



# Standup Comedy

## The Secret to Becoming a Successful Comedian!

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## **Introduction**

Stand-up comedy is a different brand of comedy. There is usually a live audience and the comedian (stand-up comic) will talk to them directly. They use a microphone and stand up the entire or at least for most of the show.

The performances only last a short time and the comedian will tell stories to make people laugh. These are called one-liners and short jokes. They are usually doing the show by themselves (monologue). The comedians usually perform their shows in comedy clubs, colleges or theaters. They will do their shows wherever they can.

There are some places where open mic shows are held where even if you are not a comedian, you can go ahead and give it a try. This is a way that many amateurs start out and make their way to the big time in comedy. You will find that with many beginning performances you will notice the red brick background.

Doing stand-up is not easy because of how the audience may react to the jokes. The comedian will expect them to laugh; however, that will not always be the case. The comedian has to work hard in order to get the audience to respond favorably. If their jokes are not funny, they will get heckled by the audience. They will have to eventually overcome that hurdle.

The comedian has to work on making people laugh, or they can hang up their career. They are usually wearing many hats once they start in stand-up comedy. The comedian also works as a writer, editor, producer and promoter when they are first starting out.

Sometimes it can take several years before they get a following with an audience. It can really be lonely during this time when they are trying to break out of their shell.

## How To Develop A Style Of Comedy

Even though their road to stardom may be difficult in the beginning, once they start getting a captive and responsive audience, they are on their way to their reward. Starting out, they have to use their brain and think about what could make an audience laugh.

Comedians constantly have to tweak and find tune their material until they get to a point where people are responsive to them. Even then, there will be times where they have to think about what they say.

Think about what style of comedy will fit you. How do you speak? Are you full of life and animation? Or are you stiff and just stand there trying to tell jokes? Do you have any funny stories from your childhood that could make good fodder for the audience? When you know what you want to do, you will be able to create a brand.

Find comedians that perform in the same way that you do. The best way to advance is to visit different comedy clubs and look at what professional comedians are doing. Look and listen at how they speak, tell stories and deliver punch lines.

Some comedians will talk fast, while others will talk slow. Some will speak soft, while others will speak loud. It depends on their personality as to how they deliver.

Get involved on a personal level. Look for things in your life that you like and dislike. Think about things or incidents that make you happy or unhappy. Comedians need to be able to connect with their audience on a personal level. Free your mind and write what comes to you.

There are different styles of jokes that you can practice with:

Observations – this is when you are noticing silly incidents or other things that happen everyday.

Mimicking – this is when you are trying to sound like someone else.

Comparison Jokes – comparing yourself to someone else, acknowledging differences.

List Jokes – the first two parts are similar and the third part is opposite of the first two.

Don't forget the punch line when you are trying to woo your audience with humor. A punch line is the last portion of a joke or comedic sketch where there is a phrase or a few words that the comedian will use to make the audience laugh. If you take too long to perform the punch line, the audience may become disinterested.

With stand-up comedy, you must practice your comedy routine. You may first want to practice it in front of people that you don't know. You are looking for an honest opinion, whether it's good or bad.

Doing it in front of people that you know may be tricky. A lot of times they don't want to hurt your feelings, so you may not get an honest opinion from them. You want to know if your material is any good. If it is not, you will want to tweak it to where you will get people to respond favorably. Work the comedy clubs and wherever else you can try out your material.

Comedy clubs are a great place to start your career. Continue to get a feel of what you can do in order to capture the delight of your audience. Make sure that your comedic routines are original and that they have not been lifted from other comedians.

Doing stand-up comedy is not easy. Back in the day when you could get your buddies to laugh at your jokes, it was ok. Back then, people could easily think of you as a comedian. However, when you are performing in front of a live audience, it is a different story.

## **Beginning Steps**

Practice writing your material and create jokes. Make sure that you include punch lines that you think the audience would laugh at. The joke will bomb if you don't have the right comeback.

