



StandupComedyToGo.com

Curt Shackelford

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Email: CurtShackelford@verizon.net

These rules & regs are for newbies who are totally new to the world of standup, but also for veteran comics who are new to doing our shows.

Bios: before you can perform at our shows you must email the following bio info so we can get you into our system.

You are not officially "signed up" until we receive answers to this bio info:

- what is your full name(first & last name)?
- if you are using a "stage name" , what is that?
- if your name is unusual, give us the phonetic("foe-NEH-tick") spelling, so we say it correctly.
- how old are you? (some venues have age restrictions)
- are you single or married-with-kids?
(we want the lineup for each show to be a mix of singles & married folks, to reflect the demographic makeup of our audience, which is typically an equal mix of single folks & married folks.
- what is your day job & where(City & State) do you work?
- do you do any other type of show-biz related performance?(e.g. actor, musician, D.J., etc—if so tell us what so we can promote in your intro/outro)
- where are you originally from?(city & state)
- where do you live now?(city & state)
- if you're visiting DC from out-of-town, what other local DC-area comedy shows will you be performing at during your visit? (so we can mention in your intro/outro)
- how long have you been doing comedy?(don't lie ☺--your experience level **does not** effect you getting stage time or not.—this info is needed so the audience will know how much to expect from you when we introduce you, i.e. a "first-timer" versus a "5-year veteran" so the audience can "adjust" their expectation levels accordingly)
- comedy classes: are you currently taking any comedy classes/training courses for standup comedy or have you taken any in the past?
If took in the past, please list where & approx when taken:
If currently amidst taking a class/course, when & where is your class's "Graduation" show?(so we can mention it as an "upcoming gig" in your intro/outro)
- comedy contests: have you competed in any local DC-area comedy contests?
Don't really care if you won or not☺, care more about the time you spent on stage = you are more experienced.
- what other DC/MD/VA open-mic shows have you done in past 6 months?
(just provide venue name so we can mention in your bio/intro)

- what is your cell#? (we do everything by email, but we still need your cell # for emergency use only—in case of last-minute cancellations,etc.)
 - what is your Website if you have one?
 - your FaceBook link: _____
 - do you have a link to an online video of you performing you can send us? (YouTube, etc)?
- An example of how I want your intro to read:

"Our next comic is a 32 year old single mom originally from Michigan, now living in Reston, VA --she works in Bethesda, MD as a rocket scientist... been doing comedy for 6 months".

Email me your bio/intro so we can keep it on file for future shows.

BOOKING/SIGNING UP FOR SHOWS:

All shows are booked directly with Curt Shackelford through email only to **CurtShackelford@verizon.net**.

DO NOT CONTACT THE VENUE TO SIGN UP.

Pick whichever venue is logistically easiest for you:

RiRa Irish Pub on Wednesdays in Arlington/Clarendon,VA

Topaz Hotel Bar on Thursdays in Dupont Circle, NW D.C.

Hyatt Hotel on Saturdays in Bethesda, MD

The correct procedure for booking slots: (after you do your first show with us)

To request a show slot/date, you must now list the Venue Name , Day & Date in the "subject" line of the email e.g. "Topaz Thursday 12-14-2012".

Emails that are not in this "Topaz(venue name) Thursday(Day) 12-14-2012?(date you want)" format will automatically get routed to our Spam folder and we will never see it.

Send only one date & venue request per email. If you want more than 1 date then must send separate emails for each date.

If there is space available for the date you requested, you will get an auto-reply email within 24 hours confirming that you have that slot for that date.

If no reply within 24 hours = no slots are available for that date.

Bringing Friends to Support You:

If you are a 3mins newbie doing our shows, you must bring a minimum of (5) 21-or-older friends with you to the show in order to get onstage at RiRa Wednesday show or Topaz Thursday show.

If performing on same show with another comic who is your friend, he & his friends cannot count as "your friends" , i.e. no "sharing friends". Each comic must bring his/her own separate group of friends.

Your 5 people can't be other comics that are performing on that same show. Your 5 peeps have to be non-performing "regular audience".

Each 3mins newbie comic must bring their own separate bunch of (5) 21-or-older friends.

All 5 of your friends must be sitting in their showroom seats by 7:00pm so we can do accurate Headcount of the number of people you brought.If less than 5 we cannot let you onstage.

The Saturday Bethesda Hyatt show requires you to bring minimum of (10) 21-or-older people to support you.

