



# Mike Birbiglia

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**Mike Birbiglia** (born June 20, 1978) is an American comedian, actor, and filmmaker.

## Early life

Birbiglia was born in [Shrewsbury, Massachusetts](#), the son of Mary Jean (née McKenzie) and Vincent Paul Birbiglia. He is the youngest of four children.<sup>[2]</sup> He is of part Italian descent.<sup>[3]</sup> Birbiglia attended [St. John's High School, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts](#) for one year, and graduated from [St. Mark's School, Southborough, Massachusetts](#) in 1996<sup>[4][5]</sup> and subsequently graduated from [Georgetown University](#) in 2000.<sup>[6]</sup> During college Birbiglia performed as a member of the Georgetown Players Improv Troupe.

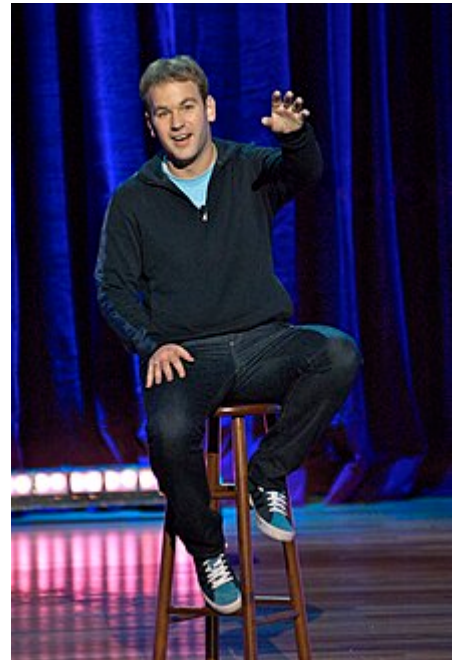
## Professional work

Birbiglia has starred in three [Comedy Central](#) specials and has released three albums with Comedy Central Records: *Two Drink Mike* (2006), *My Secret Public Journal Live* (2007), and *Sleepwalk With Me Live* (2011). *My Secret Public Journal Live* was named one of the best comedy albums of the decade by [The A.V. Club](#)<sup>[7]</sup> and *Sleepwalk With Me Live* debuted at #1 on the *Billboard* Comedy Charts.<sup>[8]</sup>

In 2008, Birbiglia opened *Sleepwalk with Me*, a one-man show that straddled standup comedy and theater, [off-Broadway](#) at the [Bleecker Street Theater](#).<sup>[9][10]</sup> The show was presented by [Nathan Lane](#), and the *New York Times* called it "simply perfect".<sup>[11]</sup> *Time Out New York* named it their "Show of the Year" in 2009.<sup>[12]</sup>

Birbiglia followed up his theatrical debut with *Sleepwalk with Me and Other Painfully True Stories*,<sup>[13]</sup> a book which debuted at #29 on the hardcover nonfiction *New York Times Bestseller List*<sup>[14][15]</sup> and number four on the hardcover nonfiction section of the *Washington Post* Political

Mike Birbiglia



Birth name	Michael Birbiglia
Born	June 20, 1978 <sup>[1]</sup> <div><span></span></div> <a href="#">Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, United States</a> <sup>[1]</sup>
Medium	<a href="#">Stand-up</a> , <a href="#">theatre</a> , <a href="#">radio</a> , <a href="#">television</a> , <a href="#">film</a>
Nationality	<a href="#">American</a>
Years active	2004-present
Spouse	<span>Jen Stein<span> </span>(m.<span> </span>2007)</span>
Children	1
Website	<a href="http://www.birbigls.com">www.birbigls.com</a> ( <a href="http://www.birbigls.com">http://www.birbigls.com</a> )

Bookworm Best Sellers.<sup>[16]</sup> Birbiglia was also a finalist for the 2011 Thurber Prize for American Humor for *Sleepwalk with Me and Other Painfully True Stories*.<sup>[17]</sup>

Birbiglia made his feature film debut with *Sleepwalk with Me*, a film based on his one-man show of the same name which he wrote, directed, and starred in. The film premiered at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival and won the NEXT Audience Award.<sup>[18]</sup> It was selected in the "Festival Favorites" category at the South by Southwest film festival in Austin, Texas<sup>[19]</sup> and also appeared in the Nantucket Film Festival where it won the award for best writer/director.<sup>[20]</sup> The film was produced by Jacob Jaffke and *This American Life's* Ira Glass and stars Birbiglia, Lauren Ambrose, Carol Kane, James Rebhorn, and Cristin Milioti and has cameos by Glass, Kristen Schaal, Wyatt Cenac, David Wain, Jessi Klein, John Lutz and Marc Maron.<sup>[21]</sup>

In addition to starring in *Sleepwalk with Me*, Birbiglia has acted in the films *Trainwreck*, *Going the Distance*, *Cedar Rapids*, *Your Sister's Sister*, *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Annie*, and in the HBO series *Girls*,<sup>[22]</sup> and has played Danny Pearson on the Netflix series *Orange Is the New Black*.