Learn to write your routines. Let the jokes come from various topics. Once you get what you want, practice, practice, and practice.

If you still feel rusty, take a class in stand-up comedy and get some more instruction.

Since you are just starting out, find venues where you can be the opening act for a comedian who is more polished. The local scene is your best choice for getting your foot in the door.

Talk with people who are in the know and would be willing to recommend you as you get more polished in your delivery routines. Believe it or not, there are professional comedians that are willing to take a chance on you or they will make recommendations for you.

Get a manager or an agent once you start to get consistent gigs. The best time to contact them is when they are in town and they can come to see one of your shows.

Continuously telling jokes is one of the keys to a long-lasting stand-up comedy career. If you can't do that, then you're in trouble.

It's not easy starting out in stand-up comedy. However, once you weed out the bad stuff, you can make your way like the rest of the well-known comedians have.

## **How To Find Your Comedic Voice**

You will need to find your voice for comedy before you get out there and tackle that brutal world called an audience. You will have to get your thoughts down on paper and do some writing.

Use a notebook with lined paper (preferably letter-size paper or smaller) and write down whatever thought you have. Anything that is unique to you or your family would qualify. Don't use scenarios that are private in nature. Your friends and relatives may not like you after that.

Go to some comedy shows and study professional comedians. You won't see the same routine, but it's a good idea to view them to get some insight on what you want to do. Get to know some of them so that you can get your foot in the door.

Work on some stand-up comedy material for yourself. See what you can find in yourself that could be workable as a great comedy piece. Use situations that you feel have a lot of feeling and meaning.

When you have enough to last for a while, then find an open mic session. Bring your notebook in the event you need a refresher. Hit up the audience with some jokes and make yourself visible as much as you can.

While you're out, if you see something that could be a premise for future comedy material, then take notes of your observations and findings.

## How to Write Stand Up Jokes

If you can do stand-up, then you're on your way. This can take you further, learning to write scripts and sketches. Being able to master all three of these can provide you with an advantage that others don't have.

Using a notebook, write down meaningful situations that have been a part of your life. Make categories out of the subjects that you write down. Jotting down notes is fine; you don't have to write complete sentences. Sometimes notes and phrases can help you better.

Jokes for stand-up comedy require emotion. If you have things that drive you crazy or that you don't like, you can make that into fodder for some jokes. Write down different ways that you can make these scenarios amusing enough that the audience be responsive to you and get some good laughs.

Be sure to implement the amusement in the joke and combine it with the emotional part. Make the joke come to life by acting it out. You can do this with part of or the entire joke. The audience will recognize that you are getting into character and will be more attentive.

When you get some solid jokes, use a camera to record them. Play them back to see how you sound and act. You may have to edit them or change some of the wording of your jokes.

If you need help, get another writer to help you critique your jokes and stand-up routines. Don't make up stuff when you are writing. Your everyday experiences can be your best material.

## How To Polish Your Stand-Up Routine

People love to hear you tell jokes. Your friends and family rave about how much you can make people laugh. They seem to think that stand-up comedy is your true calling. Now you need to find out how funny you really are and what you can do to take advantage of this gift.

Watch some of the professional comedians on television. Study how they do their routines and tell their stories. If you are a born storyteller, then you can start off by doing that. Or if you are the type that is very observant, then you may want to get into that sub-genre. Even when you hit the big time, you should not rest on your laurels. There will always be new material that you can study from.

Get some family and friends together and show your stuff. Ask them to give you their thoughts on your performance. Don't hesitate to tell them to be truthful. It can be difficult with someone that you're familiar with because they don't want to hurt your feelings if they think you suck and need to improve. Don't forget to take notes.

Review your notes to sort out strengths and weaknesses. Compare those notes with your actions on video and see what comes closest or is right on point with the character that you perform. Whatever you do the most and the best of, is what you should start out with.