All 10 of your friends must be sitting in their showroom seats by 7:00pm so we can do accurate Headcount of the number of people you brought.

If less than 10 we cannot let you onstage.

Only have to bring friends once at each venue at the 3mins level, then we bump you up to 5mins level and you are no longer required to bring people to get on stage.

Once you do all 3 shows and if did really well, you get bumped up to 5mins status and get added to our "Crushers" email group and will start receiving mass-email "cattle calls" for RiRa Wed & Topaz Thurs shows, Hyatt Saturday paid slots, as well as occasional private party paid shows that we need comics for. If you send us a YouTube video clip and it's funny, we'll add you to our "Crushers" email list without having to physically "audition" at the Hyatt Saturday show.

Once a mass-email is sent out to the "Crushers" email list asking for comics, we wait 24-48 hours for all the replies to roll in, then we pick the best comic(s) available from all those replies. If you are one of the "best available" comics you will get a confirmation email reply from Curt saying you are on that show.

If you don't get a reply email from us confirming you are on for that slot, that means you did not get the slot, but you are automatically put on the "standby" list to be activated if anyone cancels for that show.

There are approx 100 comics on our "Crushers" email list, so it's not feasible for us to reply to each & every comic separately just to say "no you didn't get the slot...", so the rule is: if no reply from us within 48 hours, that means you did NOT get the slot, but you ARE put on the standby list for that show.

Private Party Shows:

If for a paid private party show, we pick the 3 best-fitting comics from all the replies and then send those 3 choices to the customer for *them* to make the final decision, so the final selection process could take a while and is ultimately up to the customer themselves to decide.

Warning: we often will invite the private party customer to come see you perform at the Bethesda Hyatt Saturday show for them to see you "live in action" to help them decide.

If they see you at Hyatt and fall in love with you I am *still* going to suggest that they see the other 2 choices before they finally decide. It's only fair to the other 2 comics that they get their shot at "auditioning" for the private party gig.

If the customer does not want to see the other 2 choices in person because they are so totally in love with your act then of course the gig is yours.

Facebook & Twitter:

FaceBook: you are not officially signed up to perform until you "friend us" on our Facebook page—click here:

<http://www.Facebook.com/StandupComedyToGo>

If you are 3min newbie you must "create an event"(click on "Events" tab on your FB page) on Facebook about your appearance on our show, and invite all your friends. (Invite us as well, so we know this task got done☺).

For the event "start time", make it 7:00pm since all your peeps must be there by 7pm, even though show actually starts at 8pm. You all can have dinner and drinks in the showroom while you wait for show to start at 8pm. We don't expect all your friends to show up of course, but we want them to at least be "aware" of it so we get exposure for our show. In the "Details"" field , insert one of these hyperlinks that will take them to our website that will answer all of their questions about getting there, parking, food & bev options, etc:

Hyatt Sat. show: <http://standupcomedytogo.com/see-a-show/hyatt-saturdays/>

RiRa Wed. show: <http://standupcomedytogo.com/see-a-show/rira-wednesdays/>

Topaz Thurs. show: <http://standupcomedytogo.com/see-a-show/topaz-thursdays/>

Twitter: You must follow us on Twitter:

www.Twitter.com/StndupComdyToGo

You must tweet your followers about your upcoming appearance on our show(use the same links above) . Again, we don't expect them all to show up, we just want them to be "aware" so we get some free exposure for our show. Use same links above in your tweet so they have all the info they need.

WEEKLY VENUES:

WEDNESDAYS- RiRa Irish Pub 8:00- 10:00 PM

FREE SHOW

Pre-booked open mic for comics

2915 Wilson Blvd (Clarendon neighborhood)

Arlington,VA 22201

THURSDAYS - Topaz Bar & Hotel 8:00 - 10:00 PM

Pre-booked open mic for comics

FREE SHOW

1733 N Street NW (Dupont Circle neighborhood)
Washington, DC 20036

Once you have a solid 10, 15, or 30 minutes we will put you on the paid Saturday night show in Bethesda, Maryland at The Hyatt Regency Hotel:

SATURDAYS - **Bethesda Hyatt Regency Hotel** 8:00PM til 10:00 PM

\$10 cash at door Scheduled Guests/Features/Headliner Showcase for comics

7400 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814

Contact The Venues For Directions Only:

DO NOT call the venue to speak with or leave messages for StandupComedyToGo or Curt Shackelford. Curt Shackelford should be contacted via email only at CurtShackelford@verizon.net.

Age Restrictions: Must be at least 16 years old to perform.

