

Contents

Introduction	1
A Pile-O-Chips Now	3
Back in My Game Day	6
Backwards Bank Robbery	12
Bad Night/Busy Week	17
The Bug Doctor	22
The Chi-Talian Restaurant	26
The Cookout	31
Consumer Watchdogs	36
Crayon Rally	41
The Cutting Room Floor	46
The Date Tests	50
Dogs Caught	56
Dr. Zucchini	61
The Elevator Hijack	65
Etch a Sketch	70
The Fall of the Clown of Usher	73
Family Quality Time	78
Feen Daning (Fine Dining)	82
The First Dictionary Salesman	86
The Fish Tank	92
The Float Attendant	96
Halloween Candy	102
Husbands Hypnotized	106
I Done Got Happy	110
The Interview Come-On	114

Keeping Up with the Joneses	119
Kid to Work Day	123
Little Thoughts	128
The Mirror Marriage	132
Mixed-Up Father and Son	136
My Fellow Cavemen	140
Needs Instruction	145
New Neighbors	150
PBS Plus	158
Penny for Your Thoughts	163
Pirate Training	167
The Pizza Audition	173
Real Job Morale	178
The Real Scoop	183
The Royal Pet Store	187
Sound Off	192
Stuntman	197
Sworn In	202
Talk Show Restaurant	208
Teacher Parent Conference	214
Testosterone Challenge	219
Theater (Medium Rare)	224
Time Lapse — The Artist’s Model	229
Work/School Day	235
Wrestlerant	240
Easy Reference Guide	245
About the Authors	251

Introduction

In early 1997, John approached me with the idea of putting together a weekly original sketch comedy show. At the time, we had formed an improvisation workshop that met once a week at The Outlet for Creativity in Rochester, PA.

I pushed for a bi-weekly show, perhaps monthly, so that we would have time to write the next show. He convinced me and a handful of others to give the weekly format a try. So we spent the next five months developing ideas, and on June 6, 1997, we introduced *Comarama*, a show combining comedy, art, and drama. That first show included eight comedy sketches, one dramatic piece, original poetry, two performance art pieces, and two short films.

I remember sitting backstage, worn out from the two-hour performance, and looking at John as he said: “We have six days to do this again.” I was sure we couldn’t keep up the pace, but we wrote another show, and another and another and another ... for a year and a half.

During that first year we started a youth troupe who held their own monthly show with some of our old skits, revised for that age group, and some new ones written specifically for them.

The skits in this book are a selection from those early days when we jumped in with both feet. After a while, we found a writing routine that worked for us, with many late Sunday nights in The Outlet loft, trying to finish five to eight skits a week. We’d perform them that Friday, analyze the audience reactions afterwards at a late-night restaurant, and rest for a day before starting the whole process again.

Lawrence Phillis