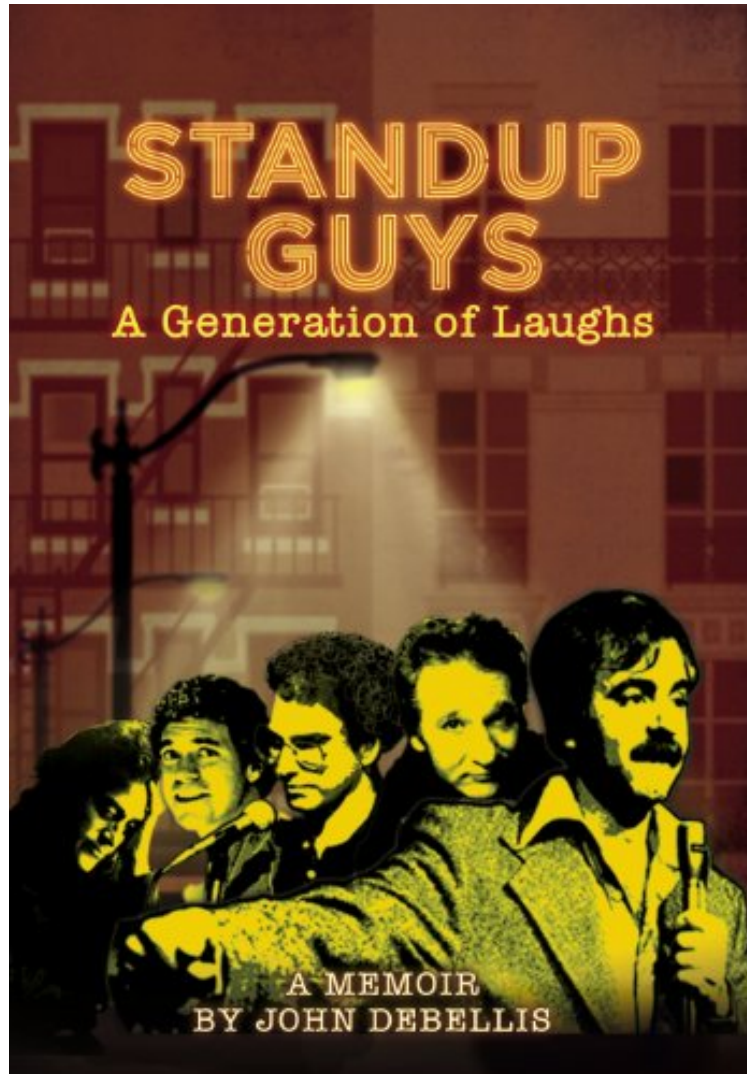


(Ebook free) Standup Guys: A Generation of Laughs

## Standup Guys: A Generation of Laughs

*John Debellis*

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**John Debellis : Standup Guys: A Generation of Laughs** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Standup Guys: A Generation of Laughs:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If you love Standup, buy this book!By Chris Jay BeckerI'm a veteran stand-up comic, playwright, and humor columnist, and I've read many books about the comedy boom of the 70s and 80s. John DeBellis' "Standup Guys" is one of the best I've read. This is not a how-to book per se, but it doesn't pretend to be; DeBellis' book is a hilarious memoir of his years in the comedy trenches in New York and Hollywood. Along the way, he tells some great insider stories about comics including Larry David, Richard Belzer, Joe Piscopo, Bill Maher, Richard Lewis, Gilbert Gottfried, Steve Mittelman, and many others. He talks about how much stage time a

new comic needs to get before he or she is good. What I love about DeBellis' book is that it's written from the POV of an actual comic who loves the Art of standup comedy, not from someone who wants to use standup as a stepping-stone to getting acting jobs. Let me amend that... DeBellis is, in my opinion, a writer who performs his own material as opposed to a comic who writes his own material out of necessity. I recognize this because I, too, am primarily a writer/comic. Right after my very first open mic way back in 1986, I was approached by other comics to write for them. DeBellis tells a similar story in his book. DeBellis, though, went on to write for SNL and several other TV shows, which makes me respect him even more. As a gag writer, I admire those who make that transition from the stage to the writers' room. If you love standup comedy, or are a comic yourself, buy this book... it will teach you MUCH about the craft. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you have any interest in comedy or standup, you're going to savor this book. By CPallStandup Guys takes you on a journey from the standup scene of the 70s to the comedy TV world of the 80s. You can see DeBellis' comic sensibilities at work here, as he delivers the story the way a comic delivers a routine. It's nonstop chronicles--many hysterical--infused with observation and punctuated with wordplay and punchlines. It all works well to propel the book forward while immersing you in the times and places. I could almost smell the stale beer of the clubs and the fear and sweat of the burgeoning comics battling the audience for command and the MCs for precious stage time. When at its best, you won't want to put the book down. As the title and cover art imply, DeBellis doesn't just detail his own journey, but those of his countless comic friends, managers and club owners. You want stories about Larry David, Bill Maher, Rodney Dangerfield, Eddy Murphy, Richard Lewis and probably two dozen more? They're in there. They're real. And they're spectacular. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Peek Behind the Curtain By Beth This was a fast, fun read that drew you right into the past where you experienced the author's highs and lows along with him. It was nice to hear about some of the big name comedians such as Billy Crystal, Bill Pryor, and Eddie Murphy before they were stars. I particularly enjoyed Gilbert Gottfried's quotes (and those of others) which were sprinkled throughout. Frankly, the book made me incredibly glad that I never aspired to be a stand up comedian! It seems like entirely too much pressure from the constant rejection! This is also more than a book about comedians though. It is a story of friendship and forming life long bonds during tough times. You can just tell that no matter what the author may have experienced it was all just that much more colorful because of his group of friends. I highly recommend this to anyone desiring a peek behind the curtain during the early days of stand up comedy. You'll find it's an incredibly interesting adventure!