RiRa Wed & Topaz Thurs shows:

Performing: if under 21 and want to perform, you must bring at least (5) 21-or-older adults with you to act as your "chaperones".

They must sit with you during the show because alcohol is served.

Audience: must be 21-or-older to attend the show as audience.

Hyatt Sat show only : If under 21, you must bring at least (10) 21-or-older adults with you to the show to act as your "chaperone" during the show. They must sit with you during the show because alcohol is served.

Arrival Times:

All comics must be at our shows by 7:30pm & must check-in with the on-site Producer so we know you are "here". Producer will be standing by the toy traffic light in the showroom, so look for the toy traffic light when you arrive.

3minute newbies only: you & all of your peeps must be *sitting in the front tables by stage in showroom with you* by 7:00pm so we can do accurate headcount of how many bodies you brought. Sit in very front row in seats that are closest to the stage, so we can fill seats in front area of room first, then filling the seats moving back.

Check-in with the on-site Producer so we know you are "here". Producer will be standing by the toy traffic light in the showroom, so look for the toy traffic light when you arrive.

You all can eat dinner/drinks in the showroom while you wait for show to start at 8pm. Another reason to be sure all your peeps are in showroom by 7:00pm: if some of your peeps wait to come later than 7:00pm, they risk not getting into showroom to see

you(rooms are small and once we reach fire-code capacity we can't let more peeps in). This is why we stipulate that all your peeps must be there by 7:00pm, so they are guaranteed a seat in the showroom to see you perform.

FAQ by veteran comics: "why do I gotta be there so early if I know I'm not going on until 9pm?"

A: cuz the original lineup order that was emailed to you 2 days before the show is always changing, even up to a few mins before showtime. Very often we have to put you on earlier than expected so you need to be there at the show ready to go on.

Out-of-town NYC, Boston, Philly comics coming in on Saturdays to do Bethesda Hyatt show: must be in DC area by 3pm so we know you are here. No "my train is stuck in East Jesus" calls at 7pm leaving us stranded with not enough time to find a replacement Headliner.

Newbies: if you want you can come early at 6:30pm to run through your set on stage with no audience so you can get a feel for the stage, spotlight, sound system, etc but must be all done by 7pm when audience starts arriving.

Audience Demographic: ranges from 18 to 50-ish, well-educated, smart, mix of all walks of life—black-white-straight-gay-male-female-married-single. A nice mix of everything really.

Audio/Visual Assistance:

If your act requires A.V. assistance (e.g. plugging in a CD player for music, etc) let me know well in advance . If you walk up to me 5 mins before the show starts asking me where to plug in your CD player I am going to punch you in the face.

We have a bare-bones stripped-down AV setup at our shows with a limited # of electrical outlets, so don't assume we'll automatically have what you need.

Bumping Policy:

Wed & Thurs nite unpaid open-mic shows:

We reserve the right to bump you completely from the show if a "big name" professional comic is unexpectedly available that night & wants to drop by to perform.

Saturday nite paid showcase:

We reserve the right to shave time off your set (we won't reduce your pay—pay stays the same, just less stage time) if a "big name" comic is unexpectedly available to perform or suddenly walks in while the show is in progress.

Cancelation Disclaimer:

Because we run our shows in venues that are not formal official dedicated "Comedy Clubs", any of our shows may be cancelled for that week if a private party suddenly offers the venue big \$ to use our room on a night that we have a show scheduled.

We do the shows in private party rooms that are normally vacant, but if the venue gets an offer to use that room for a paid private party our show will get bumped. This rarely happens, but it does happen. I will give you as much advance notice as possible of any show cancellations.

Cover Charge: RiRa Wednesdays & Topaz Thursdays are free shows-no cover charge to get in. Hyatt Saturdays: \$10 cash at door, unless you are performing that night, then you get in free, but any family/friends coming to see you must pay the \$10 cash cover charge.

Duos/Duets: 2 person acts...

We only use 1 mic so the two comics will have to share the mic = leave mic in the mic stand and (2) comics stand very close to each other- touching cheek-to-cheek ala Sonny & Cher from 1960's.

DVD Pickup:

If you had a DVD made of your set you must pick it up before or after the show—not during the show—too disruptive to do during show.

"EVERYBODY'S A COMEDIAN™" JOKE CONTEST AFTER EVERY SHOW

Comics are *not* eligible to do the Joke Contest. Only non-com" audience members are eligible to do this segment. Non-com audience members can't compete in the Joke Contest more than once a month at each venue.

