

# STAGE TIME

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## STAGE TIME - Interviews

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## REV. BOB LEVY

### Gives Howard Stern Props and Warns Comics Not to Listen to Bookers and Club Owners

By Ryan P. Carey, D.D.S.

Reverend Bob Levy is one of the most irreverent, foul mouthed, and flat out creepy comics to grace the airwaves of *Howard Stern* as well as the oft-relocated radio franchise, *The Kid Chris Show*. The national headliner, who tours often with regulars of both shows, shared some insight about radio, the comedy business, and just how messed up successful showbiz folks can be in a telephone interview with *STM*.



**So Bob, you've probably 'seen it all'. You're associated with the kind of crowd that might ask to be paid for a gig in cocaine or prostitutes. What's the most disturbing thing you've ever seen doing your comedy around the country?**

Well to be honest, I haven't seen anything that's disturbed me. Maybe normal people would have been disturbed by what I've seen, but not me...

**Naturally... Sorry to ask you the same old same old, but what comics inspired you growing up?**

Nobody. None of them did. The only person that inspired me was Howard Stern. I was around 21 years old when he started, and I heard what he was doing on the air and I loved it. The Stern show was really important for radio all around. He started it all.

**From your experience with different radio personalities over the years, if Howard Stern hadn't done what he did for radio when he did, who do you think would have?**

Geez, I don't know it very well could have been many years following... It's really all about timing, like when the Beatles and Stones came ashore, it was that they were ready to step up when the time was right.

**What are your thoughts about those people who say that now that Stern is uncensored, it's just going to turn into unimaginative vulgarity and porn?**

Well those are probably going to be the same people that wanted to get him off the air on censored radio too. To be honest, it's really going to be funnier than ever.

**When, if ever, do you feel it was that you achieved success as a comic?**

Well I was doing real well for like nine years. I was killing, but the thing was that nobody knew who I was. Then in 2001 the associate producer of the *Stern Show*, K.C. Armstrong, saw my act in nightclubs and started getting me in on Howard's show.

Mostly, I was just sitting in on the news, but that kind of exposure got me to the point where I'd be able to pack clubs and have people know who I was.

**Some comics often talk about the time around 1990 when comedy died...**

Well it didn't die exactly, here's what happened: I got started right when it was, at it's peak of popularity. It was on TV all the time, and people loved it. The problem was that because TV shows gave comedy so much exposure, people were going to see live comedy all the time and clubs were booming. Because of the business growth, you'd have so much comedy to go around that middle acts would be headlining, and there'd be two emcees, one to emcee and one to be the middle act.

And it got stretched too thin, and people were starting to go, "This isn't like the people on TV, this is pretty shitty"... And after a while of the same comedy on TV all the time, people started to go, "Now this is starting to get shitty too..." And that's how it popularity died down...

**Have you ever done or thought about doing TV?**

Well I've done some stuff on TV back in the day... I don't want to do Comedy Central because I really can't be myself, with censorship and all that. HBO would be good. I sent a tape to *Letterman* years and years ago... But I wouldn't want to do *Leno's Show*, because his giant head would block me from the camera the whole time...

**What is something you'd recommend a young comic not to do?**

Don't listen to bookers and club managers about how to do your act. If they really knew what sort of act you should do, they'd be up there onstage themselves. Also, don't try to be liked by everybody. If I went onstage and everybody loved me and nobody hated me, that would pretty much suck. If I get some people so pissed of that they get up and walk out of there, that's great! Just like Arnie and Brad the Cripple on *The Kid Chris Show*, you gotta have it fun for some people to hate some people... it's like pro-wrestling, really. I've never seen a really great comedian who on stage is loved by everybody... ..except maybe Brian Regan.

**You seem to keep company with Jim Norton, Jim Florentine, and other guys that I've known to do radio a whole lot more than other comics...**

Yeah, [Rich] Vos, Florentine and Norton are all such creepy guys. If a girl's walking down the hallway and the four of us are standing there, there very well may be a rape... Colin's a great guy too, it's ironic considering how long we've all been friends that we're ending up on [rival] radio shows.

**What are your thoughts about *Opie and Anthony*?**

I honestly never listened, so I couldn't tell you. As far as whether or not they ripped off Stern, I mean Stern started it all, so every show is going to be parts of his show.

**I'd like to leave you with this last question... If you got to re-write *The Most Dangerous Game*, what would Bob Levy's *The Most Dangerous Game* be about?**

What was about again?

**I think it was about a rich guy who hired people slave-fashion to run around on his island while he hunted them...**

It would be about a big open mike. And there are alligators under the stage and all the shitty open mikers get dropped into the alligator pit.

**Yeah, I heard you had to attend an open mike last week and that it was pretty humorous to watch you suffer through it.**

There's just too many open mikers that oughta be put to sleep! Too many people suck! Fuck the hook, fuck the light, let's give some of these people a baseball bat to the head. Every time I see one there are maybe four guys who should keep working at it, and at least seven people are just doing it for no reason and it wastes everybody's time! That's not what comedy's about! What just because you made a few people laugh at some party some time that means you have to come try to tell jokes onstage?

**Awkwardly enough, I'm sitting right now in Helium, the same club you were in a week ago, waiting for the open mike to start... I'll let the guys know you said, "Hi."**

*(awkward laughter)*

To view Rev. Bob Levy's club schedule, [click here](#).

Tell us what you think about the interview with Rev. Bob Levy. To post your comments, [click here](#).

*Ryan P. Carey, D.D.S. is a stand-up comedian and writer from New Jersey. Visit his website at [www.gonzosandwich.com](http://www.gonzosandwich.com).*