Practice your stand-up acts in front of a mirror. Stick with what you do best and remove anything that is not part or should not be part of the act. Keep the same character and style of comedy throughout. You want the audience to get used to your style of making them laugh.

Don't stop practicing. The more you practice, the more you get better with your routine. Practicing is the only way you will get your stand-up act the way it should be. Go to different venues and watch how the audience accepts you.

Every performance should be videotaped. Look at them afterwards and see if you find any flaws that can be removed from future stand-up acts. Don't be someone that you are not. Your acts need to be original and natural. Don't force yourself to make changes that could disappoint your audience.

## **Don't Quit Your Day Job.....Yet**

Since you would still be an amateur for a while, it will take more than a minute to start making some serious dough with your stand-up comedy acts. If you have a regular 40-hr week job, by all means, don't quit it just yet. Unless you have a lot of money saved up for a while, it is foolish to turn in your resignation right then. Even after you start getting regular gigs that pay, it may not be sufficient to put food on the table and pay your bills.

If you work a day job, that can be to your advantage. Don't schedule your evenings or weekend for anything else. You can get more comedy gigs, including open mics and being able to watch other comedy shows. You will want to suck up everything that you can once you are starting out. Once you get in the groove, you will be so busy focusing on your comedic routines with writing, performing sketches, etc.

### **Where You Should Perform**

Once you start, you know to use your material on strangers and eventually friends and family. Once you are ready to do live performances, get with some seasoned comedians that would be willing to give you a few nuggets. Not everyone is freehearted, so you may have to go through several of them in order to get the assistance you need.

One of the first places you should perform is an open mic. Open mics are usually held at bookstores, coffee shops and bars. Even though these would be non-paying events, you could build up your base. Doing this would provide you with the experience you would need once it's time for you to go out on the road to perform for a larger audience.

## How To Find Open Mics

As a budding stand-up comedian, you may start out by getting resistance from local comedy clubs in your area. In the interim, you should give open mics a try. By no means should you stop trying for the clubs, but in the meantime, open mics would provide you a platform you would not otherwise have.

However, if there are no open mic events near you, prepare your own open mic event.

Look around in your local area to find a venue that has space for performing. The space should be open and where your audience will be able to see you.

Contact the owner to see if having an open mic night would be feasible. On their slow nights, they could allow you to have it. Plus, it may be able to bring in some customers for their business.

Spread the word about your open mic performance. Have others spread the word as well. That is the way you will generate an audience. Word of mouth still is and always will be the best form of communication when it comes to something like this.

You can also advertise at other places, provided they permit you to do so. The more of an audience you have, the more confident you will feel. Even if you don't have a large crowd, don't allow that to get you down.

It may not be an easy task trying to get people to pay for your open mic gig. Because you would still be an amateur, people are reluctant for handing over cash to people they have never heard before. Plus, if you were to bomb, they would be mad and ask for refunds. So it may not be a good idea to charge until you are more well known.

With an open mic, you would get more practice from performing in front of others that have never seen you before. You will also get experience in working with the owners of the club or wherever you decide to have it. This can help you when you are ready to move on and you need contacts.

## **Marketing Yourself And Booking Gigs**

Doing stand-up comedy is not easy. There are a lot of people that have plenty of comedic talent. This means that there is more competition because of so many people who are vying to get to the top. This means you must be prepared and don't be in a rush to get to the next level.

In the beginning, have at least four pages of material written out for you to perform. It should last for at least five minutes.

Get very acquainted with your material and study it. Use strangers to get critiques and sometimes friends and family. If you are falling short on some things, then practice some more until you have mastered them.

If your audience is barely laughing, or not at all, rewrite your material so that it will be humorous. Once you start getting laughs, you know that you are going somewhere. Perform at amateur nights. Most of the time, the establishment will tape your performance. If you are really good, they may ask you to come back often or recommend you to another comedy club.

