

= Amir Blumenfeld =

Amir Shmuel Blumenfeld (/ ˈmɪr ˈmuːəl ˈbluːmˌfɛld / ; Hebrew : אָמִיר שְׁמוּאֵל בְּלומֶנְפֶּלְד ; born January 18 , 1983) is an Israeli American comedian , actor , writer and television host . Born in Israel , he moved to Los Angeles when he was two , and was hired by the New York @-@ based CollegeHumor in 2005 . As well as contributing to its books and articles , he has written and starred in original videos for the comedy website ? appearing in series such as Hardly Working and Very Mary @-@ Kate ? and was a cast member on its short @-@ lived MTV program The CollegeHumor Show .

Amir first came to national prominence in 2004 when he was a semi @-@ finalist during Yahoo 's inaugural national IM Live contest , losing to the eventual champions . Now , he is best known for appearing in the web series Jake and Amir with Jake Hurwitz , in which he plays an annoying and exaggerated version of himself . Originally made by Hurwitz and Blumenfeld in their spare time , the series was then produced by CollegeHumor . Blumenfeld 's acting in the series gained him a Webby Award for Best Individual Performance in 2010 . In 2011 , CollegeHumor released Jake and Amir : Fired , a 30 @-@ minute special that is the company 's first paid content . Episodes of Jake and Amir average over 500 @,@ 000 views ; by 2012 , over 500 had been produced . The pair have also hosted numerous live shows , and started the advice podcast If I Were You in 2013 . In December 2013 , it was announced that Jake and Amir would be adapted into a TBS television comedy with Ed Helms as an executive producer . TBS never filmed the pilot , despite a fan @-@ created # GreenlightJakeAndAmir Twitter campaign that garnered tens of thousands of tweets . Instead , sister network truTV picked up the pilot and filmed it , though it was never aired .

The Prank War series , which depicts Blumenfeld and Streeter Seidell as they play a series of escalating practical jokes on each other , became popular and led to the two appearing on Jimmy Kimmel Live ! in 2009 . MTV later hired Seidell and Blumenfeld to host Pranked , a clip show featuring prank videos from the Internet . Outside of CollegeHumor , Blumenfeld has appeared in the short film The Old Man and the Seymour , the television series Louie and I Just Want My Pants Back , and the 2011 film A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas . He also writes for ESPN The Magazine and Mental Floss .

= = Early life = =

Blumenfeld was born in Afula , Israel , and moved to Los Angeles , California at the age of two with his parents and two older brothers ? his family is Reform Jewish . He has described how he became aware of his humor early on : " I realized I was funny at an early age , I realized I could make people laugh at a later age , and then by college time , I was trying to make jokes in terms of writing " .

He attended a Jewish kindergarten and elementary school , before going to Milken Community High School , a private Jewish high school . During the summer , he attended computer camp and mathematics camp , but has expressed regret that he did not go to a Jewish summer camp . He then went on to study under the Haas Undergraduate Business Program at the University of California , Berkeley , hoping to get a creative job in advertising or marketing while writing comedy on the side . He graduated , and says he now uses his Bachelor of Science degree " to make somewhat intelligent jokes about finance and accounting , but nothing much beyond that . "

= = Career = =

= = CollegeHumor = =

In 2003 , while a sophomore at Berkeley , Blumenfeld began writing articles for the comedy website CollegeHumor after he emailed its co @-@ founder Ricky Van Veen ideas , which Van Veen found funny and posted on the website . When Blumenfeld graduated in 2005 , CollegeHumor hired him and Streeter Seidell full @-@ time to write The CollegeHumor Guide to College ? a humorous book

presented as a guide to university education ? and he moved to New York aged 22 . He later moved to writing original videos for CollegeHumor with Dan Gurewitsch , and has acted in CH Originals , as well as the series Hardly Working . He has portrayed Woody Allen in episodes of Hardly Working and Very Mary @-@ Kate ? MTV 's Guy Code Blog listed him among " The 8 Best Woody Allen Impressions We Found On The Internet " . His favorite sketch written for CollegeHumor is entitled " Moments Before Cup Chicks " , and involves a director briefing the participants of the viral scatological video 2 Girls 1 Cup .

Beginning in 2007 , he and Streeter Seidell have appeared in the Prank War series of videos , in which the two play a series of escalating practical jokes on each other . Seidell has described how some of the pranks " showed Amir 's true colors , his desire to be famous ... [and] cut deeper emotionally " , and how he thought Blumenfeld 's faking a marriage proposal from Seidell to his girlfriend went " too far " . After seven videos were posted over two years , there was an 18 @-@ month hiatus culminating in Seidell tricking Blumenfeld into thinking he had won USD \$ 500 @,@ 000 after taking a blindfolded half @-@ court basketball shot . The pranks have led to Seidell and Blumenfeld being interviewed by Wired magazine and appearing on Jimmy Kimmel Live ! .