Once you perform on our show as a 3mins beginner you are then considered a "comic" and no longer eligible to do the Joke Contest as you would have an unfair advantage over the non-com audience members. Even if you are not performing on our show that night, you are still considered a "comic" and therefore not eligible to do the Joke Contest.

We are always accepting donations to the "Everybody's A Comedian™" joke contest prize package to go along with the \$25 cash. Please bring any unwanted/unopened/unused treasures to the show and give to the MC to add to the prize package. You can also donate one of your CD's/DVD's , T-shirts, etc to the prize package.

Lineup Performance Order: is determined randomly and is emailed to comics 2 days before the show. All comics must arrive at 7:30pm regardless of where they are in the lineup.

Roll Call: Please check in with the on-site show producer (Curt or Dawn) when you arrive to let us know you are officially "here". Final Roll Call/Performance Order is read outloud at 7:50pm to ensure all comics are aware where they are in the performance order lineup. Please be in the showroom at 7:50pm for the Verbal Roll Call.

7:50pm Roll Call: when your name is called, raise your hand and say "HERE" so everyone knows who you are and who they are following on stage.

Production Values:

all 3 shows have a raised platform stage, wooden stool, corded mic & round-base mic stand, sound system, and spotlight, so it looks and feels like a "real show".

Topaz show only: **LOW-CEILING WARNING:** If you are taller than 6' 4" , stand in very front part of stage(closest to audience) where ceiling gets higher. Arrive early and test out the stage before the show to get your footing and a sense of how much head-room you have to play with....

Stage Backdrop-Fake Brick Wall:

RiRa & Topaz have a TV mounted on wall behind where we hang our fake brick wall backdrop, so be careful not to lean on fake brick wall at either place, as that might cause TV to fall off it's mount---not sure how securely they are bolted on so just to be safe, don't lean on the wall!

Stage Time Levels Available:

All comics must start out at 3 minutes of stage time and must consistently "capture the crowd" to earn more time.

If we have not seen you in person you are still considered a "newbie" and must start out at 3mins. All 3mins newbies must bring at least 5 people to the show by 7:00pm in order to perform at RiRa Wednesdays or Topaz Thursdays.

All 3mins newbies at Hyatt Saturdays show must bring at least 10 people to the show by 7:00pm in order to perform.

You only have to bring friends/family *once* at each location at the 3mins level, then (assuming you are at least moderately funny:-) we bump you up to the 5mins level & you no longer have to bring anyone to get on stage. You can still invite friends to see you of course, but no longer mandatory once you reach this 5mins level, since we now deem you "funny & comfortable on stage".

If do well at 5mins a few times at each loation, we will bump up to 7mins, then if do well at 7mins a few times we will bump up to 10,etc.

3 mins

5 mins

7 mins

10 mins

(Hyatt Sat show only =3, 10, 15, 30 mins levels)

FAQ: "why do I gotta start out at 3mins when I have been doin comedy since you were in diapers!?"

A: Even if you are a 20-year veteran of comedy of with a lot of impressive credits, if we have not personally seen you , you are a "newbie" and must start at 3mins . The world is full of veteran comics with many years under their belt, but they just aren't that funny.

But if you are truly funny you will immediately be given slots at our Saturday show and first dibs on any private party shows we get offered. We need funny people!

"Standby" Status:

If a show is filled up for a certain date , you can ask for a "Standby" slot. If any scheduled comics fail to show up you will get their slot, but you must physically at the show to find out if in fact any

comics failed to show up. Standby slots that become "real slots" are announced 10-15 minutes before show time. It's a 50-50 chance of getting on...NOT GUARENTEED.

Traffic light:

We use a street traffic light to time you while you are on stage:

Green light comes on when you step foot on stage

Yellow light = comes on when 2 minutes remaining in your set (yellow is always the "2-minute warning" light)

Red light = comes on when your time is up = finish and exit stage within 10 seconds.

If you are obtuse ("I didn't see the red light") or an egomaniac ("I'm a comic genius so I can ignore the red light") and run the red light beyond 10 seconds you won't be back.

When you arrive at showroom look for the traffic light hanging on wall. Your on-site Producer contact person will be standing next to it. Tell her/him you are a comic performing tonite so she can check you in.

Guest M.C.ing A Show:

If you would like to be a "Guest M.C." at one of the open-mic shows on Wednesdays or Thursdays please send me an email at CurtShackelford@verizon.net. This is not a paid slot, but will give you 7 minutes of stage time and great practice as an MC. MC's are expected to arrive an hour before the show and stay through the end of the "Everybody's A Comedian" Joke Contest.

