

John Bizarre: Not so bizarre comedy style

By Susan Steinmueller
staff writer

Before finding his niche as a stand-up comedian, John Bizarre had jobs in which he was like a round peg in a square hole.

While living in New York, the 28-year-old Los Angeles comic was a disc jockey at an adult contemporary music station playing the songs of Barbara Streisand and Neil Diamond.

"I would tell jokes and they didn't fit in with the format and I lost my job," he said.

Another job was as a roller skating rink.

"That was harder work. You need platform shoes for that," he said.

None of these or many other jobs seemed to go — "I was the poorest employee. I showed up late if I did show up. I was just the worst."

Then, in 1982, he did a stand-up comedy gig.

"I did it for lack of anything else to do. I used some of the material I used to do on the radio," he said.

The gig went well, and the rest is history. Bizarre had finally found a job that fit. He also found a job he loves.

"I LOVE the lifestyle — it's the freest lifestyle," Bizarre said. "I think it's great."

Bizarre does not even mind the traveling.

"I like hotel rooms, I like to meet people, I like to travel, I like the business, and I like comedians," he said. "I like the Sesame Snack sticks from Pepperidge Farm."

His playful comedy brings as much fun as his name implies. Bizarre describes his act as "very fast-paced. I have a lot of energy on stage — I move around the stage a lot."

A gigantic boom-box radio is one

of his props, contributing to his act also being "loud and raucous." Bizarre keeps away from too much offensive language and humor.

"That's too easy," he said. "I really do a pretty clean show. My material comes from things that irritate me."

Topics run the gamut. His standard for whether or not to use the material is whether it makes him laugh.

"If I think it's funny, then I can sell it to the audience."

Bizarre grew up as an "army brat." He was born in Japan and lived in Portugal and "most of the northeast United States." When he was 18, his family moved to New York, where he made his home for the next 10 years.

Six months ago, he moved to Los Angeles and things have been going well for him there.

HE HAS appeared twice on "Comic Strip Live," and just finished a Showtime Comedy Club Network show. Next week he will be filming a segment for an MTV comedy show.

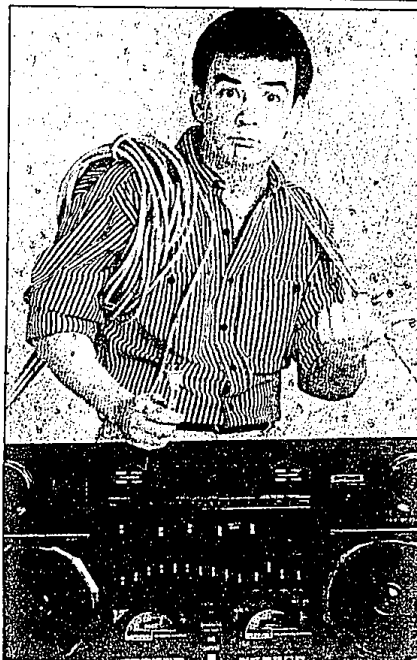
"It's helped a lot living out here, because all the television is here," he said. "Television and movies — that's really where I want to go."

His list of television credits also includes appearances on "Stand Up HBO Short Takes," "Bill Bogs' Comedy Tonight," and Fox Network's "Comedy Express."

Bizarre also showcased at the 1988 and 1989 American Comedy Convention, at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas. He has opened for the Charlie Daniels Band, Robert Palmer, Marc "Skippy" Price and Greg Allman.

He is a frequent performer at colleges, and recently appeared at Kalamazoo College. He has showcased three times for the National Association of Campus Activities.

His catchy name doesn't hurt



Before finding his niche as a stand-up comedian, John Bizarre worked at such jobs as a disc jockey at an adult contemporary music station and at a roller skating rink.

when it comes to his career. It dates back to his job as a D.J., and it's one he decided to keep.

Other things you need to know about Bizarre — his four heroes are Daffy Duck, Bill Murray, David Letterman and Groucho Marx.

And, his love of Sesame Sticks — "I can't really emphasize enough how much I like Sesame Snack sticks."

John Bizarre will headline Wednesday through Saturday, March 28-31, at Joey's Comedy Club and Sports Emporium, 15246 Southfield, Allen Park. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For more information call 382-7041.

COMEDY CLUBS

Here are some listings of comedy clubs in our area. To let us know who is appearing at your club, send the information to: Comedy Listings, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

● Chaplin's East

Scott Shaw and the Fabulous Funk Brothers, along with Rocky LaPorte and Sean Hunter, will perform Wednesday-Saturday, March 28-31, at Chaplin's East, 3424 Groesbeck, Fraser. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Thursday, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 792-1907.

● Chaplin's West

T.C. Hatter, along with Jim McEllegb and Ken Brown, will perform Tuesday-Saturday, March 27-31, at Chaplin's West, 16890 Telegraph, south of Six Mile, Detroit. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 8 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 533-8688.

● Chaplin's Plymouth

Jack Thomas will perform Wednesday-Saturday, March 28-31, at Chaplin's Plymouth in the Radisson, 14707 Northville Road, Plymouth. Showtimes are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 454-4680.

● Comedy Castle

Dave Coulter will perform along with Mark Sill Thursday-Saturday, March 29-31, at the Comedy Castle, 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak. For reservations, call 542-9900.

● Joey's Allen Park

Allan Stephan will perform Wednesday-Saturday, March 28-31, at Joey's Comedy Club and Sports Emporium, Southfield Road, Allen Park. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 8 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 382-7041.

● Joey's Livonia

Klaus Meyers will perform Wednesday-Saturday, March 28-31, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road, east of Levan, Livonia. Show times are 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday. For reservations, call 261-0555.

● Holly Hotel

Craig McCart, with Al Langston and Stuart Johnson will perform Thursday-Saturday, March 29-31, at Holly Hotel, 110 Battle Alley, Holly. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Thursday and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 634-1891.

● Miss Kitty's

Ben Ulla and Jim Burrows will perform Thursday-Saturday, March 29-31, at Miss Kitty's Comedy Club, Long Branch Restaurant, 595 N. LaPeer Road, Oxford. Show times are 8 p.m. Thursday, 8 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 628-6500.

● Looney Bin

S.R.O. will perform with Keith Huff and Lisa Guich Thursday-Saturday, March 29-31, in a special anniversary celebration at the Wolverine and Looney Bin Restaurant and Comedy Club, 1655 Gengary, Walled Lake. Show times are 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 8 and 10:15 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 669-9374.

● Bea's Comedy Kitchen

Skeeter Murray, Steve Mitebel and Dewatawa Tony Brown will perform Friday-Saturday, March 30-31, at Bea's Comedy Kitchen, 541 Larned, Detroit. Show times are 8:30 and 11 p.m. For information, call 951-2581.

● Mainstreet

Steve & Leo will perform Friday-Saturday, March 30-31, at Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 and 11 p.m. Friday and 7, 9 and 11 p.m. Saturday. For information, call 996-9880.

● Looney Bin Too

Michael Blackman will perform Friday-Saturday, March 30-31, at The Roxy Looney Bin Too, 11175 Haggerty, Belleville. For reservations, call 699-1829.

● Duffy's

Bob Posh Comedy Show will take place 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at Duffy's, 8635 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake. Admission is \$7. For information, call 363-9469.

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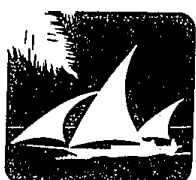
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