

THE EDUCAFE TIMES



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Message from the Editor

Hello Readers!

We bring to you another edition of Educafe Times, talking about the road to a new era of Stand-Up comedy. We have tried to clear your doubts regarding this career. This edition also has a jokes column to add an element of laughter to your day. Do you write jokes? send your jokes to us at educafestudentsolutions@gmail.com and we will post your joke along with your name and photo.

Happy Reading!

The Road to Stand-Up Comedy.

““Laughter is the shortest distance between two people,” – Comedian Victor Borge

Just imagine our lives without a smile, a sense of humor, laughter, rolling down of happy tears after listening to a joke! Quite difficult to imagine, right? So in this edition of The Educafe Times, we explore Stand Up Comedian as a career option.

Stand-Up Comedian as a Career

Their USP is to interact directly with a live audience, exhibiting hilarious and spontaneous thoughts covering a wide range of topics from daily routine to current issues. Their act can run for several minutes while sustaining the interest of the audience through improvisation, slapstick comedy, introduction of characters, props and deadpan expressions.

The audience are complete strangers and holding their attention throughout, is not an easy job. It takes special talent to be intentionally funny and get the audience to laugh with you (rather than at you). So the scripts are designed to entertain viewers and to use different media - singing, mimicry, storytelling, skit, drama, dance, punch lines, proverbs, one liners and many more, with spontaneity and precise timing.

Stand Up Comedian as a Career, in India and Abroad

In India gone are the days, when comedians had to literally struggle to get a prime slot on TV or radio or wait for years to achieve popularity. Today, media is creating wonders and every popular and not-so-popular TV channel has their own creative comedy reality shows which are paving the way for young talent, not just by giving them a platform to showcase their talent but also support real talent with financial rewards and giving them an identity.

Education Path and skill-set required

Any stream will do. An acting course in graduation will be an added advantage. To be a stand-up comedian, you should have a good sense of humor and no stage fear. Eye for happenings around, skill to generate new content, presentation and delivery, good memory, rapport with audience, confidence, determination, talent, good voice are all prerequisites.