☺ PERFORMANCE CHECK LIST

StandupComedyToGo.com runs local comedy shows in Maryland/DC/Virginia. We provide a professional and enjoyable environment for the audience, comics, and venue. These rules are guidelines based on our experience, and are designed to maintain a quality show for everyone. Please don't take them personally; please do take them seriously.

Cell phone numbers: Provide a cell phone number for notification of last minute cancellations only. We will not give out your number or use it for anything other than emergencies.

Canceling your spot: If need to cancel your performance for any reason, please email CurtShackelford@verizon.net so we can give your slot to one of our "standby" comics. You may not personally "delegate" your spot to another comic—we have "standbys" who are waiting for cancellations so the slot must go to them, not your friends. Email Curt only—not Dawn. Dawn is to be contacted if you are running late, but still coming, but a complete cancellation = email to Curt

Food & Bevs:

All 3 venues have food-beverage options so you can have dinner in the showroom before or during the show. Visit StandupComedyToGo.com for specifics.

Outside food and beverage is prohibited. Do not bring in outside food & bevs.

As always, please tip your bartenders and servers generously. They help keep our shows going, and can be our biggest fans.

Hyatt Sat. show : you are allowed to bring in carry-out food to eat , but NO BEVERAGES(this includes bottled water). Must purchase any & all bevs from the Hyatt cash bar in our showroom.

Guitar Comics:

For the love of God, please have your guitar strapped onto you, tuned to the right key, and ready to play *before* you get onstage. Annoying to have to wait for you to strap it on, get it in tune, etc while you are already on stage. You should walk on *ready to play* the second you hit the stage.

Headshots:

Headshots are mandatory only for the MC, the Feature Act, & the Headliner at Bethesda Hyatt Saturday night show and for Private Party shows only. 3min newbies do not need Headshots at any of our shows.

Must be Hi-Res and in jpeg format & full-color(no B & W allowed) at least 300 dpi at 2.5inches wide.

Headshot Photographer: Amanda Lomax ALomax12@gmail.com

<http://LomaxPhoto.com/home.html>

Tip about Headshot pics: Resist the urge to make a comical/silly Headshot pic. The best headshots are a plain pic of your face against a plain not cluttered background, with a dead serious almost tragic/gloomy look on your face with no attempt at humor. Then when people see you onstage they are pleasantly surprised that you are funny-in sharp contrast with your Headshot pic.

Once you have your headshots made, email one to us at CurtShackelford@verizon.net with "Headshot pic for Hyatt show" in subject line.

Plugging Your Other Shows:

OK to verbally announce during your set(but that announcement time is included as part of your "stage time"), but DO NOT leave or hand out any paper flyers/business cards/postcards/etc physically at the venue if they are promoting another venue.

Dress Code:

No threatening thug/gangster stuff. No baggy jeans/athletic wear/heavy jewelry/hats/sunglasses.. No T-shirts with writing/pictures/messages/etc on them. We want the audience to listen to you rather than trying to figure out what your T-shirt says.

NO hats

NO sunglasses

NO hair in your face covering your eyes. If you got bangs that hang low on forehead: cut them, wear a barrett, or tie back in ponytail so not obscuring your eyes.

NO on anything that will hide your eyes. Eye Contact is crucial to "connecting" with the crowd.

If they can't see your eyes you will not get laughs. Your *eyes* tell the joke more than your mouth does.

Material:

Characters: no "characters" allowed. Doing a "character" at a *standup comedy* show is almost always disastrous cuz it's not the right "forum". The audience is expecting traditional setup-punchline standup comedy, not SNL character-sketch comedy, so they will not get into it—even if it is a funny character. It's just too hard for audience to suddenly shift gears from "standup" to "sketch" comedy.

Save the "characters" for sketch comedy shows where they belong, they always fall flat at "standup comedy" shows.

Crowd work: I hate "improv comedy" ...where you just sort of wing it and hope lightning strikes. The problem is lightning strikes only rarely. Waiting for it is annoying and tedious and even when it does strike it's usually only mildly funny. I consider "crowd work" (where you talk to the crowd hoping to get a laugh out of the improv'd conversation) the same thing as improv comedy...usually NOT FUNNY. I expect you to do standup comedy---not improv/crowd work. A little bit of crowd work is fine—but keep it short & sweet. 10% crowd work and 90% actual standup comedy material.

