

Unscripted - A Blog for Actors - Backstage

It Takes a Village to Satisfy a Comedian

I have done stand up now a total of three times including my first time ever at the Improv, which I now refer to as the time 'when I got spoiled'.

The second time, was in a vegan cafe in Hollywood called Elderberries, to an audience that totaled 8 people, 3 of which were my friends, 5 of which were the other comedians performing that same night.

The third time (which happened last Wednesday night at The Comedy Store, there was about twenty-five people, eight of which included the host and other comedians.

This is what I have learned, 'It Takes a *Village* to Satisfy a Comedian'. Seriously.

It is a lot easier to make a room full of 500 people (like that night at the Improv) laugh, than it is to make a handful of 5 people, even if they are your friends, laugh to the level of satisfaction for a 'comedian' that keeps you from wanting to blow your brains out.

I haven't wanted to do that yet. In other words, I haven't bombed yet. No deadly silence.

And I have the best friends EVER! Jamie, Lisa Jay, Deborah, Laura, Courtney, Luis, Keong, Phil, Terrence, Rayne, Courtney M., Jamie (again), Alicia, and Dan!

Honestly, as an actress it's hard enough getting people (your friends) to come see you in a play.

But as a comedian (and I don't even consider myself one yet), it's *crazy* weird to ask people to spend money on cover, a two drink minimum, not to mention parking and to sit through almost half a dozen other comics until it's your turn! It's a whole other world!

There were some seriously funny comics there at the Comedy Store, third show! And I am having fun! But it's a different kind of fun than acting, which I feel I prefer. Ultimately, I don't like performing alone.

And as a comedian in training, I've earned a few demerits already.

I improv'd new material on the spot, especially with opening jokes. Apparently, you're not supposed to do that. I drank some Vampire wine before the second show. You're not supposed to do that either.

Learned that lesson right away! Do NOT drink before you go up! Even if you're really nervous. You're bound to start disclosing some really private stuff that should stay private. Oops.

And the third lesson I learned...'It Takes a Village to Satisfy a Comedian'. Nothing beats a reverberating chorus of laughter from 500 people simultaneously. The Improv spoiled me!

The last couple gigs have been GREAT learning experiences. How to work a smaller room. How to engage individual audience members.

What new jokes work and what new jokes don't work. I am grateful for it all. In acting, it's an ensemble piece and you basically say what others' told you to say and do what other's directed you to do. And the applause is held till the end.



But in comedy you NEED that instant gratification, you NEED the laugh in order to *kill* the audience, otherwise, the silence is what kills *you, the comedian*. And you're on your own.

My next show is on June 8th at the [Comedy Store](#) and then another at [M-Bar](#) on June 28th, with a bunch of huge headliners. I'm kind of freakin' out! But I'm giving you plenty notice! So be there people, please?!

Come be my village of laughers, okay? I promise, I'll 'kill' someone by the end of the night.

(photo courtesy of the fabulous Laura Spencer and my new trusty slingshot)

Yours Truly -- Ann Hu



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You have the personality for it. You're quirky enough. Nothing like stepping out of your comfort zone.

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Break a leg!

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Yo check it out one time, check it out 2 times, check , check it out 3 times YOU ROCK! I wasn't at your first , nor second and definitely not your third but your the type of human, just for the recordYou're an Amazing person so that alone has you at the top...just remember, the Human comes before the Human being an if you could remember that you'll always have something funny, something witty, something present to say! I'm laughing now and I wasn't even there...sending you love!Lonnie

Posted by: lonnie Hughes | [May 23, 2011 at 05:42 PM](#)



so true. my first time on stage there were about 500 people and i killed it. the next time on stage was at a bar in van nuys for about 10 people (7 of which were comics) and i wanted to kill myself. dead silence.

what i've learned since then is that if a joke gets even a giggle in a crowd of 5 people, it will KILL in a packed house.

Posted by: [molly harper](#) | [May 23, 2011 at 05:43 PM](#)



So glad your continuing the stand up comedy. Good Luck!

Posted by: [MichaelShOeHsu](#) | [May 23, 2011 at 10:46 PM](#)



Great set on Wednesday! You owned it like a headliner.

:)

Posted by: [Gary Gunter](#) | [June 10, 2011 at 08:40 PM](#)

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