



After the turbulent 1960's counter-culture movement, comedy was beginning to move in a new direction. The momentum and passion from the 60's carried through

Comedians like Lenny Bruce had begun stirring up trouble with their political commentary and edgy stand-up style and the newer generation would expand upon

The traditional slapstick style was being replaced by a younger, cooler generation who were more interested in fast and loose acts. These comics mixed confessional monologues with raunchy socio-political themes. This material spoke to a new generation.

Rise of the Club Scene.

A turning point for stand-up comedy, the 1970's birthed the idea of the comedy club: a collective place where audiences could come and see stand-ups, as well as a place for comedians to form communities and talk about comedy.

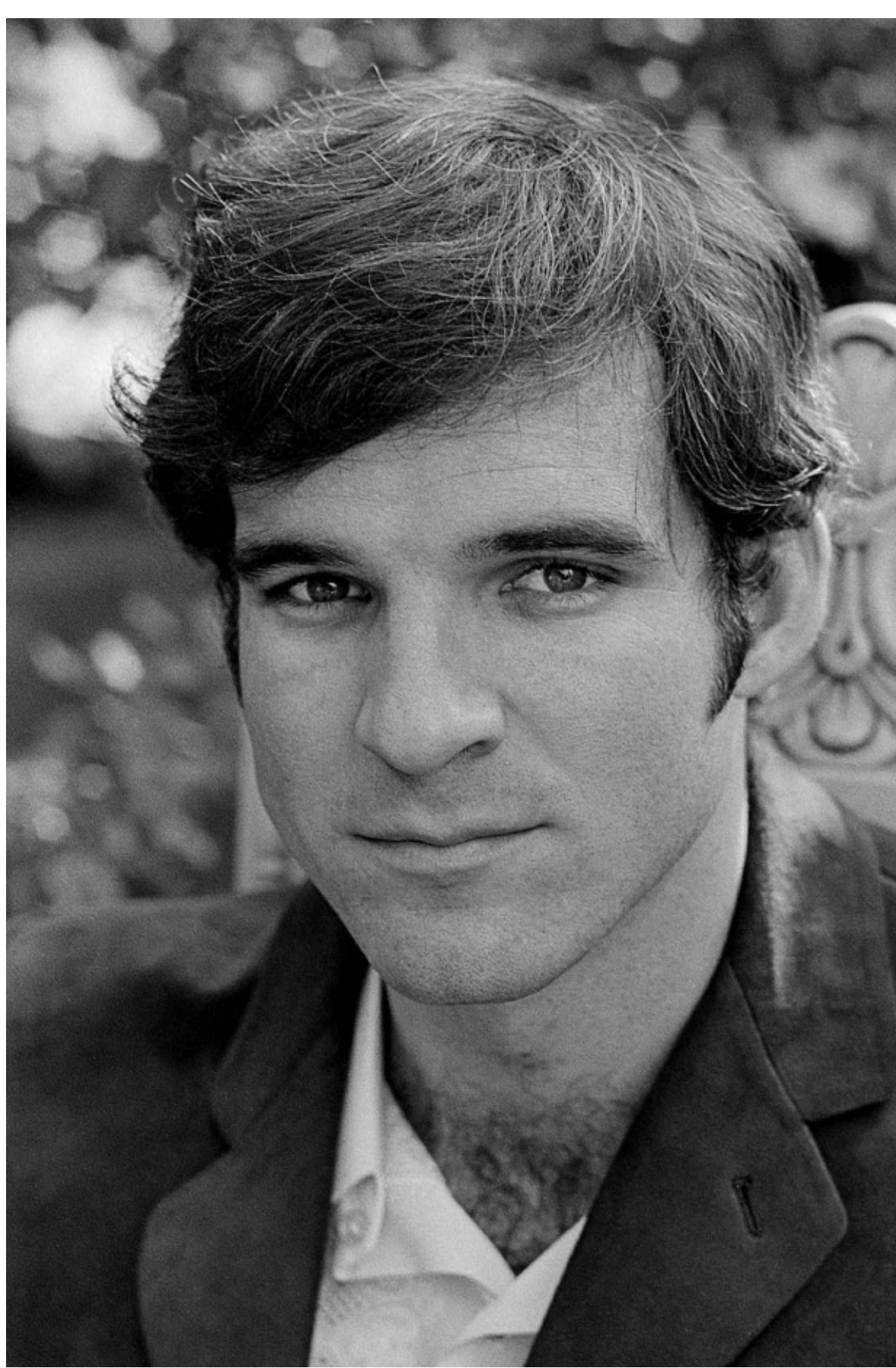
In New York, clubs like the Improv and Catch A Rising Star provided nightly shows featuring new and established comedians. Larry David, Billy Crystal.