In 2009 , Blumenfeld starred in The CollegeHumor Show on MTV along with eight other CollegeHumor employees . The staff members wrote , filmed and starred in the show , which is set in the CollegeHumor offices and has a scripted reality premise . Structured as a half @-@ hour sitcom , it incorporates sketches that had already been published online . However , the show was lambasted by critics ? Pajiba 's Dustin Rowles called it " a series of atrocious sketches haphazardly strung together " ; GigaOM 's Liz Shannon Miller said the show was " deeply disappointing " , and that although Blumenfeld 's character is " the iconic face of the web site ... none of the other personalities on the show have been developed beyond the surface level " ? only one season , consisting of six episodes , was made .

Since 2010 , Seidell and Blumenfeld have hosted Pranked , an MTV series featuring pranks recorded on video and posted online . The show has generally received poor reviews , with critics looking down on its clip show format and use of content from YouTube , and calling it inferior to the " prank war " that inspired it . The Michigan Daily 's Eric Chiu said " Hosts Blumenfeld and Seidell do what they can with their material , but their banter and commentary is mostly forgettable " , and " the Prank War series on CollegeHumor.com is a perfect example of discomforting gags done right ... It 's a shame that Pranked can 't muster up anything near the same level of ingenuity . "

= = = Jake and Amir = = =

Blumenfeld met his colleague Jake Hurwitz in 2006 , when the latter began an internship at CollegeHumor . The two were seated across from each other , and began to make short videos together , which they uploaded to the video @-@ sharing website Vimeo . Their first video was called " Quick Characters " : it was unscripted , and involved either Hurwitz or Blumenfeld spontaneously pointing a camera at the other and instructing them to act in a certain way .

The two later began the web series Jake and Amir , episodes of which they posted to jakeandamir.com. In it , Hurwitz plays Jake , a " normal guy " , and Blumenfeld plays Amir , his annoying and obsessive co @-@ worker , who craves Jake 's attention . Their videos began to be promoted on CollegeHumor , and the website later adopted the series . By 2012 , the duo had made over 500 episodes of Jake and Amir ? two per week for five years . Each episode averages more than 500 @,@ 000 views . The series has featured guest appearances by Thomas Middleditch , Ben Schwartz , Allison Williams , Hoodie Allen and Rick Fox , among others .

Blumenfeld has described how his character " sort of evolved " from being " super needy [and] weird " to " a little crazier " , but that " the root of my character is still the same , the insecurity of it " . Regarding his similarity to his character , he said he is " hopefully very different but maybe at the root of it we 're the same person . I 'm probably a little smarter than the character though . Maybe the things that he thinks I also think but I 'm able to suppress them . "

In 2008 , PC Magazine listed the series among its " Top 100 Undiscovered Web Sites " , saying : " Considering it 's mainly a hobby they do after work , the webisodes at JakeAndAmir.com are better

than some of the stuff they get paid to do for CollegeHumor . " At the 14th Webby Awards in 2010 , Jake and Amir won a People 's Voice award for Comedy : Long Form or Series , and Blumenfeld won one for Best Individual Performance . PC Magazine again featured Jake and Amir in 2011 , when it listed the series as one of its " 15 Best Web @-@ Only Shows " ? Eric Griffith said " they show no sign of running out of very bizarre situations for this sometimes disturbing comedy . " Blumenfeld received a nomination for the 2013 Streamy Awards for Best Male Performance : Comedy because of his role in Jake and Amir .

On October 12 , 2011 , CollegeHumor released Jake and Amir : Fired , a 30 @-@ minute episode of Jake and Amir that the pair had produced and edited in the previous months , while continuing to release short episodes . Available to buy for \$ 2 @.@ 99 on CollegeHumor and Facebook and for \$ 13 on DVD , the special was the company 's first paid content . Its plot involves the fictitious new CEO of CollegeHumor , Alan Avery (Matt Walton) , promoting Jake and firing Amir ; Jake realizes this was a mistake , and the two try to get Amir 's job back . Sam Reich , CollegeHumor Media 's President of Original Content said " Fired is very much an extension of the Jake and Amir that people already know That being said , it also expands the universe considerably by adding characters , locations , and something even newer to a Jake and Amir plot . "

He and Hurwitz have also hosted various live events as Jake and Amir , including CollegeHumor Live at various locations such as the UCB Theatre in New York and the University of California , Berkeley . They have also performed in Toronto , Canada and London 's Soho Theatre . The latter show was in June 2013 with Streeter Seidell , and although it sold out and extra dates were added , the performance was poorly received by local media : The Guardian 's Brian Logan said Hurwitz and Blumenfeld " cackle a lot , as they find various ways to repackage tales of puerile behaviour as comedy " . In June 2012 , at the International Student Film Festival in Tel Aviv , Israel , the pair gave a lecture at the New Media Conference . They have also appeared together on the MTV show Money from Strangers . On December 18 , 2013 , it was announced that Jake and Amir will be adapted into a television comedy for the network TBS , and that Blumenfeld will star in the series , as well as serve as a writer and executive producer (alongside Hurwitz and Ed Helms , among others) .