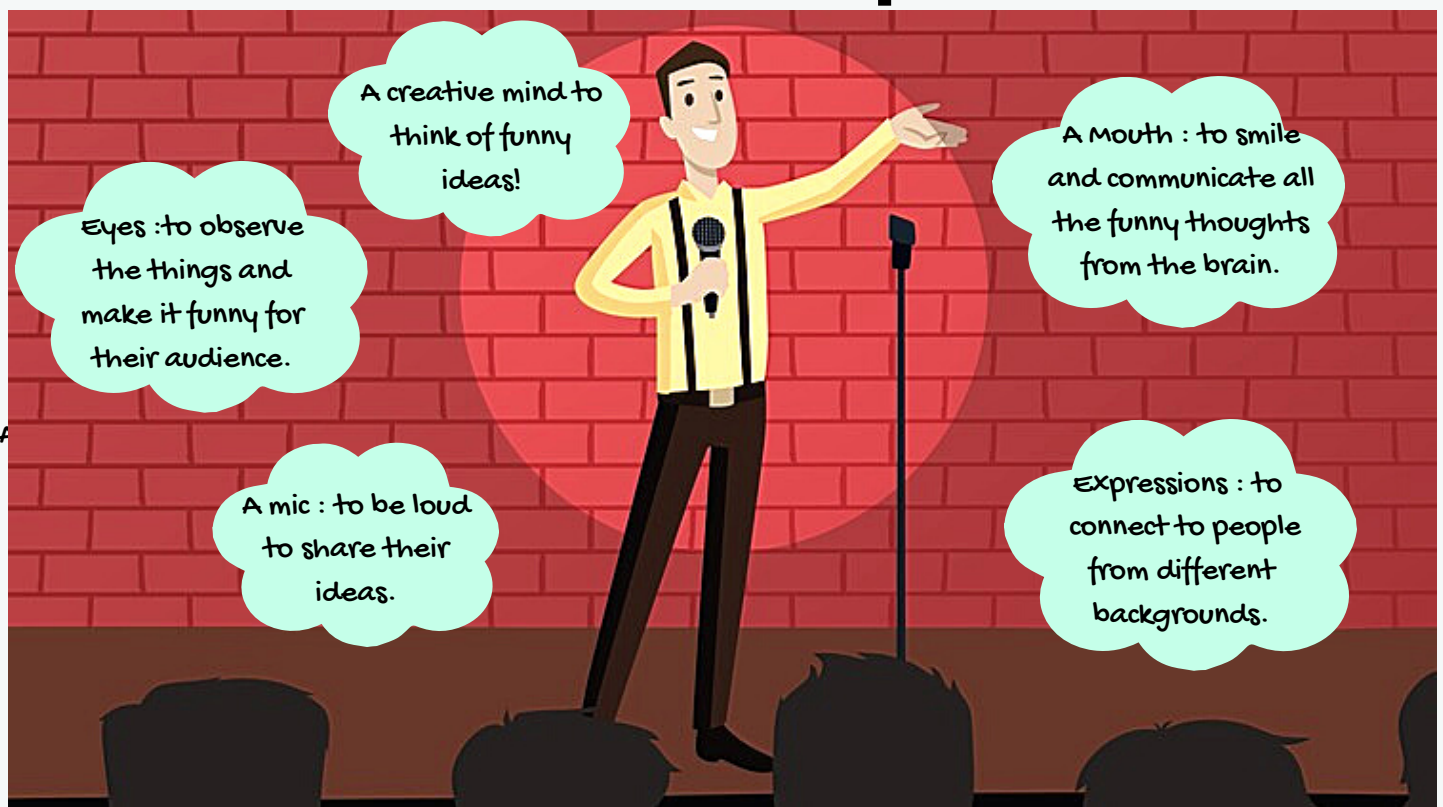
Challenges

- Connect with audience. Talk with the audience in their language. Make sure you don't hurt their sentiments; laugh with them, not ridicule and displease them.
- Be Original. Make sure while writing content that it is not inspired by any existing content.

5 creative skills that every comedian needs are:

1. **Connecting** - a skill that allows comedians to link seemingly unrelated ideas together.
2. **Questioning** - Effective questioning raises new possibilities and creates new perspectives on old situations.
3. **Observing** - Observation is all about raising your level of awareness. Observe the world and write about it, putting your own unique perspective into your writing and jokes.
4. **Experimenting** - If you do it correctly, experimenting results in something that's never been seen before, something original.
5. **Interacting** - with people that have very different backgrounds. This diverse background allows for new ideas to emerge

Parts of a Stand-Up comedian



Conclusion

Stand Up Comedy is now a full time profession exploring different genres. Opportunities are vast in movies, national and International shows, social gatherings, anchoring comedy shows, mentoring budding comedians etc. Passion alone will not lead to success - ability to sustain oneself and meet the challenges of the competition, a personality to suit the audience's likes and dislikes, ability to stand out from your colleagues with your special talents - are all of prime importance.

In these testing times, pour in more positivity, spread laughter. Remember to begin each day with a smile and end it with a smile. :)

Meet the professional : Swati Sachdeva

In conversation with Swati Sachdeva, a stand-up comic, who has done numerous shows in major clubs like Canvas Laugh Club, That laughter Club across India and has also performed on music shows like Musicathon. She has also made it to the top 20 of Comicstaan Season 2.

Q. When did you decide to become a Stand-Up comedian and why did you pursue it? I

never had any plans of pursuing it as a career when I was in school because I wasn't even aware that such a career opportunity existed. People told me that I was a funny and witty kid and I took it as a compliment. At that time, the All India Laughter Challenge was the only source of Stand-Up comedy for me.

After my Std 12th exams, I took up CA as I had scored well in accounts and also because my elder brother was pursuing it. This was a big mistake! Clearing IPCC itself took a long time and I dropped out of college for the same reason. So I decided to do something that I like, and that was Theatre. I was doing well there when someone randomly mentioned that I should try for Stand-Up comedy. That was a bizarre idea because I didn't even know where to perform. A friend of mine suggested that I do an Open Mic in his college. Open-Mic are live shows where members who are amateur or professional, perform on stage, often for the first time. At that show, I was randomly but very confidently saying something and I managed to convince my audience that I was funny. People liked it and that's when I thought - Why not move ahead with it? I started doing Open Mics in Delhi, Mumbai, etc. I was casual about it until I made it to Comicstaan Season 2 Top 20. And that is when I realised that I need to take it seriously, give it more time and actually take it up as a profession.

Q. Any mentor in this field who helped you or did you need to learn all the ropes by yourself?

In comedy you are your own student and your own teacher. The only teacher is the stage the mic and the audience. Observation is the key as the feedback from the audience is important to help you improvise your content. You get to know what is working and what is not; and you need to make immediate changes. This is the first phase. With practice and more shows, you keep on improving and eventually come to the notice of senior comics or producers. Networking is important. You may be lucky enough to find good teachers or friends who could help you as there is tough competition out there, and if you do find them, hold on to them.

Q. What is the scenario for Stand-Up comedy in India?

It's pretty new and fresh, like it's only been 10 years. And very few famous Stand-Up comics are there. The essence of the art form is to be live, on the stage; and this pandemic has hit it real hard. Technology has helped us connect to the audience, but a stage is a stage. If someone wants to start a career as a Stand-Up comic, they can test their content online, but to make it as a career, give it at least a year. Don't expect immediate results.



"In comedy you are your own student and your own teacher. The only teacher is the stage the mic and the audience."

Q. What message can you give to a Stand-Up comic aspirant.

Go research on bookmyshow.com or other event portals to check for Open Mics. Initially, it will be difficult to get a spot but eventually it becomes easy. Like I mentioned before, start testing your content online and do online Open Mics. It takes around 6 months to just understand oneself and the next six months one gets to know one's capabilities. They can then decide if they want to keep it as a hobby or pursue it as a career.

