

# STREET CRACKS

## Carey's recipe for success includes plenty of laughs

By Brenda Dooley  
staff writer

Comedian James Carey said his legacy to America, if he could leave one, would be simple — a recipe for grilled cheese sandwiches with applesauce.

Carey suggests everyone try the culinary treat at least once. Because

grilled cheese is one of Carey's favorite foods, a friend asked him to test the cheesy/apple combination. Carey said he was skeptical at first, but after the first bite, he was hooked.

"It's really good, try it," Carey said.

A cast member of Fox Broadcast-

ing's "In Living Color" comedy

show, Carey said he's "wanted to be a comedian ever since he can remember."

His first encounter with fame came in second grade. As a young student at a Catholic school, Carey

said he remembers "monkeying around" during music class. A nun spotted Carey at the back of the room, mocking students who were playing instruments.

"She said 'If you think you're so smart, come to the front of the room and do that,'" Carey said.

HE DID, performing a Three Stooges-type dance before his classmates. Afterwards, the class applauded and Carey's teacher asked him to play Santa in the school Christmas assembly.

"That was my first taste of fame," Carey said, laughing.

Later, at the holiday assembly, Carey created a unique Santa show and "had one run on his hands and knees" laughing, which was no easy accomplishment, he said.

Carey grew up "in and around Toronto," leaving at age 17 to explore Los Angeles. Since then Carey said he's gotten a "series of good

breaks," gradually gaining recognition for his acting and comedy.

He's appeared in several feature films, including "Earth Girls Are Easy," "Pink Cadillac," "The Dead Pool," "Peggy Sue Got Married," "Once Bitten," and "Finders Keepers."

Carey's television exposure has included appearances on "Duck Factory," "Buffalo Bill," "The Tonight Show" and "Late Night With David Letterman."

When asked if he prefers live comedy to television and films, Carey said he enjoys both.

"When you're live you have more control over what you're doing," he said. "But I'm having fun on 'In Living Color,' too."

CAREY SAID "In Living Color" creators talked him into joining the series, even though at first he didn't want to get locked into a television series.

"I decided to do it ('In Living Color') because it was different — it had a hard edge. And I'm not stuck into one character."

His ideas for characters, Carey said, "come from me. And some-

times I don't know where they come from."

Currently Carey's on hiatus from the show and plans to appear in comedy clubs throughout the U.S., touring until August. Locally, he's scheduled to perform at the Comedy Castle in Royal Oak May 12-13.

Carey, who now lives in Los Angeles with his wife and daughter, said he's also scheduled to do a comedy special for Showtime in Toronto this summer.

He's played at several comedy clubs over the years, including The Comedy Store and The Improv in Hollywood; Dangerfields and Catch a Rising Star in New York; the Comedy & Magic Club in Hermosa Beach, Calif.; and Cobbs Pub in San Francisco. His last visit to Michigan was more than a year ago when he played at Royal Oak's Comedy Castle, he said.

CAREY'S COMEDY often involves "some kind of behavioral thing we do," sometimes highlighting people's impulses or personality quirks, he said.

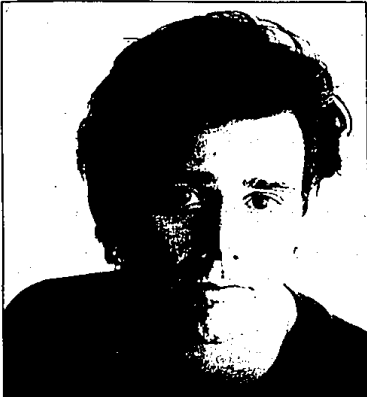
"I think comedy is reassuring to people," he added, because it allows them to make fun of human traits they might not otherwise talk about.

"I like to focus on things I think are dishonest or hypocritical," Carey added.

Asked what direction he wants his career to take, Carey said he'd like to secure a few film roles, write a screenplay and do whatever he wants to after that.

"Whatever I'm doing I have fun," he said.

James Carey will perform May 12-13 at the Comedy Castle, 269E Fourth, Royal Oak. Admission is \$12. For more information call 542-5900.



A Three Stooges-type dance and playing Santa in the school Christmas assembly were James Carey's first brushes with fame. Now he's raking in the praise with his work on Fox's "In Living Color."

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