



David Daniel is a doctor . . . of comedy, that is

By Julie Brown

David Daniel's found comedians tend to be thoughtful and well-informed.

"They're a very intelligent group of people in general," said Daniel, a comedian who appears regularly in the Detroit area. "A lot of them have a Ph.D. in life, they really do."

Daniel, 26, recently completed work on his Ph.D. in psychology at West Virginia University. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from San Diego State University and a master's degree in psychology from West Virginia University in Morgantown.

After finishing his master's degree, Daniel came to Detroit for about a year. He did graduate work at Wayne State University and taught psychology.

Daniel, who grew up in Los Angeles, has been working as a comedian for about six years, having started as an undergraduate at San Diego State University.

"I decided comedy's what I want to do. As a matter of fact, graduate school has just given me fantastic material."

DANIEL INCORPORATES his academic background into his comedy routines. He does something on people who go to a therapist because the mail is late or the garbage doesn't get picked up.

"You don't need a therapist for that, you need a country and Western singer."

Daniel's act is "fairly clean. There are no dirty words in any of this." He uses material on current events,

watching CNN regularly to keep up with things.

The first half of his act includes local humor. He finds things out about each place he visits.

"Everywhere there's a mail there's something funny."

He talks about what it takes to be a psychology major and about how psychologists appear on TV talk shows. Daniel's act makes reference to Geraldo Rivera's show on Satan worship.

Daniel worked to change the timing and delivery on that part of his act; he found some people thought he was a Satan worshiper.

"I do a lot of things on religion," He talks about Catholicism and about people going on a "sin binge" and experiencing "spiritual bulimia."

Daniel wasn't raised as a Catholic. He tried that part of his act out on Catholic friends.

"I don't want to be offensive to anybody except for fanatics." He avoids material that belittles women.

"I don't do any gay-bashing. It's very easy, but I don't see any reason for it."

DANIEL TALKS about TV evangelism and about reincarnation. If reincarnation is a reality, he said, people who commit suicide most likely will be extremely angry.

He then likes to give audiences a rest, getting away from those heavy topics.

"That's what they're there for, to have fun, and so am I." He talks about dating a Haitian, bisexual junkie with cold sores on her lip.

"I met her at the blood bank."

Originality is important to Daniel, who does some improvisational work toward the end of his act. His work as a comedian takes him all over the U.S. and Canada.

Daniel also does some counseling and teaches undergraduate psychology courses, but he's not sure the life of a full-time academic is for him.

"It may happen down the road. I'd be a really good teacher, but not a good academic. I like the interaction with people."

At one point, Daniel considered quitting graduate school. He realized the "stage time" he got in classrooms was helpful. Daniel also enjoys performing his comedy routines on campuses for college audiences.

Faculty members he's worked with consider his comedy work an added dimension of teaching, but at the same time wish he could be more committed to psychology.

"Going on the road is no big deal because I handle it professionally from my end." He's scheduled his comedy work around his academic commitments.

"My comedy's come a long way, even since when I was in Detroit." He's looking forward to appearing soon at the Looney Bin Comedy Club.

"I've always had a really good time in Detroit when I've worked there. I like Detroit audiences." David Daniel will appear at 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 1-3, at the Looney Bin Comedy Club, lower level of the Wolverine Restaurant, 1655 Glenpark, Walled Lake. Price is \$7 and reservations are required. For reservations, call 689-3374.

Don't let the doctoral degree in psychology scare you. David Daniel is just as zany a comedian as the rest and the extra education is just fodder for his routines.

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.

• **Bea's Comedy Kitchen**

Ruben Ruben and Downtown Tony Brown will perform Friday-Saturday, Feb. 2-3, at Bea's Comedy Kitchen, 541 Larned, Detroit. Show times are 8:30 and 11 p.m. For information, call 961-2581.

• **Chaplain's East**

Joe Vega will perform Wednesday-Saturday, Jan. 31 to Feb. 3, at Chaplain's East, 34244 Groosbeck, Fraser. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 792-1902.

• **Chaplain's West**

Paul Kelly, along with Jeff Show and Pete Demoyne, will perform Friday-Saturday, Jan. 30-Feb. 3, at Chaplain's West, 16990 Telegraph, south of Six Mile, Detroit. For information, call 533-8866.

• **Mainstreet**

Gary Laxer will perform Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 1-3, 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 7:30 and 11 p.m. Saturday. For information, call 996-9080.

• **Joey's Livonia**

Joe DeLeon will perform along with Skeeter Murray and Steve Brewer Wednesday-Saturday, Jan. 31-Feb. 3, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth, 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.

• **Joey's Allen Park**

Jack Marlowe will perform along with Carl Anthony Wednesday-Saturday, Jan. 31-Feb. 3, 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.

• **Holly Hotel**

Chris Jakeway, Rob Taylor and Harry Arlin will perform Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 1-3, 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.

• **Looney Bin Too**

Marlo will perform on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 2-3, at The Roxy Looney Bin Too, 11175 Haggerty.

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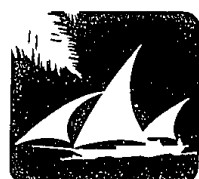
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