Q. Have you experienced any discrimination because you are a woman?

I think discrimination is everywhere, like God and nepotism. Especially in a country driven by patriarchy, you will find it in every profession. I found it very awkward when someone introduced me as a female comedian. It sounds so weird, as it isn't based on physical strengths like sports. Comedy is something where one uses his/her brains. People say that I am the funniest female comedian they have seen; I would be happy if they would have called me just an average comedian and not brought my gender into it. However, I have never faced discrimination by my fellow comedians. I have a few good friends in this space and the journey so far has been good.

Swati recently did an offline show on 26th September at the Social House in Delhi. Here's a link to her Instagram, where she posts regularly.

Career Queries

by : Dr. Sudha Bhogle

**Q. I don't know what I am interested in. How can I find it? I want to focus on something and I want to make it real.**

Each individual is unique and all of us have our own strengths and weaknesses, interests and abilities. Remember, when making a career choice, interests alone is not enough. It is important that you are interested and passionate about the work you want to do, but just because you are interested, does not guarantee that you have the ability to pursue that career. Passion and profession need not be complementary.

To find out what your interests are, find out or introspect as to the activities you enjoy doing in your free time. This can give you insight into the careers that would be satisfying, fulfilling and fun, for you. To figure out your interests, ask yourself:

- ☐ What hobbies do I enjoy?
- ☐ Do I prefer spending time indoors or outdoors?
- ☐ Do I enjoy working with people, animals, data or books?
- ☐ What activities would I miss the most if I could no longer do them

To get more objective and authentic information regarding your interest areas and its relationship to the career of your choice, meet a career counsellor and get yourself assessed through a reliable and valid, scientific and authentic psychometric assessment.

This will help clear your doubts as to where you should focus your energies, in mind that your career choice is solely yours.

JUST FOR LAUGHS



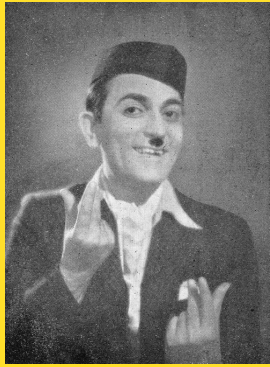
A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?". "That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies. After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

Q. Why did Adele cross the road?

A: To sing, "Hello from the other side!"

My friend told me he had the body of a Greek god. I had to explain to him that Laughing Buddha is not Greek.

How is Christmas like your job? You do all the work and the fat guy in the suit gets all the credit.



Did you know?

Noor Mohammed Memon was the first comedy star of Hindi films. He introduced Charlie Chaplin's style to Indian cinema, which was later adopted by Raj Kapoor. After Partition, Charlie moved to Pakistan and made around a dozen films.

*In our
next
Edition*



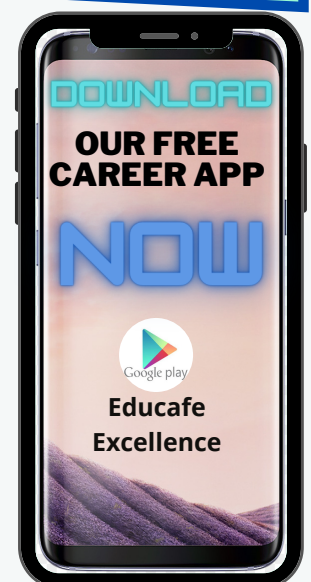
Q. Hello. I have just finished my +2 with science as my specialization. I am keen for a degree in Science. My major interest is Zoology. But I have no idea nor much information about the Career aspects and job opportunities in this field. Right now what exactly is running in my mind is that I take up B.Sc. in Zoology and then do an M.S abroad, but after that I don't have any idea about the job opportunities available. Could you please help me.

I am glad that you have consciously decided on a degree in Science with Zoology as your major. There is a great impetus being given nowadays to the Life and Natural Sciences. With a genuine interest and love for animals and wildlife you can definitely pursue a career as a professional Zoologist. There are several specializations in zoology to choose from: taxonomy, physiology, embryology etc. You can also specialize in one animal group, as per your interest. For example, ornithology, ichthyology etc.

Your specialisation as well as performance in your academics will in a large part decide where you can work. Apart from Universities, colleges and research institutes dealing with Zoology, job opportunities would be available at Zoos, Wildlife services, Conservation organizations, National parks, Nature reserves, etc. Some private companies also hire zoologists as ecological consultants. With the number of TV channels dealing with Nature and animals ever increasing, zoologists also get employed for making and presenting documentaries on animals and wildlife.

However, to make an informed decision about choice of a career, get to know where your real interests lie, what are your abilities and skills, what type of a person you are and what are your values and ethics. Try and analyze your strengths and deficits and use this information to make the correct choice.

We will talk
about this
career.
Can you
guess?



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