In 2011, Birbiglia mounted his second one-man show, *My Girlfriend's Boyfriend*, which ran for four months off-Broadway and won the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Solo Show.<sup>[23]</sup> He toured *My Girlfriend's Boyfriend* around the world with tour dates in the United States, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. On June 2, 2013, Birbiglia performed it for the last time at Carnegie Hall.<sup>[24][25]</sup> *My Girlfriend's Boyfriend* was featured as the number one stand-up special of 2013 by Vulture,<sup>[26]</sup> *Paste*,<sup>[27]</sup> The Laugh Button<sup>[28]</sup> and Laughspin.<sup>[29]</sup> It was also named one of *Time Out New York's* Best Comedy Specials of 2013.<sup>[30]</sup> *Flavorwire* listed the special as one of the top 20 funniest stand-up specials of all time.<sup>[31]</sup> Birbiglia's *Thank God for Jokes* comedy special was released on Netflix on February 28, 2017.<sup>[32]</sup>

## ***On This American Life***

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Birbiglia is a regular contributor to the Public Radio International-distributed program *This American Life*.<sup>[33]</sup>

- "Stranger in the Night", Episode 361: The Fear of Sleep (<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/361/fear-of-sleep?act=1>)
- "Tragedy Minus Comedy Equals Time", Episode 370: Ruining it for the Rest of Us (<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/370/ruining-it-for-the-rest-of-us?act=2>)
- "My Girlfriend's Boyfriend", Episode 374: Somewhere Out There (<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/374/somewhere-out-there?act=3>)
- "D-u-why?!", Episode 379: Return To The Scene Of The Crime (<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/379/return-to-the-scene-of-the-crime?act=1>)
- "Beat It", 384: Fall Guy (<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/384/fall-guy?act=1>)
- "Error at First Base", Episode 411: First Contact (<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/411/first-contact?act=1>)
- "Little Altar Boy", Episode 422: Comedians of Christmas Comedy Special (<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/422/comedians-of-christmas-comedy-special?act=3>)
- "My Girlfriend's Boyfriend", Episode 486: Valentine's Day (<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/486/valentines-day?act=4>)
- "Heels on the Bus", Episode 515: Good Guys (<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/515/good-guys?act=2>)

- "Of Mice and Men", Episode 528: The Radio Drama Episode (<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/528/the-radio-drama-episode?act=2#play>)

## Personal life

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Birbiglia has rapid eye movement sleep behavior disorder, which once caused him to run out of a second-story window of a motel he was staying in Walla Walla, Washington, while on tour. As a result of the accident, Birbiglia received 33 stitches in his leg.<sup>[34][35][36]</sup>

Birbiglia is married to Jen Stein. They have one daughter, Oona.<sup>[37]</sup>

## Filmography

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### As actor

- *Going the Distance* (2010) - Toby the Waiter
- *Cedar Rapids* (2011) - Trent
- *Your Sister's Sister* (2011) - Al
- *Sleepwalk with Me* (2012) - Matt Pandamiglio
- *Girls* (2012, one episode: "Vagina Panic") - Brian
- *Inside Amy Schumer* (2013, one episode: "Slow Your Roll") - Dan
- *The Fault in Our Stars* (2014) - Patrick
- *Adult Beginners* (2014) - Braden
- *Annie* (2014) - Social services inspector
- *Digging for Fire* (2015) - Phil
- *Hot Pursuit* (2015) - Steve
- *Orange Is the New Black* (2015) - Danny Pearson
- *Trainwreck* (2015) - Tom
- *Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping* (2016) - Blond CMZ Reporter
- *Don't Think Twice* (2016) - Miles
- *Tramps* (2016)

### As director/writer

- *Sleepwalk with Me* (2012) - Director, writer
- *Don't Think Twice* (2016) - Director, writer, producer

### Standup specials

- *What I Should Have Said Was Nothing: Tales From My Secret Public Journal* (2008)
- *My Girlfriend's Boyfriend* (2013) - also released as a comedy album

- *Thank God for Jokes* (2017) - Netflix Originals special

## Discography

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- 2004: *Dog Years* (out of print) (self-produced, winner of the "Just Plain Folks" comedy album of the year)
- 2005: *Invite Them Up* (Comedy Central Records compilation CD of NYC indie comics)
- 2005: *My Secret Public Album, Volume 1a* (weekly guest spots on *The Bob and Tom Show*)
- 2006: *Two Drink Mike*
- 2007: *My Secret Public Journal Live*
- 2011: *Sleepwalk with Me Live*
- 2013: *My Girlfriend's Boyfriend*

## Awards and nominations

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Year	Award	Title	Category	Result
2003	<u>ECNY Award</u>	<u>Stand-up comedy</u>	Best Male Stand-up	Won
2009	Nightlife Awards	<i>Sleepwalk with Me</i>	Outstanding Comedian in a Major Engagement	Won
	<u>Outer Critics Circle</u>		Outstanding Solo Show	Nominated
	<u>Lucille Lortel</u>		Outstanding Solo Show	Nominated
	<u>Drama Desk</u>		Outstanding Solo Performance	Nominated
2011	<u>Outer Critics Circle</u>	<i>My Girlfriend's Boyfriend</i>	Outstanding Solo Show	Nominated
	<u>Drama Desk</u>		Outstanding Solo Performance	Nominated
	<u>Lucille Lortel</u>		Outstanding Solo Show	Won
	<u>Thurber Prize for American Humor</u>	<i>Sleepwalk with Me and Other Painfully True Stories</i>	N/A	Finalist
2012	<u>Sundance Film Festival Audience Award</u>	<i>Sleepwalk with Me</i> (Film)	Best of NEXT	Won
	<u>Gotham Awards</u>		Breakthrough Actor <sup>[38]</sup>	Nominated
2016	<u>Lucille Lortel</u>	<i>Mike Birbiglia: Thank God For Jokes</i> <sup>[39]</sup>	Outstanding Solo Show	Nominated
2017	<u>Just For Laughs Awards</u>	<u>Stand-up comedy</u>	Stand-Up Comedian of the Year <sup>[40]</sup>	Won
	Kurt Vonnegut Humor Award <sup>[41]</sup>	N/A	N/A	Won

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## External links

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- Official website (<http://www.birbiglia.com/>) 
  - Mike Birbiglia (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1898126/>) at IMDb
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