Communicate with other comedians. Some of them are more established and can help you make some connections. If they really like you they may add you to their show or get you in somewhere else.

Be a master or mistress of ceremonies at other comedy events. While being an MC, you will be responsible for the introduction of other comedians and be able to use some of your written material. Create your resume and a demo reel.

This will go to managers and talent agents. If they like what they see, they will work to book you with gigs that pay. Make sure that every show is videotaped. Once you have some videotaped segments, the managers and agents may be interested.

In order to really get noticed, you may have to relocate to major metropolitan cities, such as Chicago and Los Angeles. These are some of the best locations to do your stand-up performances and to acquire an agent and/or manager.

To further market yourself, you can create a Facebook or MySpace page, or you can do both. Let people know of your craft, and soon you will have lots of people supporting you and telling others about you. Include some audios and videos of your performances. You will also need to include contact information for prospective managers and agents to contact you.

These are some of the important ways that you have to use in order to market yourself and get noticed. Marketing yourself on the internet can help your talent to go viral in no time flat.

## **How You Should Dress**

Should you as an aspiring stand-up comedian be concerned about how you dress? Your material is ready, you know what you are going to do, so what about your attire?

You may be thinking that your material for the show should be more important than what you wear. You may also be thinking if people really enjoy your show, they won't care about how you are dressed.

Even though you can dress how you want, it's better if you are dressed the part. When you do that, it will help you look more presentable. You want to impress the audience not only with your comedic talent, but you want them to take you seriously. So, leave the street clothes at home.

If you are performing a gig that is not the same as you, try wearing a dress or a suit. At least you would be universal. Ditch the crazy wigs and apparel with loud colors and colors that don't match.

It's important that you are performing to make your audience laugh. So dress appropriately and it will get you farther than you ever thought before. The audience will look at how you're dressed and determine whether or not you are serious about your craft.

## **How To Relax Before Your Comedy Performance**

Messing up on a comedy performance is no fun. You will hear boos and a lot of dissatisfied people wanting to leave and wanting to get their money back.

Here are some tips that you can use to prevent you from flubbing up and feeling relaxed before you perform:

Invite family and friends for moral support. You need to see faces that are familiar to you and you will be able to relax knowing that people are supporting your efforts. This can help you not be nervous and that you will pull this off.

You have to be prepared before you take the stage and perform the show. Before you start, take some deep breaths.

Look at your notes before going onstage to keep the material going in your mind. You may want to drink some water to keep you refreshed.

You may want to pace back and forth so that your nerves can stay calm. Do a few stretching exercises to keep you relaxed.

You'll probably want to repeat these at least once before the show. Then go out there and do your best.

Don't worry and try not to be nervous. There may be a time when you just don't get over to the audience—it happens to the best of all stand-up comedians, especially when you first get started.

The vibe might not be good for that evening. Even with that, don't act like it's the end of the world. Your audience can have bad days as well.

Don't give up because your performance did not turn out the way you would have liked it to. Check out your routine and see where you need to regroup. There may be some things that you need to brush up on.

Once you see where you need to make adjustments, make them and keep going. You'll find that the next performance won't be the same—in fact, it should be better than the one that you had before. You will also have more confidence and come out swinging.

## Performing Tips

Here are additional tips and reminders that you can do in order to get yourself on the road to being a professional stand-up comedian:

