

The Renaissance

2008-09: volume 34

Nobodies of Comedy

at the Renaissance Theatre, March 7, 2009, 8:00 PM

What is Stand Up Comedy?

Well...

1. Stand-up comedy is a style of comedy where the performer speaks directly to the audience, with the absence of the theatrical fourth wall.
2. A person who performs stand-up comedy is known as a stand-up comic, stand-up comedian or more informally stand up.
3. It is usually performed by a single comedian, with the aid of a hand-held microphone.
4. The comedian usually recites a fast-paced succession of humorous stories, short jokes (called "bits"), and one-liners, which comprise what is typically called a monologue, routine or act.
5. Some stand-up comedians use props, music or magic tricks to enhance their acts.
6. Stand-up comedy is often performed in comedy clubs, bars, colleges and theaters. However, there is no real restriction on where the craft can be performed.
7. Many smaller venues hold "open mic" events, where amateur comedians perform comedy before a live audience, offering a way for such performers to hone their craft and possibly break into the business.
8. In North America, many comedy clubs feature the now-iconic brick wall as the backdrop for stand-up performances.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stand-up_comedy

The Origins of Stand up Comedy

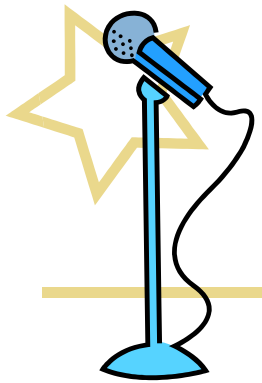
The fathers of modern American stand-up comedy, Jack Benny, Bob Hope, Fred Allen, Milton Berle, and Frank Fay all came from vaudeville. They spoke directly to the audience, in front of the curtain, known as performing "in one." Frank Fay gained acclaim as a "master of ceremonies" at New York's Palace Theater and is credited with creating the style of 20th century stand-up. Following vaudeville, nightclubs and resorts became the new breeding ground for stand-ups. Acts like Alan King, Danny Thomas, Don Rickles, and Jack E.

Leonard flourished in these new arenas.





Comedy Series



Nobodies of Comedy... the funniest comics you've NEVER heard of!

Get ready for a night of incredible stand-up comedy starring the funniest comics you've never heard of! These young comics have paid their dues. They have worked every major club in the country and have been seen on The Tonight Show and Comedy Central. They're not household names (yet) but they are hip, young and hilarious. Here's your chance to find out who these young, rising stars are before they make it big.

Famous Comedians Tell Their Secrets

"And you have to have a beginning, middle, and an end. The last thing I learned was how to get on. I just couldn't say hello to an audience. And it's very important. You have to have a 'hello'."

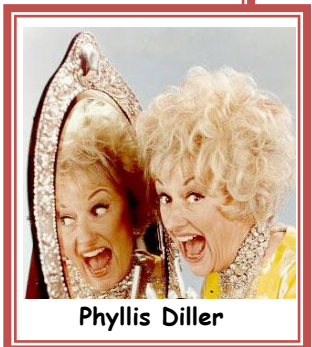
- Phyllis Diller, Comedian

"I claim that all humor rises out of tragedy. If everything goes well, you have nothing funny! But if the bride's train comes off and shows that she's wearing panties that say "Tuesday," and it's Wednesday... Then we've got a joke.

- Phyllis Diller, Comedian

"I claim that if you can't dance to it it's not funny. The main thing is to get that audience in the rhythm. And then you've got them. They're rolled up, and they're with you. And you go off together like a symphony. You're the conductor, you see? Have to know exactly when to pick it up, exactly when to let it go."

- Phyllis Diller, Comedian



Phyllis Diller



Lewis Black

"The best comics tell stories. The story can be told in any number of ways. And if you look at the guides - Berman and Newhart are really masters of it. All stand-up is, is the ability to move. You're sitting here talking to a group of people, and then all you do really is move to your two feet and stand up. That's it. That's all you do. It's the two feet that kill you."

- Lewis Black, Comedian

"I tried stand-up. Stand-up is hard and lonely and vicious."

- Will Farrell, Actor



Will Farrell