

COMEDUCATION

By Tim Tayag

In This Issue:

Top 10 reasons why you should be funny and how it will change your life.



WHY LEARN STAND-UP COMEDY?

Comedy at its very core is relating to other people. The better you relate to people, the better off you are with your relationships, even if only for a brief moment, like when you're buying a brief.

I've made so many friends with people from all walks of life just because I was able to make them laugh even for just a second. Doors have opened for me and sometimes I've been given special treatment just for being the funny guy. But I draw the line when they offer me illegal substances. You never know if they are undercover cops. I usually make them strip first just to make sure they're not wired before I even consider their offer.

According to Fabio Sala of the Harvard Business Review, "*More than four decades of study by various researchers confirms some common-sense wisdom: Humor,*

used skillfully, greases the management wheels. It reduces hostility, deflects criticism, relieves tension, improves morale, and helps communicate difficult messages. The most effective executives deploy humor twice as often as the middle-of-the-pack managers. A natural facility with humor is intertwined with, and appears to be a marker for, a much broader managerial trait: high emotional intelligence."

I believe that you've mastered a language when you can joke in that language, and that is why I always bomb in the school for the deaf. Here are my own top 10 reasons why you should be funny.



Mihalyi Csikszentmihalyi (author of Flow) says:

There is no question that a playfully light attitude is characteristic of creative individuals

JOKE PEDDLER



Tim Tayag

Comedy coaches are sketchy especially the ones with pony tails. What I offer are the insights I've discovered along the way in my 12 years of doing comedy in the States, Philippines, Hong Kong, and the Middle East. If I can help just one person, then I really need to do a better job because that would suck.

Top 10 Advantages of Being Funny: Top 5 Dangers of Being (un)Funny:

1. Making speeches and presentations more interesting
2. Getting chicks
3. Building your confidence
4. Getting out of trouble
5. Winning elections without cheating
6. Diffusing potential fights and saving your ass
7. Curing diseases (Patch Adams style)
8. Closing deals both legal and illegal
9. Breaking ice with strangers
10. Taking over the world

Of course, there are hazards to being funny aside from receiving hate emails and death threats from politicians who can't explain their unaccountable increase in wealth. Humor has to be appropriate and not forced. There's nothing worse than doing a tsunami joke and realizing that someone in the audience lost their family to one, even if you throw in a midget into the story for good measure.

So, to be fair, I've listed the hazards of bad jokes.

1. Getting detained at airport and having a cavity search
2. Getting beat up by drunk guys who happen to be mixed martial arts experts
3. Getting shot by a politician's bodyguard
4. Getting excommunicated by the Catholic Church
5. Getting fired from work.

So, as you can see, the benefits clearly outnumber the hazards, especially if you can survive a bullet wound.

Now, maybe you're wondering what kind of people can benefit from developing the skills of comedic writing and performance. Aside from aspiring stand-up comedians, a lot of professionals can gain insight from comedy, such as writers, public speakers, sales people (which is just about everyone), priests, bosses, politicians, Germans, Singaporeans, husbands, wives, and alcoholics.

In the next issue, I will share the anatomy of a joke.



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Marlon Oliván

Allan Manalo

Stanley Chi

Alex Calleja

Mike Usnon

Some of the first Comedy Cartel members