- Make videos of your performances. You want to be able to go back and look at how it turned out. There may be some things that you didn't like and may have to make some adjustments.
- Were you moving too much? Were you talking too slow or too fast? Did you talk too loud? It may take you several viewings to determine how you can polish it up.
- Go to the clubs. If you are not ready for the comedy clubs yet, start at places that host open mic nights. However, in order to better your craft, go to other comedy clubs to see how other stand-up comedians perform.
- You will be able to observe and take notes. Eventually, you will be able to connect with some club owners once they get familiar with seeing your face in their place. You will also be able to get with other stand-up comedians.
- Have a notebook handy when you are performing. You may end up getting ideas for your stand-up routine at the last minute. If you don't have a notebook, then you won't be able to keep your thoughts. As soon as it hits, write it down if you haven't taken the stage yet.
- Don't drag your feet on getting out there in front of an audience. The more you put yourself out there, the more you will be able to perform. In turn, you will be able to learn the ropes of stand-up comedy performances. It's better to get more chances to perform because you will get more exposure.
- If you mess up, keep going. Don't think that each time you perform your stand-up routine that the audience will fall in love with you. Sorry, but that is not the case. You will experience what it feels like for people not to laugh at your jokes because they feel that they are not funny.

You will see the looks on their face that tell you your show was a waste of time and they want a refund. All you can do is move forward, look at what worked and what didn't. You will work even harder to get it right the next time.

- One thing that can get you a label that you don't want—stealing other's comedian's materials. Don't even think about doing it in any way, shape, form or fashion. Even if you are using the material with different words, leave it alone. Your career will be null and void and you will have bitten the dust very quickly.

- When a promoter or club manager gives you a time slot, stay within that time frame. You would be overstepping your bounds and taking advantage of what was given to you.  
That would be considered rude, inconsiderate and unprofessional to go over your time limit.

There may be other acts after yours and they have to get on when it's their time. Even if the audience is not responding, that is no reason to take more time than you're supposed to have. Rest assured you have probably blown your chance at performing at their venue in the future.

- Be nice to your audience. You want them to be receptive to you and laugh at your material. There's no need to be insulting. Just because some other comedians do it, does not mean you have to be the status quo.

In fact, you should want to be different so that people will notice. Plus, if you did say something out of turn, you don't know how some members of the audience would take it. They may get humiliated or mad and walk out. That's not something you want to see at your show.

- Don't focus on imitating other comedians. You need to be different than the others and stand out. The audience wants to see the real you, not trying to be someone else. You want the audience to see how funny you can be by using your own material. Be the real thing and not something fake.
- Just because you have new material does not mean that you throw out the old stuff. There may be times when you will need to pull it out and use it. If your new material is not working, go back to some of the old material that you have. This can help you get out of a jam.
- If you need more ideas on how to write stand-up jokes, get an instruction manual that will provide you with ideas on how you can write material that will make people laugh.
- Think about your personality when you are writing. What is your attitude like? How do you feel when you are about to perform?
- Write some jokes on things that you know about or some observations that you've seen. Create a small segment and do a performance while you're alone. You can even videotape it to see how you look and sound. There may be things that you will need to eliminate once you have heard the tape.
- Keep writing more jokes. Write as many as you can. As you continue to write, you will become more comfortable with creating your own material. It will eventually get easier for you. Sometimes you will have plenty of jokes to create and write. Other days you may not be as fortunate.

- As you are working on your material, be confident enough that it will be good enough for your upcoming audience. Convert your material into a conversation.
- Polish up your material and put the finishing touches on it. Go over it several times to make sure it sounds and looks right.
- You can stand up when you are performing. You can either hold the microphone in your hand or leave it in the stand. Some stand-up comedians will hold it in their hand if it's their first time in order to make themselves feel comfortable. There are some comedians who will sit down on a stool while they are performing.
- When you are performing, pronounce your words so that the audience can understand what you are saying. Your voice should carry so that the entire room can hear you. Look at the crowd as you are performing.

You have to be confident in what you're doing. The audience will know whether or not that confidence is showing as you perform.

- As you finish your performance, the audience will more than likely applaud, especially if it was really funny. Or you may receive a few heckles. Nevertheless, you need to thank them for coming out.

They took the time out of their schedule to pay and see you perform. Let them know that you really appreciate them. This will keep them coming back. Audiences like to know when they are appreciated.