Standup Guys is a comedian's memoir about his rising star friends including Larry David, Richard Lewis, Richard Belzer, Bill Maher, Gilbert Gottfried, Rita Rudner, Joe Piscopo, Paul Reiser, and Jerry Seinfeld. Follow these neurotic and lovable young comedians during the '80s early '90s as they win over audiences with their talent, passion, and camaraderie. "I really liked it. The writing was sharp, which leads me to believe you must have had outside help. Please pass on my congratulations to the author and tell him, her or perhaps your Dad before he passed. It's a wonderful book." -Larry David

John DeBellis ... has written a story of friendship that goes beyond any profession or discipline. The hilarious depictions of he and his comic cohorts give ample proof that none are sane. Their individual neuroses and (for some) borderline psychotic behaviors are told in anecdotal fashion ... Each comedian works out... his need to be accepted on his own terms as each finds the format and style that fits his personality. It is the camaraderie and unselfish love between them that makes the book such an easy, delightful read. Good job, John.--5-star review by Robert R. -- Readers Favorite 10/6/12 From the Author The book is a memoir about my stand-up days, a very unique time. My purpose in writing the book was to give people an idea what it was like to be a stand-up comedian back then--to experience the amazing camaraderie, what it was like to go on stage for the first time and to go through the different stages of becoming a good stand-up comic. It was the best time of my life. I never had more fun or felt so alive. I was a kid in the clubhouse with my very best crazy friends doing what we were driven and meant to do-- and boy did we have fun and lots of laughs. My story acts as a through line that puts you in the middle of those golden days of stand-up comedy, with guys like Larry David, Richard Lewis, Gilbert Gottfried, Rita Rudner, Richard Belzer, Paul Reiser, Bill Maher and on and on. I think it's a fun, informative read, something that regular people as well as aspiring comics would enjoy. I'm not trying to pat myself on the back but I really do believe that every young comic would benefit from reading this because it's our history as comedians. There's a great book called The Last Laugh about comedians in the late 50's and early 60's (the original version) that we all read. It gave you a feeling of being back there. I wanted to do the same thing, except from a comic's point of view, and hopefully I succeeded. From the Inside Flap On this flap I've inserted a story that would have been included in the book, if I knew my readers had a lot of free time and unlimited attention spans. One night, after Larry David and I both had bad shows, we went back to his apartment to give each other a comic pep talk, which consisted of who could feel less doomed by finding the most fault with the audience and who had the worst spot. After about an hour of competitive complaining, as I was about to leave, I noticed on the floor next to LD's bed, several pamphlets--Symptoms of Cancer, Symptoms of Heart Attacks, Symptoms of Strokes, Symptoms of Legionnaire's Disease and several other life threatening illnesses. Later that week I

was telling Lenny Maxwell what I'd found. We all knew Larry was a hypochondriac but this had raised him to the level of a Super Hypo. Coincidentally, Lenny was given a book on the theory of type A and B personalities and their correlation to heart attacks. On the inside cover, pretending to be the author, Lenny wrote an inscription that said he had seen Larry's set at the Improvisation, and it was obvious that Larry was both type A and type B, and that he should seek medical attention immediately--he was a ticking time bomb. We mailed the book to LD. A few nights later Lenny and I were sitting at the Improv bar when the door burst open--stumbling out of the glow from the street light, like the God of anxiety, was Larry. His anglo-afro looked like magnetized corkscrews pointing straight out of his head. His face was white enough to get him in a clan meeting without the sheet; his eyes red, like he'd try to rub the color out of them. Larry ran up to us, holding the book, his hands unable to contain the tremor, practically stuttering, "Uh... I got this book in the mail." His unsteady fingers poked at the page Lenny had written. "The doctor saw my act. I'm going to have a heart attack!" He looked like he was about to have a massive coronary, which made it difficult for Lenny and I to contain our laughter. He kept circling, his open hand covering his face like a mask, breathing in out heavily and quickly, almost gasping for air. "What should I do? I'm going to have a heart attack! Should I go to the emergency room? I'm going to die!" Lenny, with a straight face, calmly said, "Larry, the doctor who wrote that book is an expert in his field and certainly knows what he's talking about." "Maybe, there's a medication? What am I going to do? I have a set, I could die in the middle of my act!" LD's anxiety was getting dangerously close to causing cardiac arrest. Although the thought of Larry dying on stage, and falling to the ground blaming the audience for his demise was hysterical, we had to spill the beans before he actually had a heart attack. Between Larry's erratic breathing, Lenny managed to shout that we had sent him the book and wrote the inscription. As Lenny's words sunk in Larry stopped, flinched his head a few times and just stared, I suppose, not knowing whether to be relieved, angry or embarrassed. Finally, he just burst out laughing. A grin streaked across his face--color returned to his eyes. He composed himself and said, "Uh... Very funny." We had no idea of what LD really felt, all I know is he took that book home and I would have bet it found place on the floor atop his medical pamphlets. Years later Larry accompanied me to visit my grandfather at the hospital. He walked down the halls holding his hands on both sides of his face so he couldn't accidentally see inside any of the rooms. About a half hour after our visit, one where Larry looked like he was about to be bitten by a zombie, I returned home to receive a call from my mother telling me that my grandfather died. I'm not suggesting that Larry purposely caused my grandfather's death, but I do think there's a strong possibility, that after seeing the expression on Larry's face, my grandfather had lost his will to live.