

Topic 013 Stand-up Comedy

JODY: Hello everyone and welcome to American Cafe! My name's Jody.

杨晨: 欢迎大家到美语咖啡屋。我是杨晨。

JODY: Hey, Yang Chen, I have a joke. Do you have a minute?

杨晨: Uh huh.

JODY: Okay, did you hear the one about the mushroom who walked into the bar?

杨晨: 一只蘑菇走进一个酒吧，很好笑啊。

JODY: Well, a mushroom walked into a bar and the bartender said, "Hey, get out of here. We don't serve your kind."

杨晨: 为什么？

JODY: That's exactly what the mushroom asked. "What do mean you don't serve my kind...I'm a fun guy!" Fun-guy. You know, fungus ... See the mushroom's a fungus. Oh, never mind. It's kind of funny. Yang Chen, are you there? Don't you get it? Fungus...Fungi...

杨晨: Haha ... 是挺幽默的。我相信我们的听众在收音机前已经笑得直不起腰来了。

JODY: Oh, you know what, don't humor me, Yang Chen.

杨晨: 不错，你还是挺会讲笑话的。继续努力。

JODY: You know maybe I should take me friend's comedy class. You know, polish my act a little.

杨晨: A little?

JODY: Yeah, you know polish it up a little.

杨晨: 真的有这种专门教人讲笑话的课吗？

JODY: Oh sure. My friend Jason teaches a stand up comedy class so I went to check it out.

杨晨: 怎么样，有什么收获吗？

JODY: Actually the thing that surprised me the most was how serious the class was. Jason talked a lot about the pain and sorrow in comedy.

杨晨: 痛苦，悲伤？你确定他们上的是喜剧课？

JODY: I was surprised too. But let's here from Jason as he describes his philosophy of comedy.

Jason: Comedy is actually your pain turned into comedy; that is what it is. It's the things that affect you in your life. Unfortunately the things that most people will laugh at are your pain and your sorrow that actually is actually in their life as well in some sort of fashion, maybe a bad mother, a bad father, bad working conditions, something like that, but they can still identify.

杨晨: Jason 讲的倒是挺有道理的。幽默就是把自己的痛苦经历当笑话讲给别人听。这样既可以引起他们的共鸣，又可以让他们哈哈一笑，忘记了生活中的不愉快。这的确是很深奥的道理。

JODY: I agree. We all laugh at things we can identify with. As a comic Jason is not afraid of sharing the most painful parts of his life. During our interview as we were driving from his stand-up class Jason talked about how he grew up with a heart condition, his open heart surgery and the connection to comedy.

Jason: Comedy has always been dear to my heart. Um, I grew up with a heart condition. I had open-heart surgery. Um, I found that comedy was the unique thing that would bring people together. And it was always something I could do to make them laugh and help them enjoy their life and actually take their pain and sorrow of their life, identify it with me ... and actually get some sort of ... maybe a closure or some sort of ending to their saga or their story.

杨晨: 其实我们每个人在生活中都有这样的经历。你越是在困难的时候就越想看喜剧片或者听听笑话。

JODY: Oh, I think so too.

杨晨: 说到这里，我很好奇，Jason 的学生都是些什么人呢？

JODY: Most of the students in the class were older women. There was only one man. Here's Jason again talking about one of his students.

Jason: One of my students had brain surgery and she wanted to use it as some sort of healing. Bring out her pain into the public and actually to resolve that and turn her pain into someone else's happiness. And, um, it's a way of putting closure on events.

杨晨: Jason 刚才讲的这个学生做过脑部手术。她想借助喜剧来恢复健康。对这个学生来说，"putting closure on events" 就意味着要忘掉过去的痛苦，开始新的生

活。说起来美国的这种 "stand-up comedy" 是一种很特殊的喜剧表演方式，有点类似中国的单口相声。

JODY: Stand-up comedy is one of the hardest types of performing. It literally means that you stand up in front of people and make them laugh.

杨晨: 我有个很严肃的问题: 要是没有人笑该怎么办?

JODY: You know that's a good question. You feel vulnerable. You feel exposed. You feel embarrassed. You feel naked.

杨晨: 还是广播好, 我们可以用音响效果来掩饰你的尴尬。

JODY: That's right!

杨晨: 对, 要是没人笑, 你按一下按钮用音响效果就可以了。

JODY: Let me tell my joke again and see if it's any better.

杨晨: 好阿, 效果一定很好。

JODY: We'll finish with my joke. Thanks for joining us on American Cafe.

杨晨: 好, 我们今天的时间到了。谢谢您到美语咖啡屋。我们下次节目再见。

JODY: So a mushroom walks into a bar ...

(laughter)

JODY: ... and the bartender says, "Hey get out of here! We don't serve your kind.

(laughter)