- Don't be in a hurry to leave after you are finished. It's only proper and fitting that you stay for the other performances that come after you. There were probably some that stayed for yours, so you should also extend that same courtesy.

Besides, you might be able to pick up some pointers while watching the performance.

- When creating jokes, type them on your computer as well as writing them. You may be sitting there and a thought comes across. Instead of looking for a pen and notebook, type it on a blank document and save it as a file.
- You may have some jokes that you don't think are up to par. However, it's a good idea to try them on for size anyway. You never know how your audience will react.

- In addition to videotaping your material, you can also use an mp3 player. There may be times when you can't look at your video. At least you would be able to listen to yourself do stand-up jokes. You will be able to hear how you sound.
- You can also try using material from the news of the day and spin it into some jokes. Some of the more common subjects are celebrities, athletes and politicians.

## **Serious Tips For Stand-Up Comedians**

As a stand-up comedian, you will not always do things right. Of course, no one is perfect either. At the same time, here are some tips that you can use that will keep you out of harm's way and keep you working in the stand-up comedy business.

- You should not laugh at your own jokes.
- During your performance, if there are people in the audience that try to distract you, stay calm and keep trying to perform. Eventually if they keep doing it, they will be asked to leave by management.
- If you are performing at an open mic night, it should be with performances that are similar to yours. It would be embarrassing to perform on a night where others are doing poetry and other readings not related to comedy.
- Believe it or not, there are people in the audience that will write down your jokes in hopes of using them. Keep an eye out for people like that while you are performing.
- Don't overdo a joke. Perform it within the appropriate time frame. It can get old and stale if you keep going on with it and the audience will get irritated.
- Don't bash fellow stand-up comedians. Keep your opinions to yourself. If you have something to share, allow them to ask you. If they don't, then don't push the issue. This will not get you any love from your peers.
- Being offensive is a no-no. You are there to make them laugh. They don't want to hear about things that are vile and get them upset.
- Express yourself in a way that people would appreciate it. Just be yourself when you do it.
- Don't talk so loud where you can bust the eardrums of the people in the audience. Keep the volume to an acceptable level. Tone your voice down and adjust the microphone if you have to.

- During your performance, keep a good attitude, no matter what. Even when the audience doesn't laugh at your jokes, keep a smile on your face.
- Don't become a substance abuser. This will not help you when you are performing on stage. It will not help you when you are trying to create new material. In fact, you won't be able to think straight when you are in this zone. Always be sober when you are performing in front of an audience.
- It weighs more on an audience on how they receive your performance rather than focusing on you. You are there to make them laugh. If you are not delivering, they are not going to laugh at your jokes. You are there to entertain them, not to entertain yourself.
- Be friendly at all times and don't offend others, especially your fellow stand-up comedians. You never know when you will need a favor from them one day. If you have more enemies than friends, you could be messed up. No one would want to do anything for you.
- Don't be conceited because you have a few gigs under your belt. There are people out there who are professionals that know how to carry themselves accordingly. They know that if they don't, that they could be out of a job. Acting stuck up will force someone to put you back in your place from whence you started.
- Don't make fun of other people. Don't hurt their feelings intentionally. You are there to perform, not to ridicule anyone. People in the audience will take offense to that and walk out. Your fan base may start to decrease.
- When you perform, don't force yourself to create a joke where you have no idea whether it's going to be funny or not. Stay with your normal flow and perform the way you normally do. If you have to, create some new material days before you are on to perform again.
- You have to project an image that is positively portraying you as a stand-up comedian. You want your audience to know that you are friendly and are looking to help them have a good time while you are performing.
- Try not to do anything that will turn your audience away from you.
- It's ok to be clean cut so that your audience will know you are funny, but serious about your craft.
- Don't go overboard when you are performing and telling jokes. Even though free speech is out there, sometimes we have to use caution as not to offend others.