Even when "crowd work" does get a laugh it's usually only funny to the 1 table you're talking to, leaving the rest of the room (including me) annoyed at you and wondering when you are going to get back to "real material" so we can *all* have fun, not just the table you're picking on.

Along the lines of "crowd work": if audience members arrive late and are taking their seats during your set and sitting right up front DO NOT ADDRESS THEM OR ENGAGE THEM -LEAVE THEM ALONE. Just continue doing your set without missing a beat as if they weren't there.

They are *already* self-conscious about being late and taking seats right in front of you during your set, so don't make it more awkward by engaging/talking to them. Leave them alone!

Ditto for waiters taking food-bev orders right in front of you during your set. Leave them alone-let them do their job. Their job requires talking so don't chastise them for talking during your set—They have to do their job selling food-bevs or the show will not stay alive.

Dirty material: totally OK to be dirty, but not over-the-top graphically filthy with no attempt at humor--keep it R-rated. The Will Ferrell movie "Step Brothers" is filthy, but hysterically funny so the general rule is **OK to be dirty as long as it's also funny".**

Promoting yourself for Private Party gigs:

Don't say "I'm available for private gigs" at the end of your set, as that will conflict/compete with our own post-show announcements where we say "hey if you'd like to hire any of our comics for private gigs please visit our website...."

If an audience member approaches after your set and asks you to do a private gig, we request you refer them to our website (StandupComedyToGo.com).

You can ignore this rule and have them contact you directly—I will never know, but then you are back to the original dilemma of private party gigs: no stage, no proper spotlighting, bad sound, and most importantly, no intelligent seating strategy of the audience, all these things adding up to a horrible experience. This is why most private gigs are usually disastrous affairs and this is the precise niche I'm hoping to fill.

We provide all the necessary equipment & "crowd control" that can make any room feel like a "show room".

You have more fun performing, the audience has more fun, all increasing your chances that this private gig will become an annual thing.

Wasting stage time:

Here are some things we never ever want to hear at our shows--these are wastes of time & actually annoy the audience.

Not sure where these hacky traditions started, but it stops at our shows:

"hey give it up for your Host/M.C. and all the comics you've seen tonite" (they have already clapped as much as they wanted to...)

"are you guys having fun?"(yes—they were having fun until you asked this)

"how you folks doin tonite?"(they were doing fine until you asked them this)

"keep it goin' for (previous comic)" (they have already clapped as much as they wanted to...)

"give it up one more time for (previous comic)"(see comments above)

Microphone use:

You must hold mic close to your mouth touching your chin as if you were shaving your chin with a razor—otherwise we cannot hear you clearly. This may seem like a "DUH!" bit of advice, but **not holding the mic close enough to mouth is the #1 mistake that newbies make.** If in doubt, rest the mic on your chin and keep it there touching your chin until you get a feel for how loud you are.

Nothing is more annoying than straining to hear a comic who is not holding the mic close enough to mouth.

When holding mic in hand, be careful not to press down on the little silver knob at base of mic where mic meets mic cord. That little silver knob is what holds mic cord onto mic, so pressing on it will disconnect the mic cord and cord will drop out of mic.

Keep your hands on the upper body of the mic—away from the mic-meets-mic-cord area.

If you want to leave the mic in the mic stand while you perform then you must stand *at the mic stand* where the mic is or we can't hear you. Again, this may seem obvious, but newbies will often not stand close enough to the mic stand and we can't hear them.....DUH!

Removing mic from mic stand: keep your face away from the mic area when pulling it out of stand. Sometimes it comes rocketing out with great force and if standing behind it it will hit you in the mouth and give you a fat bloody lip. Stand to the side when wrestling the mic out of the mic stand.

Don't drop or throw the mic—will dent the silver metal mesh "wind screen" and if the dent is big enough, it will hurt sound quality of mic.

Mic Stand Use:

If need to move mic stand to different part of stage or to put on floor, don't grab it by the skinny upper part, instead grab by lower fatter section of pole. Grabbing by upper skinny section of pole puts strain on the little cheap-o plastic pieces inside the middle "tightener" piece and eventually breaks them(planned obsolescence). So always grab it from the lower section when moving it around.

The mic clip (the claw-shaped thing at top of stand that holds the mic) is permanently welded in place at a 45 degree slanted angle=it won't move, so don't try to adjust it. You can only raise or lower the mic stand(the vertical pole) itself to get the mic near your mouth.