IMPROV

On the West Coast, the Comedy Store hosted comics like George Carlin, Richard Pryor, David Letterman and Robin Williams.



Comedians like Steve Martin and Richard Pryor were so succesful that they outgrew these clubs and soon began playing in ampitheatres and stadiums.



A Young Steve Martin posing for a shot. Martin was known for his oddball, unsettling humor.

Martin deconstructed the traditional role of the jokester and revolutionized the anti-joke.



learn more about
Steve Martin

"Ficitibus eum et re peror a nust, con cus aut faccumqui odist in re, as ex est voluptet abo. Nam quas sequatio experrum sa voleception consequam" - George Carlin

The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson



In addition to clubs, stand-ups took to TV to strut their stuff. Comedians were showcased on all sorts of variety and talk shows. Saturday Night Live, which began in 1975, gave comics a 90-minute national showcase.

The biggest opportunity was to appear on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson.

The Tonight Show was an experiment in late night television that established the format for late night TV to come - Carson would open the show with some one-liners, move on to sketch comedy and then guest interviews. A huge fan of stand-up, Carson would dedicate a spot to a comic just about every night, sometimes even offering some couch time to talk to the undisputed late night king. The show was so popular and well received that a good spot had a huge publicity value for an aspiring, and even established comic.

Review comics and bits from the 70's



The 1980's ushered a new era of comedy. The success and growth of a stand up club scene turned america onto the art form. Stand-up became a respected and sought after art form and clubs were exploding with talent as well as audiences

Television and Sitcoms

In the 80's, stand up exploded on television. Sitcoms like "The Cosby Show" and "Roseanne" featured comedians and were hits with the American public.

Shows like "An Evening at The Improv" and the "The HBO Comedy Hour" were dedicated solely to stand-up.



Comic Relief

The success of stand-up and the large audiences it commanded created an opportunity for comedians to make real change. Originally started in the UK, Bob Zmuda created a charitable organization called Comic Relief in 1986. The event raised money for homeless in America. Many high profile actors and comedians participated in the event by doing short comic routines. The event was aired each year on HBO.



Comedians like Billy Crystal, Robin Williams and Whoopi Goldberg were some of the distinguished hosts. Comic Relief demonstrated stand-ups overwhelming mark on America.

Too many comedy clubs flooded the stand-up market. Finding quality stand-up and consistent clubs became more difficult and the art form became overexposed. Previously successful clubs began vanishing and sitcoms that featured comedians were cancelled.

This decline brought other areas and styles of comedy to prominence. TV programs became particularly important. A new channel called Comedy Central sprung up and featured stand-up and other comedy programs 24 hours a day. Sketch comedy like SNL and "In Living Color" prospered. Chris Rock brought his 1996 special "Bring The Pain" and experienced a breakthrough in commercial success. "Seinfeld" remains one of the most successful sitcoms ever.



Alternative Comedy

A new genre of joke telling arose out of this tumultuous era. Primarily on the west coast, new alternative comics began telling structurally different stories and abandoning the setup punchline form. They appreciate monologues and performance versus normal jokes. The comedy is more surreal. Comics like David Cross, Patton Oswalt and Sarah Silverman were all part of this scene.

This once underground style made its way from the underground to the mainstream. Alt comics became alt stars and comedy became viable and



learn more about
Sarah Silverman



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cus aut faccumqui odist in re, as ex
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George Carlin*



learn more about
Dana Gould

The decline and resurgence of stand up the 90's set comedy up for a prosperous and innovative decade.

Comedy Hits the Road.

The “Packaged Tour” featuring, among others, Bernie Mac, was an extremely successful tour that was highly attended. Clubs and improvisational groups began sprouting up again.

The “Blue Collar Comedy Tour” was another extremely successful project. Featuring the stylings of Jeff Foxworthy, Bill Dunham, and Larry The Cable Guy, The Blue Collar comedy tour was very much a commentary on American and redneck culture. It catered to America at a time when we were feeling quite low. Blue Collar’s self-deprecating and relatable humor allowed us to lighten up and laugh at ourselves.