- Make your jokes so that people can get the jest of what you are talking about. You don't want them leaving the venue shaking their heads in wonder.
- If you perform one-liners, make sure that they are good ones. Not every stand-up comedian is able to do this, but if you are, more power to you. They can be your ram in the bush when you need additional material to perform. Be careful about the subject matter in which you use the one-liners.
- Doing story jokes require stand-up comedians to be real about the subject or at least do it as though it could be the real deal. You should not make up or lie about what you are talking about.
- When doing jokes that consist of question and answer combos, they should relate to the current climate in your life. Anything else would be a waste of time.
- Be yourself and be natural. Anything else the audience would pick up on it right away.

## **How Stand-Up Comedians Can Get Into TV or Film**

There are many stand-up comedians who have become successful and famous. Their success has led them to do television sitcoms based on their life.

When you get an agent and start to get noticed, you can start really making a name for yourself.

Stand-up comedians will use their emotions from when they were growing up to integrate it with what they have today.

Any past experiences are a great place to start and use as material. If you were a substance abuser or you were abandoned as a child, you can use those things to get it started. Even though those experiences were considered painful, somehow you can take them and make a joke out of them.

Get involved in a variety of small acting gigs. Do some extra film work or audition for a part where you do little speaking. If the appeal is there, you can audition to get your own radio show.

Start writing material as though you already had your own show. You may want to do some additional stand-up performances to get a larger audience. See if you can get some of the key players and decision makers to come and see you perform. If not them, see if you can get their representative to come out and take a look. Their representatives are an extension of them.

Be mindful that you may have to go through many executives and political plays to get what you want. Everyone is not going to be receptive because they feel they know what audiences want to see.

However, as long as you keep putting your name out there, someone will say yes. Don't give up on your sitcom dream. The minute you want to give up is when someone will contact you and say "Yes, we'll give you a chance".

Even when you get a television sitcom, you can also branch out into film. Movie directors are always looking for comedians who can deliver good punch lines to make the movie a hit. In fact, some of the movies are so good, they end up doing sequels.

Never give up on your dream of being a successful stand-up comedian on television or in movies. That's how some of the other famous comedians got started, with a hope, a dream, perseverance and finally a sitcom on television.

Once you get your sitcom, create characters that are similar to you and how you grew up. This is easier because you will be able to relate. Once you have established that, eventually, you will want to evolve into other things.

You will realize that the person that you were in your stand-up routines will not always be the same person. You will have to make changes and maybe do subjects that you thought you would never have to deal with for television. Be grateful that you have been given a chance to move to the next level.

## **Conclusion**

Being a stand-up comedian is not easy. However, if you enjoy doing it, your craft can turn into a lot more than just doing performances in comedy clubs and other venues. You have to be diligent with your craft, and others will see your sincerity in your performances.

Stand-up comedians must have a lot of passion and love for what they do, because they know it is not easy to perform in front of an audience and try to make them laugh. You are not doing to always hit the bull's eye when telling jokes to them. Some may like them while others won't. Don't get discouraged at the haters and the hecklers because they are out there.

You have to keep at it, because you never know who could be out in the audience at any given time. That person may just be the one who can take your career to another level.

## Resources

<http://www.wikihow.com/Be-a-Good-Comedian>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Perform-at-a-Comedy-Club>

[http://comedians.about.com/od/breakingin/How to Break In to Standup Comedy.htm](http://comedians.about.com/od/breakingin/How_to_Break_In_to_Standup_Comedy.htm)

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_5356508\\_do-up-comedy-first-time.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_5356508_do-up-comedy-first-time.html)

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_2110726\\_relax-before-doing-standup-comedy.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2110726_relax-before-doing-standup-comedy.html)

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_2139994\\_write-stand-up-comedy.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2139994_write-stand-up-comedy.html)

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_8539\\_break-comedy-writing.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_8539_break-comedy-writing.html)

<http://www.gigglechick.com>

<http://www.chucklemonkey.com>