

STREET CRACKS

Shandling cuts his hair but not sense of humor

By Amy Rosa
staff writer

Two things have changed about Gary Shandling since he was last in town.

Number one, he's not just dating any more — he has a steady "chick." Number two, his hair is shorter.

If you don't believe it, stop by Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak this week and see for yourself. Shandling, who's been away from the Motor City for just a couple of years, will give three 90-minute shows this Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 2-4.

Back to those startling revelations, the most significant of which is, of course, his hair.

"I got it cut about two weeks ago, and it's really short," said Shandling last week, sounding somewhat despondent over the phone. "My friend Jeff Goldblum talked me into going to get my hair cut by a girl who does his. And the first thing she said was that it looked 'feminine.'"

So, his masculinity at stake, the locks were cut. "It is growing out," he added. Was it a mistake? Tune in to find out.

Now, for the second revelation. Gary has a girlfriend (sung to the

tune of na . . . nana . . . na . . . na . . . na).

AND IF HE thought dating was tough in the '80s, making a relationship work in the '90s is even tougher, claimed the 40-year-old.

"You talk about my current relationship, rather than about dating, like in my old act," he said. "I solicit advice from the audience."

He also solicits advice from reporters.

"You sound happy, what's your secret?" Shandling interrupted.

Back to the interview. Exactly how serious is this relationship of his anyway? Is he engaged? Shacking up? Does he call her his significant other? What's the poop?

"What is this?" he answered. "Women, I'm not even involved with want to define my relationships. That's the worst thing you can do. That's like going up to your boss and asking him what your job is today."

"I don't think people should be forced to define relationships."

It's not that Shandling is sensitive. Really. He's just a private guy — even though he doesn't come off that way to his audiences. His routines — which include intimate details of his

life — leave crowds with the feeling that they really know him, that he's just a regular guy.

Shandling attributes this to the fact that he writes all his own material.

"I take my personal experiences . . . or I take unusual things in life that happen to all of us and work with them," he said.

SHANDLING, who's been doing standup comedy for 15 years, said Mark Ridley was one of the first places he appeared.

"Mark and I go back a long way," he said.

Reflecting on his very first appearance, Shandling admitted he was "good." And then laughed, "but I was bad the next 20 times."

"I had no spontaneity," he said. "I had to learn to develop that. It's not as easy as it looks."

Gary Shandling will perform at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak, at 7 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Oct. 2-4. Tickets cost \$16 and must be purchased in advance. For reservations, call the Comedy Castle at 542-9900.



Gary Shandling has won over crowds with his routines, which involve the audience and leave them the feeling that they really know him, that he's just a regular guy.

COMEDY CLUBS

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

● CHAPLIN'S EAST
Joe Camponera will perform Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 3-6, at Chaplin's East, 3474 Groesbeck, 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
Joe Vega will perform with Ma Betterman and Ken Brown Tuesday-Saturday, Oct. 2-6, 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 533-8966.

● CHAPLIN'S PLYMOUTH
Donnell will perform Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 3-6, 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 454-4680.

● MAINSTREET
William Coroneo will perform Friday and Saturday, Oct. 5-6, at Main-Street Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Show times are 8:30 and 11 p.m. Friday and 7, 9 and 11 p.m. Saturday. For information, call 998-9080.

● BEA'S COMEDY KITCHEN
Rob Lederman will perform along with Tommy Chann and Dwyane Tony Brown, Friday-Saturday, Oct. 5-6, at Bea's Comedy Kitchen, 541 Larned, Detroit. Show times are 8:30 and 11 p.m. For information, call 961-2581.

● COMEDY CASTLE
Gary Shandling will perform in Tuesday-Thursday, Oct. 2-4, and Mark Roberts Friday-Saturday, Oct. 5-6, at the Comedy Castle, 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak. Show time is 7 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and 8:30 and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For

reservations, call 542-9900.

● JOEY'S LIVONIA
Riechie Mierival will perform along with Steve Mitchell Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 3-6, at Joey's Comedy Club, Plymouth Road, between Wayne and Levan roads, Livonia. Show times are 9 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday. For information, call 261-0355.

● JOEY'S ALLEN PARK
S.R.O. will perform along with Keith Raff Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 3-6, 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 AT THE ROXY
Nora Sager will perform Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 4-6, at Joey's Comedy Club at the Roxy, 11175 Haggerty Road, Belleville. Show times are 9 p.m. Thursday and 8:30 and 10:45 p.m. Friday-Saturday. For information, call 699-1829.

● HOLLY HOTEL
Tim Butterfield will perform along with Sean Hunter and Ross Amicucci Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 4-6, at Holly Hotel, 110 Baitou 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
Diane Alaimo will perform along with Mike Rivera Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 4-6, 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
Mike Green will perform with Lisa Goleb and Tom Frank Friday-Saturday, Oct. 5-6, at the Wolverine and Looney Bin Restaurant and Comedy Club, 1655 Glengary, Walled Lake. Show times are 9 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 8 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday. Wednesday and Thursday shows are free. For

more information, call 669-9374.

● DUFFY'S
Bob Posch Comedy Show will perform at 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.

● PENN & TELLER
Penn & Teller will perform through Sunday, Oct. 14, at the Flsher Theatre in Detroit. For information, call 872-1000.

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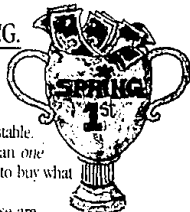
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ENTRY FORM:

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Send your response to: Showcase Film Quiz, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150. Employees of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Showcase Cinema are not eligible. Editor's choice is final in all matters.