. Savage and his boyfriend adopted their son from his willing mother, a “spare-changing gutter punk.” It is also the inspiration for a musical from the producers of Avenue Q, which debuted in the 2009–2010 season for the New York-based New Group theater company.

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