Computer, meet Comedy.

At the dawn of the 21st century, the technological breakthrough of the personal computer and the internet was affecting every area of society. Everyone was connected and sharing ideas more quickly than ever. Word could spread fast and you could communicate more efficiently than ever.

Computers contributed to the availability and accessibility of stand-ups. Sites like Youtube, Myspace and Facebook connected fans of comedians in previously unheard of ways. Perhaps no other comedian feels as indicative of 2000's stand-up comedy as Dane Cook does. He used internet tools to build himself up and went viral. He was the biggest name in stand-up, selling out huge venues and commanding legions of comedy fans. He was a rockstar.



The comedian Dane Cook posing for a press shoot. Here, he is displaying his signature bad-boy, and confrontational style.



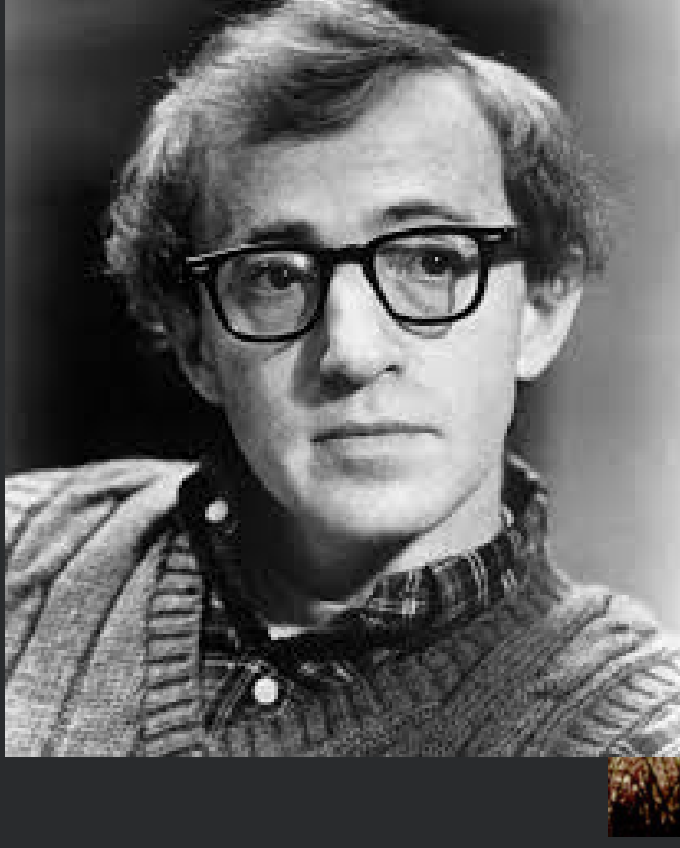
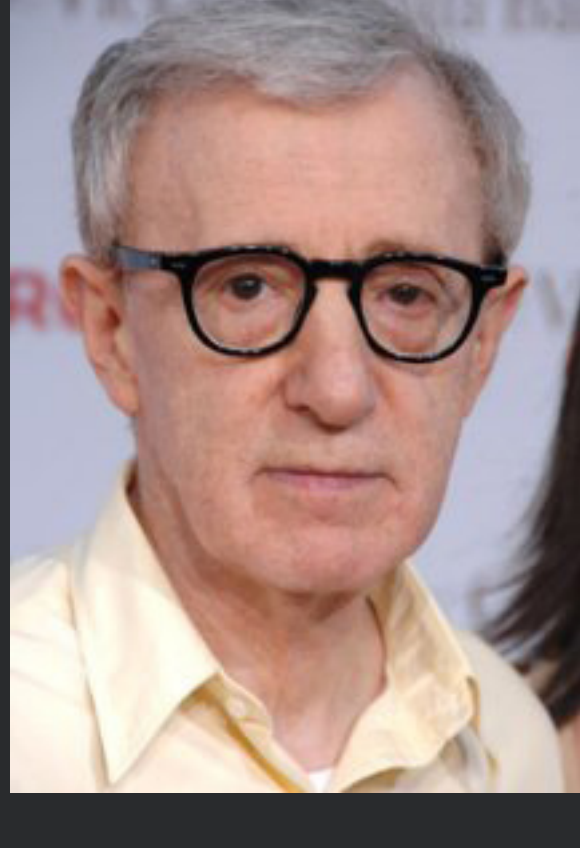
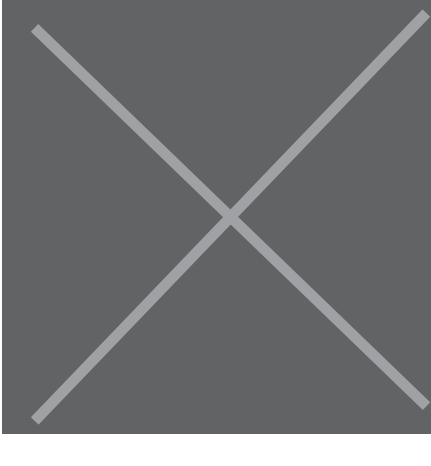
learn more about
Dane Cook

