

out STANDING

Philly EDGE COMIC CALENDAR

BUCKS COUNTY

Bucks County Comedy Cabaret: Dena Blizzard, Dava Krause, Randy Latini, 9 p.m. Friday. \$15; Spins Nitely, Terry Gillespie, Mary Frances Connelly, 9:30 p.m., Saturday. \$17.50. Atop Poco's, 625 N. Main St., Doylestown. 215-345-JOKE.

NEW JERSEY

Cherry Hill Comedy Cabaret: "Sudsy", Dava Krause, Randy Latini, 9 p.m., Saturday. \$17.50. Clarion Hotel, 1450 Route 70 east 295, Cherry Hill. 856-427-0427.

House of Blues: Cedric The Entertainer: Aug. 12, 8 p.m. 801 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ; 609.236.BLUE

Rascals Comedy Club: Jeff Norris on August 10-12; Tickets are available at the Rascals box office or online at www.Rascals.net Rascals at Hilton Philadelphia/Cherry Hill, 2349 West Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, 856.662.9200

PHILADELPHIA

Comedy Cabaret at Best Western Hotel: Rev. Bob Levy, Coleman Green, 9:30 p.m., Friday; 8 and 10:30 p.m., Saturday. \$20; Open Stage Night, 8:30 p.m., Wednesday. \$5. 11580 Roosevelt Blvd. 215-676-JOKE.

Helium: John Evans on August 9-12. 2031 Sansom St. Philadelphia; 215.496.9001 or www.heliumcomedy.com.

Whiskey Dix: Rev. Bob Levy, a Gloucester County-based comedian frequently heard on WYSP's Kidd Chris Show and Sirius Satellite Radio's Howard Stern Show, will headline a benefit event for The Blue Meanie, a Philadelphia-based professional wrestler of ECW and WWE fame Wed., Aug. 9 at 8:30 p.m. Meanie continues to struggle with financial problems that began after he had life-saving lung surgery last March. \$10 421 N. 7th St. 215.923.2192.

By Ryan Alan
Philly EDGE Correspondent

Are you ready for some goof ball? Legendary comic Don Rickles certainly is.

"Laughter is always needed," he says. "I'm mainly a stand-up performer, but it's so unusual. It's a little more involved than 'Why did the chicken cross the road?' My performance is different than the next guy's. It changes so much because I deal with people and exaggerate people."

Rickles, who turned 80 in May, hits the PNC Bank Arts Center stage Thursday (Aug. 10) in Holmdel, NJ and Saturday and Sunday (Aug. 12-13) at Resorts International in Atlantic City.

His forte, he says, is being different.

"When you are different, you have a chance. So many comedians are talented and funny but there are two secrets for being successful as a comic: Have a great attitude, establish an attitude you want to bring with the character. That will give you longevity.

"And be different. Don't just stand out there telling jokes. Do it a different way. I happened to come up with the angry guy making fun of people and exaggerating it and people found it interesting. Comedians have got to have something to draw (the audience) in."

It is that approach that has helped him pick up a young crowd, too, he says.

"More people in their 20s and 30s are coming to see me and I owe a lot of it to the Letterman Show and Larry King and my reputation with their parents that I'm the guy who always makes fun of authority."

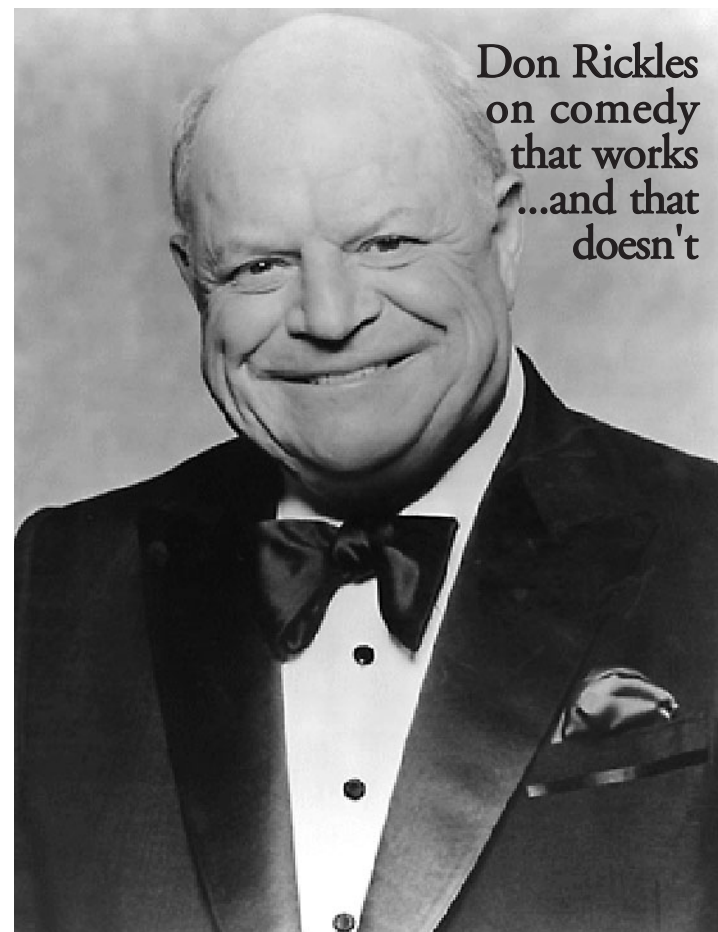
Rickles says his style of humor is part of his personality.

"I was a young kid in the Navy and was the class joker on the ship," he recalls. "There was not too much humor with all that shooting going on. I was the guy who made everybody laugh, not necessarily with my jokes, but with my attitude."

A big boost to his career came the night that Frank Sinatra was in the crowd at one of his shows and Rickles began doing the unheard of: delivering barbs at Ol' Blue Eyes. "When I picked on him, the whole world laughed," he says. "Nobody else had the courage to."

Sinatra loved it and the two performers became lifelong friends.

Rickles recognizes that he must perform a balancing act in knowing how far to go with his humor.



Don Rickles
on comedy
that works
...and that
doesn't

Old school laughs

"It's not something you can rehearse or plan. It's just something that's within you. I've been very fortunate with that fine line," he says.

He is not sure if there are any off-limits subjects, but he says that politics has been an area that he does not care to mine to any great extent.

"I've never been political. It's never been my cup of tea."

His humor is never mean spirited, he insists.

He says if he were to insult people and mean it, that wouldn't be funny. There is a difference between an actual insult, he adds, and just having fun.

"If I were offensive, I wouldn't be headlining."

Who: Don Rickles
When: Sat. and Sun. Aug. 12 and 13
Where: Resorts Atlantic City
1133 Boardwalk, Atlantic City
Call: 1.800.336.6378