

The Renaissance

2009-10: volume 13



Brian Regan

Regan is known for his sophisticated balance of observational-humor writing and his physicality. He has made numerous television appearances on shows such as *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, *the Late Show* with David Letterman, *Late Night* with Conan O'Brien, *Dr. Katz: Professional Therapist*, and many other Comedy Central shows. He's also been named one of Dennis Miller's favorite comedians on his show, *Dennis Miller Live*. He tours frequently with and opens for Jerry Seinfeld. Regan has also released a CD entitled "Brian Regan Live" which sold over 150,000 copies since it was released in 1997. In 2000, he showcased several Comedy Central Presents specials and by 2004 released the "I Walked on the Moon" DVD. Regan's top-notch observational humor has earned him a spot in the light. His comedy, which is occasionally self-deprecating, is relatively clean. He generally covers everyday events and flashes back to his own days as a child.

<http://www.myspace.com/brianregan>

What is Observational Comedy?

Observational comedy is a style of humor based on making remarks about commonplace aspects of everyday life. This style has been used by comedians like Bill Cosby, George Carlin, Richard Pryor, Jay Leno, Jerry Seinfeld, Ray Romano, Hitch Hedberg, Demetri Martin, Patton Oswald, Dane Cook, and many, many others. The humor is primarily based on the premise that "It's funny because it's true." Observations are often made about very minor and superficial aspects of life.

**Dec. 10, 2009
7:30 PM**



How to Tell a Joke

1. Mentally prepare yourself. Know the joke like the back of your hand. There is nothing more embarrassing for a joke teller than to fill in the joke with "uhm" and "uh" while scrambling to remember exactly how it goes.
2. Practice in the mirror. Doing so will help you to see how you deliver the joke, what facial expressions work to enhance the humor in it, and what pace to say certain lines. You are your first audience.
3. Practice the joke for the family dog. This second audience will allow you to focus your attention on them, not yourself, since you have perfected your art form in the mirror already.
4. Third time's a charm, right? Wait for the right moment to tell the joke. Once you decide to do it, go for it! Don't hesitate; it could stop your momentum in its tracks. Delivery is key.
5. Give it your all. Once you're telling the joke, keep it up - don't stop mid-sentence (unless, of course, that's part of the joke).
6. Finish the joke up with an amused look on your face. Even if no one laughed, at least someone's amused.

So...what's the deal with...? (Some short jokes from the famous Jerry Seinfeld)

I was the best man at the wedding. If I'm the best man, why is she marrying him? Men want the same thing from their underwear that they want from women: a little bit of support and a little bit of freedom.

According to most studies, people's number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Death is number two. Does that sound right? This means to the average person, if you go to a funeral, you're better off in the casket than doing the eulogy.

I will never understand why they cook on TV. I can't smell it. Can't eat it. Can't taste it. The end of the show they hold it up to the camera, "Well, here it is. You can't have any. Thanks for watching. Goodbye."

You can measure distance by time. "How far away is it?" Oh about 20 minutes." But it doesn't work the other way. "When do you get off work?" "Around 3 miles."

Did you ever notice, when you are sitting at a red light, that when the person in front of you pulls up a couple of inches, you are compelled to move up too? Do we really think we are making progress toward our destination? "Whew, I thought we would be late, but now that I am nine inches closer, I can stop for coffee and a danish!"

Would somebody please explain to me those signs that say, "No animals allowed except for Seeing Eye Dogs?" Who is that sign for? Is it for the dog or the blind person?