Do not play with mic clip while you are performing. This is a common "nervous habit" with a lot of comics. Unlike other mic clips, our mic clips are welded at a permanent 45 degree angle and any bending-squeezing-twisting-turning-massaging, etc will actually break it.

You can rest your hand on it, but don't "molest" it or it will break.

Mic stand placement during your set:

if holding mic with your hands during your set, move mic stand to the side of stage so not directly in front of you so audience can see all of you & your body language.

If want to keep mic in the mic stand in front of you during your set, lower the mic stand so it is below your chin so no mic stand dark shadows (from spotlight) are obscuring your face.

If you don't lower it , there will be big black shadows all over your face and audience can't see your facial expressions. Facial expressions "tell" the joke more than your voice does, so it's vital we see all of your face clearly.

Respect The Audience: Please do not "pick on" the audience in the front rows. If an audience member starts something or gives a friendly "joining in" remark, it's certainly OK to engage! To fill the front seats for a great show, we promise the tentative audience members "it's a house rule that the comics are not allowed to pick on you." Please honor that. We will remove any audience member who consistently disrupts the show.

Talking:

Comics talking during the show is a BIG NO-NO:

NO TALKING DURING THE SHOW-THIS INCLUDES WHISPERING.

Whispering is just as annoying as talking.

TAKE IT OUTSIDE OF THE SHOWROOM AND OUTSIDE OF HEARING RANGE OF THE SHOWROOM. Standing out in hall just outside the showroom is still too close to the showroom to be talking. The audience can hear you.

Go way way down the hall, go upstairs, go downstairs, go outside, etc.

If we have to remind you to move your conversation out of the performing area, you won't be allowed back on our shows.

Comics talking during the show sets a bad example for the audience--the audience then thinks it's OK for *them* to talk during the show...and very quickly everyone is chatting away like they're at a cocktail party instead of a "show".

It's also very rude to your fellow comics.

Comics hate it when people in the audience are talking during their set onstage, but they think it's totally fine for them to talk during other comic's sets.

Huh?? Don't be a hypocrite.

If you need to chat step outside of the showroom area!

Do not talk to the Show Producers (Jen at RiRa, Dawn at Topaz, Curt at Hyatt) or the MC's during the actual show. Talk before the show starts or after it's over. There is nothing so important that it warrants disrupting the show Producer or MC with needless chatter. It can wait.

Taxes: If we use you for paid shows, you must email the following information before we can pay you (so that we have the information on hand should we need to issue you a 1099):

Full Legal Name: _____

Physical Mailing Address:

Social Security Number: _____

If you are not reporting your income to the IRS, we cannot use you for paid shows. The IRS *will* catch you eventually and we don't want to get dragged down with you.

Traveling from NYC:

take www.BoltBus.com or www.MegaBus.com - you can get those for one dollar each way if you book far enough in advance, and it's never more than \$25 each way, which is way less than the cost of gas & tolls.

Video Recordings of your set:

We do not automatically videotape all the comic's sets. You must request to be videotaped:

If want a video of your set: Email the respective videographer for that show you are on (see your "comics" flyer for their contact info). Email them with "Comic needs video at (Hyatt-RiRa-Topaz) on (Wed-Thur-Sat date of your show)" in the email Subject line.

Bring \$20 cash to the show to give to the videographer when you arrive at 7:00pm. They will record your set & upload to YouTube.

You are not allowed to videotape yourself, must use our in-house Videographer.

Website Design:

This woman can build you a nice & affordable website for your comedy career—she's a smartie:

Ekta Paneri ekta.paneri@gmail.com

Performing at other shows:

If you are brand new to standup we want you to do only our shows. We are competing with other shows in the DC/MD/VA area for the funniest comics. If you perform at other non-StandupComedyToGo shows you are no longer eligible to perform on our Saturday night show at Bethesda Hyatt.

OK to perform at other venues *if* we don't have room for you at our shows, i.e. we want you to ask to do our shows first, then if we have no space available, OK to do other non-SCTG.com venues.

Seating Arrangement:

Bringing family/friends/co-workers to see you: sit with them in the very front row of seats closest to the stage at the middle table, filling up those front seats by stage first, then working your way back to fill other seats.

Coming alone: sit only in the designated area for the comics:

Hyatt show: in back row of chairs by entrance door, behind ticket table.

RiRa show: downstairs in main bar room

Topaz show: upstairs in main bar room

"Comics Waiting Room" area at RiRa(downstairs in main bar) & Topaz(upstairs in main bar) will have a baby monitor in those areas so you guys can listen to the show/follow along to hear when you're next/etc., without having to physically be in showroom - don't wanna be taking up showroom space where audience could be standing.