= = = = If I Were You = = = =

On May 13 , 2013 , Hurwitz and Blumenfeld announced their first new project since Jake and Amir : a comedy audio podcast called If I Were You , in which they give advice to listeners who submit questions . New episodes have been released every Monday since then , and the show has featured several guest stars , including Schwartz , Middleditch , Van Veen , Seidell and Williams . Kayla Culver of The Concordian lauded the podcast as " comfortable to listen to " and " genuinely funny " and said " It 's like listening to two best friends having a hilarious conversation on the couch next to you . " The Guardian 's Miranda Sawyer called If I Were You " a typical example of a comedy podcast " and " amiable enough " , but said it contained " far too much laughing " , commenting that " New Yorkers Jake and Amir laugh and laugh , giggle and chortle their way around a topic " and " if I wanted stream @-@ of @-@ consciousness waffle with the occasional funny line , I 'd listen to [my small children] . "

HeadGum

In 2015 , following the success of Hurwitz and Blumenfeld 's If I Were You podcast , the duo founded the HeadGum podcasting network . HeadGum includes 11 podcasts , many of which are hosted by comedians who were involved with CollegeHumor , including Streeter Seidell and Josh Ruben . Some of the notable program that can be found on the network includes Blumenfeld 's very own If I Were You podcast , The Talk of Shame , and Gilmore Guys .

Lonely and Horny

In 2016 , Hurwitz and Blumenfeld announced their newest show " Lonely and Horny " available exclusively on Vimeo on Demand .

= = = Other work = = =

Blumenfeld starred in the 2009 short film *The Old Man and the Seymour* alongside colleagues Streeter Seidell and Dan Gurewitsch, as well as Shawn Harrison, Liz Cackowski and Jordan Carlos. It is about a growth @-@ hormone deficient man who is mistaken for a student at his nephew's high school. The movie was chosen as a "Staff Pick" on Vimeo, and screened at the Austin Film Festival, the Sacramento Film and Music Festival, the LA Shorts Fest, the Friars Club Comedy Film Festival and the Portable Film Festival.

In 2011, Blumenfeld appeared in comedian Louis C.K.'s television series *Louie*, during the 10th episode of its second season, entitled "Halloween / Ellie". He played a writer hired to improve a movie script in the second half of the episode. *Better With Popcorn*'s George Prax said that he played "the 'unfunny' guy who actually ends up coming off as the funniest of all to the audience", and that Blumenfeld "should be guesting and starring in many more things". He also called Blumenfeld's first sitcom appearance a "clearly momentous occasion". Blumenfeld also had a part in *I Just Want My Pants Back*, an MTV show produced by Doug Liman.

He played Kumar Patel's friend Adrian in the 2011 stoner comedy film *A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas*, alongside Thomas Lennon as Harold Lee's friend Todd. Reviews largely did not remark on his performance, although IGN's Eric Goldman said "there isn't much to the Todd and Adrian scenes", and *Pajiba*'s Daniel Carlson thought the scriptwriters treated the characters as "living props". T. J. Mulligan of *Movies on Film* commented that "anything Adrian says or does ... elicit [s] a slight chuckle at best". However, Robert Zak of *WhatCulture!* commended the film's "strong supporting cast", saying that Lennon and Blumenfeld "provid[ed] constant amusement".

As a writer, Blumenfeld works freelance for *ESPN The Magazine*, and contributed to the *ESPN Guide to Psycho Fan Behavior*. He also has a section in *Mental Floss* called "The Curious Comedian".

= = Influences = =

Speaking about the role his education had in shaping his humor, Blumenfeld said: "I went to Jewish schools growing up and that's where my sense of humor was cultivated. Everybody was funny." Blumenfeld has said he is influenced by television programs that he watched while growing up, including *The Simpsons*, *Seinfeld*, and *Saturday Night Live*, which he says "taught me how to think ... absurdly ... creatively and originally about jokes that people were making" and make "jokes on jokes". He has cited Larry David as an influence, and also likes *Louie* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Blumenfeld has compared the NBC series *The Office* and *Parks and Recreation* to *Jake and Amir*, saying they "have these office workplace dynamics and the situations are funny and the characters are very funny".

= = Personal life = =

Blumenfeld is Jewish, although he has described himself as "not too religious" and does not attend Temple every Saturday, nor does he keep Kosher. He does, however, celebrate Jewish holidays with his family and speaks Hebrew. He is a basketball fan, and supports the Los Angeles Lakers; his favorite players are Kobe Bryant and Nick Van Exel.

= = Filmography = =

= = = Film = = =

= = = Television = = =

== Online video ==