

His 'low-key' humor keeps 'em laughing

By Loraine McGillich
staff writer

Ted Norkey is no stranger to Joey's Comedy Club in Livonia; he has performed there "a couple of times." That's why he can say he and the audience he meets in Livonia "get along just fine."

Norkey has an off-the-wall comedy style that is difficult to categorize and, much to his chagrin, has shot over some audience's heads.

"There are nights everything works and there are nights when you die, but the Livonia crowd like all of my jokes, or at least most of them. My comedy is low-key, subtle, straight stand up, but not that much intellectual. I disclaim being an intellectual."

"I just think differently than most people and my comedy comes from that. I guess not thinking like most people is what led to the show business career."

"Thinking differently from most people has also led to his being described as 'the comic's comic.'"

MUCH OF Norkey's act is ad lib. Many of these ad libs get incorporated into the act. And many one-liners have built on themselves to the point where they turn into bits.

He gave an example:

"I put a dollar into a change machine and I haven't been the same since. That led to all over the place, but I'm all over the place anyway."

"I do some stuff that's self-deprecating, take some stuff from whatever Newsweek or Omni has to say

this week, do a bit about whales."

BORN AND raised in Jackson, Norkey said he got a late start on his career as a professional comedian, but is now playing his trade coast to coast.

"I have admired comedians ever since I can remember, and now I'm living out my fantasy. Not many can say that."

Norkey got his start about 12 years ago at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle. For the next few years he worked as manager of a supply warehouse, plumber and comedian. "I turned professional about eight years ago when the comedy boom blossomed — when comedy was snowballing in towns that didn't have a club opened several clubs."

NONETHELESS, "nobody wants to be a road comic all of their lives and never see the kids."

"When I'm gone it's from two to eight weeks at a time. The goal for all of us (comedians) is to break into the big time and when you do that you are probably going to have to make the move to Los Angeles."

"That's when you are in a new town and starting all over again. That's another fantasy to live and turn into reality."

Ted Norkey will perform at Joey's Comedy Club, Plymouth Road east of Levan, Livonia, Wednesday-Saturday, June 6-9. Show time is 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 8:30 and 10:45 p.m. Friday and Saturday.



Ted Norkey describes his comedy as low-key, subtle, straight stand up, but not intellectual. He disclaims "being an intellectual."

COMEDY CLUBS

Here are listings of some 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

Rich Parpera will perform with Brad Nelson and Harry Aris Wednesday-Saturday, June 6-9, at Chaplin's East, 3424 Grosbeck, Fraser. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 792-1902.

● CHAPLIN'S WEST

Dale Irvin will perform with Mark Still and Jim McLean Friday-Saturday, June 8-9, 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 533-8866.

● CHAPLIN'S PLYMOUTH

Pati Williams will perform Wednesday-Saturday, June 6-9, at Chaplin's Plymouth, at the Radisson, 14707 Northville Road, Plymouth. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For reservations, call 455-4688.

● COMEDY CASTLE

Bill Kirchenbauer will perform with Brent Cushman Tuesday-Saturday, June 5-9, at the Comedy Castle, 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak. Show times are 8 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and 8 and 10:45 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For reservations, call 542-9900.

● JOEY'S ALLEN PARK

Norm Stutz will perform Wednesday-Saturday, June 6-9, 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

Ted Norkey will perform Wednesday-Saturday, June 6-9, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road, east of Levan, Livonia. Show times are 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 and 10:45 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For reservations, call 261-0555.

● HOLLY HOTEL

Stacy DeFord will perform along with Steve Billnitzer and Peter Berman Thursday-Saturday, June 7-9, at Holly Hotel, 110 Battle Alley, Holly. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Thursday and 8:30 (no smoking show Friday only) and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 634-1891.

● MISS KITTY'S

Randy Cole will perform with Dan Dillon Thursday-Saturday, June 7-9, 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

Norm Stutz will perform with Tommy Mason and Ray Effler Friday-Saturday, June 8-9, at the Wolverine and Looney Bin Restaurant and Comedy Club, 1655 Glenary, 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.

● MAINSTREET

Kirkland Teeple will perform Friday-Saturday, June 8-9, at Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Show times are 8:30 and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 926-9080.

● DUFFY'S

Bob Posch Comedy Show will perform at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at Duffy's, 8635 Cookey Lake Road, Union Lake. Admission is \$7. For information, call 353-9469.

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Send your responses to: Showcase Film Quiz, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150. A representative of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Showcase Cinemas will be on hand to receive your responses.

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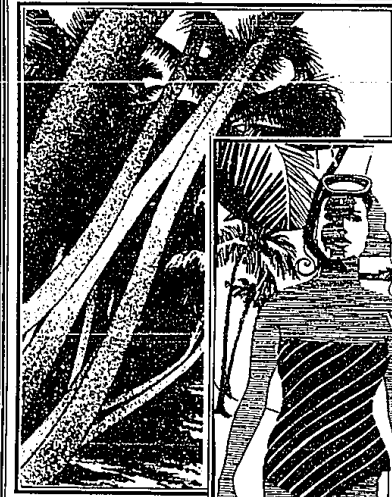
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