If you are the last one to leave the "comics waiting room" please turn off the baby monitor so it's not blasting for no reason. If you are the first one to enter the comics waiting room please turn baby monitor ON loud enough for you to hear, but no super-loud so it bothers the other folks in bar who don't wanna hear the show.

After your set at RiRa or Topaz: If not leaving immediately after your set, go back downstairs/upstairs to the "Comics Waiting Room" area-DO NOT STAY IN SHOWROOM AREA.

Do not sit or stand anywhere in the showroom or near the showroom—we need that space for audience to sit or stand.

Stay outside of the room, but be careful not to block the trafficways that the waiters & audience need to get in & out of the room .

If you block the traffic ways you won't be back.

We won't remind or nag you to stay out of the traffic areas—we just won't have you back.

Don't stand in any spots that will block the audience's view of the stage or obstruct waiter's traffic aisleways for carrying Food & Bevs.

Do not stand or sit on stairs or in stairwell or in hallway leading to showroom.

That area needs to remain clear for waiters & customer traffic.

Standing/sitting in the stairwells or anywhere near the entrance to showroom causes another more serious problem:

when audience walks in they see you standing there and they assume that means "no seats left in showroom" (they don't realize that you're the performers) so they turn around and leave, even though we have open seats left in showroom...OUCH!

SPOTLIGHTS:

Don't touch them for any reason.

RiRa & Topaz shows have ceiling lights overhead that are reachable from stage, but they will fall down on someone's head if you touch them (precariously attached on a tiny hook) =DO NOT TOUCH.

Hyatt has a floor-standing spotlight in back of room where the comics are seated. Don't go near it. Bumping into the pole or stepping on its base will cause it to wobble & topple over =DO NOT TOUCH.

STAGE ETIQUETTE

First timers should arrive a little early to jump on stage and test the mic to get used to the lighting and sound system. Taking notes or cue cards with you on stage is strongly recommended if you are a newbie. No matter how much preparation you did, your beautiful mind will go totally blank the minute you hit the stage so you'll wanna have your notes handy to glance at.

When you get on stage, take the mic out of mic stand and move mic stand back into one of the corners of stage or off the stage completely so it is out of the visual field.

To raise or lower mic stand: put foot on base of mic stand, turn collar in middle of pole left to loosen. Pull mic stand up or push down to correct level....then turn collar right to tighten—do not over-tighten. It only takes a slight tightening to make the stand stay in place. Over-tightening will break the collar's fragile inner plastic sleeves.

Do not look at your watch on your wrist. It makes the audience think you are not having fun and can't wait to be done and gone. Place your watch on the stool so you can glance at it secretly.

When done with your set fix stage setup so it is ready for the next comic:

1. return mic to the mic stand
2. return mic stand to front & center of stage.
3. return stool back to the stage if you put it on the floor for your set.

Props:

Please do not use any props(liquids,etc) that will make a mess on the stage or walls. We get billed for any mess or damage cleanup. Please leave the stage as you found it.

Drugs & Alcohol:

Celebrate after the show, not before or during. Be professional on stage.

😊 HELP US BE BETTER!

Suggestion Box: Got any ideas on how to improve the show? Please email them to CurtShackelford@verizon.net

Roadies: Pre-show setup and/or Post-show teardown packup:

We always need volunteer help setting up/breaking down/running the shows/etc---arriving early(anytime after 5pm) or staying late (until about 10:30pm).

Let us know if you can help out—we will give preferential stage time treatment to those who help us with this not-so-glamorous part of doing our shows.

😊 RECOMMENDED LINKS

Website Design & Setup:

Email Chris White at chris@dcstandup.com

Headshots:

David Stein ToLife@verizon.net local DC-area photographer

T-shirts: www.ABCTees.com in Rockville,MD is good and cheap if wanna make & sell your own promotional T-shirts to sell after your shows

Day Job:

Let us know what you do for a living so in case we ever need your service/products we will buy from you first. We support struggling comics --our way of "donating to the arts".

Lost and Found:

Anything we find when we pack up is returned to the main bar(RiRa) or front registration check-in desk of the hotel(Hyatt & Topaz).

Gifts for Curt: Please no gifts. If you want to show your appreciation you may donate a gift as one of the prizes to be given away at the "Everybody's A Comedian" joke contest after each show.