“I like fearless characters, people just not afraid to do anything it takes to make people laugh.” - Dane Cook

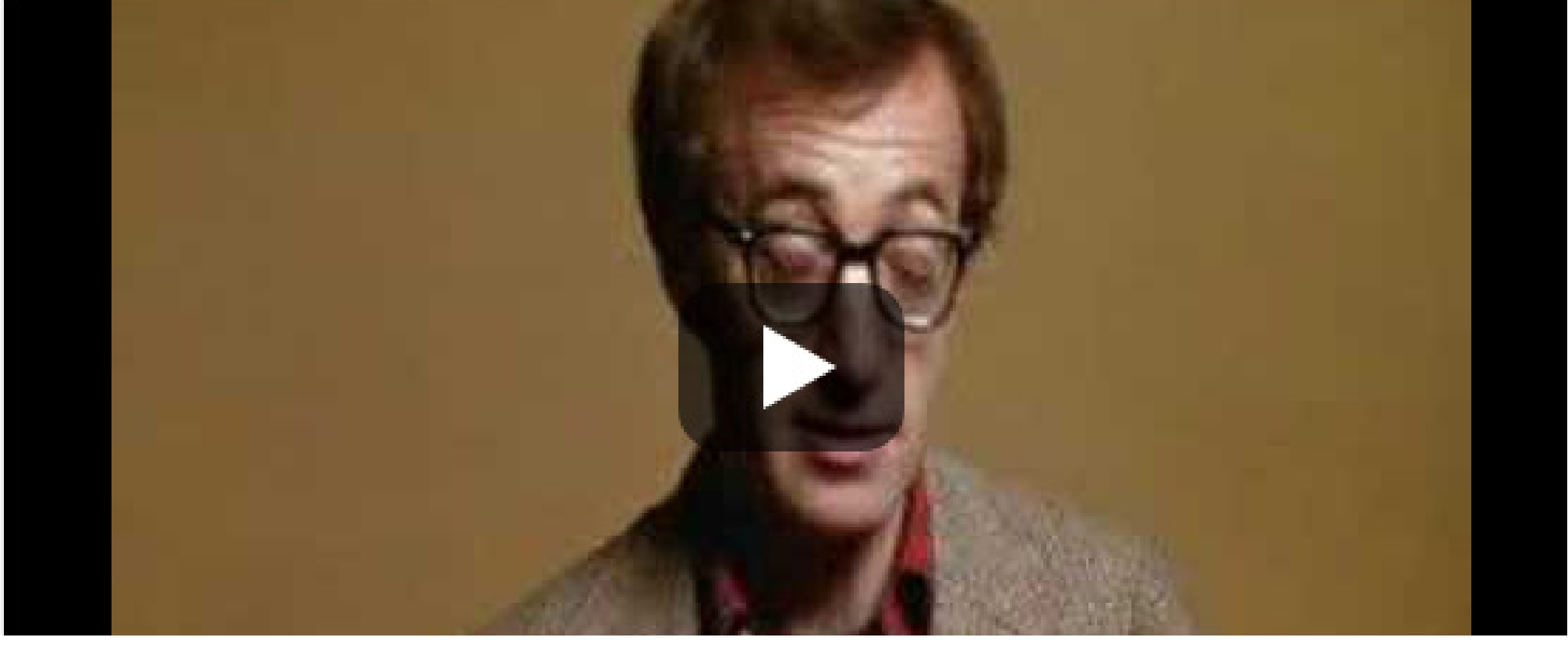


Woody Allen

Date of Birth: January 5, 1962
Years Active: 1965 - Present
Mediums: Stand-Up, Film



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Social Media

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typewriter jean shorts. Fap letterpress



Notable Comics

Dana

