



## [off the cuff]

### Levy labeled a 'Killer' - BY FRANK O'DONNELL

The Killers of Comedy Tour is not for the faint of heart.

Look at one of their logos – a bottle of booze leaning against a skull.

"It's an edgy show, but it's also very funny," says Reverend Bob Levy, who dreamed up the idea with fellow comic Sal Governale about a year and a half ago. "People will be surprised at how funny it is.

They don't know what to expect when you get all of us together, but we prove ourselves every weekend." Levy makes regular appearances on Howard Stern's Sirius Radio show, which hasn't hurt the tour at all.

"Howard puts you out there, and he gives you the opportunity to showcase your talent. That's all any of us ever needed or wanted. I don't count on him to make my career. He gives me opportunities, and then it's up to me."

Levy shares the stage with five other performers at Woonsocket's Stadium Theatre this Friday, August 3. Featured are Jim Florentine (of "Crank Yankers" fame) and Richard Christy (who replaced Stuttering John on Stern's show), along with Shuli, Yucko the Clown and Beetlejuice, all Stern regulars.

"Our fans listen to the full Howard Stern Show every day," says Levy. "The listeners are now all diehards, and these are the people who are coming to our shows."

Levy's start in comedy was in part inspired by Howard Stern's show. "I wanted to get into comedy when I heard Jackie The Jokeman Martling on the Stern Show. I went to an open mic night where he was, and that's when he gave me my nickname for being so dirty on stage."

The plan is to build the tour slowly. "We go wherever people want us. Cities you wouldn't expect, too. Toronto was huge and sold out. Akron, Ohio and Louisville were great shows, and we're playing Memphis soon. Shuli and I even played a comedy festival in Saskatchewan in early July. There's some Stern fans out there, including the f\*\*\*in' Eskimos."

Why Rhode Island? "Rhode Island is a good Stern market," says Levy. "They had him on regular radio, and there's a ton of fans in Rhode Island and in all of the Northeast."

Levy and the others like playing the "smaller" venues like the Stadium. "It's not about the money right now. It's about people being able to come out and enjoy the shows at a decent price and hang out with us afterwards."

He's sincere about that. "Come up to us after the show. Just say hi. We always take pictures, and we like interacting with the fans."

And by the way, Levy makes no apologies for the logos. "Sometimes it does characterize our show, but it's fun. We're like the fun type of pirates – you know, the ones that won't kill you. We'll just rough you up."

*[For more info, check out [www.stadiumtheatre.org](http://www.stadiumtheatre.org) or [www.killersofcomedy.com](http://www.killersofcomedy.com).]*