

1 INT. GREASY SPOON 'DAI PAI DONG' TYPE RESTAURANT

2 characters, LILLY and HARRY are having a friendly chat over a tea and a snack. HARRY is wearing a whitish shirt.

LILLY

Do you mind if I ask you something? (beat)  
About your opinions about comedy?

HARRY

Umm, No. Ask me whatever you ... I'm not an expert or anything. But sure, shoot..

LILLY

You see all these shows - And you always have an opinion about them. You always come back here and talk about how bad a time you had. How the timing was bad. Or how you'd heard the jokes before. Or you say that they're not original. You never sound like you really enjoy watching comedy.

HARRY

Do I? I know I've got strong opinions, but there are *some* comics I like... Just not many... and not many 'round here. We're just not on the circuit..

LILLY

I think you like just sitting here and criticizing - but at least these guys are getting up there and trying! We've all fed up of hearing you going on and on and on about bad these terrible comedians are for so long that we're all well and truly sick of it...and what I want to know is: if you can do better, why don't you? When are you going to put your money where your mouth is? Huh?

HARRY

(taken aback)

I'll do it. I'm working up to it. I'm planning on doing an open-mike...soon! But I'm still polishing my material. You wait. I'm working on my act. I think I've got some great material. I'm working on my gags. On my routine.

LILLY

I think you're scared.

HARRY

No! I'm not scared! Of what? Of the audience? .. No! What could I possibly be scared of? Don't be ridiculous! Scared? Me?

LILLY

You ARE scared! Ha. I knew you were.

HARRY

No! I'm telling you - I'm not scared! Why would I be scared? Jeezus! It's only a comedy club. It's not like it's serious or anything..

LILLY

Uh huh? Issat so? If you're not scared, then why don't you do it then?

HARRY

Alright then! Damnit! If you want me to do it, then come along to the next open mike night. I'll show you. Scared? Me? Ha!

NED

(Off screen, approaching)

Hey Harry! What are you still doing here? Boss'll be back soon. Your break must've finished ages ago.

Harry stands, revealing the cooks uniform. He puts on a paper hat and picks up a cleaver from out of sight.

HARRY

Ah,shit! Not again!? Did he see me clock off d'y'think?

LILLY

Nah. He was just leaving when I arrived. So he'll be ok. Just don't be here when he gets back.

HARRY

(standing, and leaving)

No rest for the wicked. I better get back to it, Lilly.

LILLY

Ok Harry. See you soon. See you at the open  
mike!

HARRY

(leaving)

Uh, yeah..

2 INT. BEDROOM

Young man's urban bedroom. We see the periodical: 'How to be funny - monthly' and a monthly correspondence course: 'Your Twelve week course to a funner you'. There's a biography of Abbot and Costello, An anthology of the wit and wisdom of Bob Hope, Charlie Chaplin, & Buster Keaton spread on the bed, with post-it notes as bookmarks.

HARRY has a book in his hand ('The Complete Bob Hope Joke archive'), and is miming into his mirror.

HARRY

(Reading)

Hope's joke file covers enough subjects and  
moods to whip up a timely act anytime.

Indeed, the archive proves that if you  
stick with comedy long enough, even topical  
jokes can be dusted off and replayed every  
few decades. Another tax cut or tax hike,  
war against inflation or real war is sure  
to come along.

Hmm...

(Flipping through)

"Everyone's nervous these days. Ronald  
McDonald has hired six bodyguards, and  
that's just to protect his buns" heh..  
that's good!

"They're giving out free vaccinations...that's what I like about Washington — even when they give you something for free, it still hurts" Timeless!

"I wouldn't exactly say that Hollywood Boulevard is crowded with Christmas shoppers but when I was driving, I put my arm out to make a turn and when I took it back in, it was gift-wrapped. But the crowds were very friendly ... honestly! ... it was the pleasantest mob I ever lost a tooth in."

..Genius! Comedy gold!

Harry is mugging up to the mirror. He mimes his lines, while in V/O we hear an excerpt of a Bob Hope routine: <http://www.bobhope.com/Audio/HorseRacingM.wav>

HARRY

(as a show compere)

Thank you very much everyone for coming tonight! Have we got a great show for you tonight! Introducing an original talent, with a fresh take on someone else's material!

So Please put your hands together for Harry Fung!

3 INT. COMEDY CLUB

Dark comedy club. Match cut on the comperes words

COMPERE

So Please put your hands together for Harry Fung!

Subdued applause

HARRY

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen!  
I'm so glad to be here tonight I had a hell  
of a job parking the limo. I wouldn't  
exactly say that Hollywood Road was crowded  
with Christmas shoppers ... but when I was  
driving, I put my arm out to make a turn  
... and when I took it back in, it was  
gift-wrapped."

Pan of the audience who are entirely deadpan

HARRY

My brother was a musician. His favorite was  
small combinations. He used to hum while he  
broke them open.

Pan of the audience who are entirely deadpan

HARRY

My father told me all about the birds and  
the bees, the liar - I went steady with a  
woodpecker till I was twenty-one....

(slightly desperately..)

A bank is a place that will lend you money  
if you can prove that you don't need it....  
If you haven't any charity in your heart,  
you have the worst kind of heart  
trouble....

Fade to black

4 INT. GREASY SPOON 'DAI PAI DONG' TYPE RESTAURANT

The next day

HARRY

I told you I could do it. It was tough..  
and I'm glad it's over, but my god! What a  
rush! I'm glad you got me to do that! It  
was so much fun! ... What'd'y'think about  
my act? Some of the timing was a bit off I  
think?

LILLY

(nonplussed)

ah, yeah, I can't say I've seen a show like  
it. No-one could follow you after that  
performance.

HARRY

Y'know, I've got to tell someone. I owe it  
all to Bob.

LILLY

Don't worry. I'm sure you'd've made him  
proud.

(gets up and leaves)