

REDEFINE (2009)

WEEKLY CONTENT CREATION ROUNDUP

January 3, 2009 | Info

One of my goals for Redefine 2009 is to post an article or video every week. Here's a list of all of that content.

1. Pictures from 2008 & The Story of Wally
2. Post Holiday Blues
3. Roommate Agreement & Guest Policy
4. The Ideal Improviser
5. Chevy vs Chevy
6. 10 Things That Should Be True But Aren't
7. To Drink or Not to Drink?
8. Emoticon Story
9. Life is Like a Rubik's Cube
10. Subway Story: Raoul
11. What I Learned from Watchmen
12. No Man is an Island
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14. H2O Rap
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16. Tax Day Happiness
17. 21 Tips for Performing
18. Crackberry
19. Thoughts on a Walk Home
20. Lies My Mother Told Me
21. Kill Bill Sketch
22. Images from Reflections
23. Excerpt from Humor eBook
24. Topical History Humor
25. The After Math
26. Dear Dad
27. Michael Jackson – Number One
28. Happy Birthday Mom
29. Career Builder Commercial
30. Subway Story: Stephanie
31. 26 Single Pane Cartoon Ideas
32. Dar Microsfot
33. What Google Says About Humor
34. Movies Based on Improv Team Names
35. Ode to Orange
36. Slapstick Picnic – Meanwhile
37. Amateur Filmmaking Tips from Shoot from the Hip
38. Football in Ohio
39. Fun with Letters
40. Subway Story: Chris
41. A Glimpse into my Dreams
42. Never Date A ...
43. Picnic Anthem
44. Learn a New Skill Like a Programmer
45. Project Management Haiku

46. AAA Stupidity Insurance
47. 600: The Movie Trailer
48. 600: The Movie Poster
49. Cliche Pictures 1
50. What to Get Your Coworkers for the Holidays
51. PC Support
52. Sketch Comedy Reel 2009

PICTURES FROM 2008 & THE STORY OF WALLY

January 4, 2009 | Content Short Stories

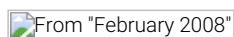
Introduction: I wanted to share all of the pictures that I took in 2008. Rather than just share them in a regular post, I thought I'd tell a story, created and inspired by pictures from each of the picture albums from this year. If you click on a picture, it will take to the album it is from.

Wally looked out the window of his apartment. The view that once inspired him now seemed intimidating and lonely.



The view (from "Moving to the NYC")

In an attempt to get over his loneliness, Wally had recently made a series of bad decisions that lead him to making some bad deals with some bad people. When Wally's debts came due, the mob boss only known as "The Man" came to collect. Wally was devastated.



The Man (from "February 2008")

Wally, broke and desperate, decided to climb to the highest peak around him and seek guidance from the wise man on the mountain. As he made his climb he saw a sign, a signal from God (possibly), showing Wally a lucky number.



The sign (from "LA Cruise 2008")

When he reached the top of the mountain, Wally didn't find a wise man. Not sure of what to do, he sat down and tried to relax. He breathed deeply and calmly thought about a sea of tranquility, freeing his mind of all of his worries.



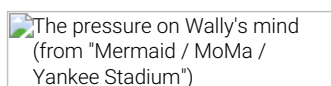
The sea of tranquility (from "LA Cruise 2008")

Then, out of the sea of tranquility, appeared a harem of Mermaid sirens.



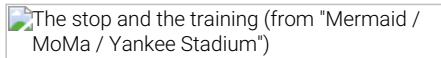
The Sirens (from "Mermaid / MoMa / Yankee Stadium")

The sirens started communicating with Wally through telepathy and high-pitched song. Wally tried to decipher the archaic message, but his feeble mind was unable to understand what the sirens were saying.



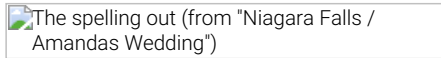
The pressure on Wally's mind (from "Mermaid / MoMa / Yankee Stadium")

But just when the pressure seemed too great, an epiphany struck Wally like a bad baseball player strikes out: Wally didn't have to decrypt the message from the sirens, he merely had to stop his old way of thinking before and train himself to think differently.



The stop and the training (from "Mermaid / MoMa / Yankee Stadium")

Having essentially spelled out what Wally needed to do, the sirens disappeared into the clouds.



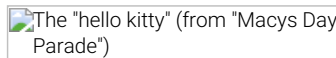
The spelling out (from "Niagara Falls / Amandas Wedding")

Wally knew he had to face his troubles head-on, so made his way down the mountain. As he reached the bottom, his mind was overflowing with ideas of how he could set his life on the right path.



The overflowing (from "Niagara Falls / Amandas Wedding")

Walking the streets of the city, Wally continued to think about the message from the sirens. He knew that he had to face his trouble, but he didn't yet know how to conquer them. While pondering, Wally happened upon a black cat in an alley. He stooped to pet the cat and said "Hello Kitty."



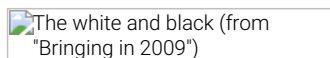
The "hello kitty" (from "Macys Day Parade")

The cat meowed and turned around, walking behind a dumpster. Wally peered behind the dumpster and saw the cat there with several other smaller cats. Wally stood up, reflecting on the day's events.



The reflection (from "Halloween / Central Park")

Suddenly it was as clear as white and black; Wally didn't need to look externally for happiness, it was already around him with his friends and family.



The white and black (from "Bringing in 2009")

So Wally returned home, energized by the simple revelation. Like Dorothy had realized, there really is no place like home.

THE END

POST HOLIDAY BLUES

January 11, 2009 | Articles Content

A Poem for the return from the Holidays (repost from P&G Blog):

*The Holidays are over, it's back to work boys and girls.
It was a great vacation, without a care in the world.
But it's the new year, so it's back to business.
Wow did it fly by, it went with a quickness.*

*My inbox is overflowing, with 1000's of emails.
I've got sticky notes on my screen, and quite a few voicemails.
It's worst than I had imagined, worst than I feared,
Why did I blow everything off, saying "I'll do it next year?"*

*What does this note mean? What was I supposed to do?
Does that say email Jerry, or upgrade software to version 2?
I left too many cryptic messages, I'm now like my own detective,
I do this every year, by now I should expect it.*

*I need to talk to Sarah. What? She's still on vacation?
What's it been, a month now? Doesn't she know my frustration?
So what if I should have done this, way back in December.
No one was doing much work, don't you remember?*

*Oh look, there goes Barry, he supposedly "worked" through the break.
What a smart move, no one was here to see if he faked.
That's not really fair, perhaps he created a better plan,
Maybe he was more disciplined than I, though he seems a little tan.*

*But now it's all caught up with me, I'm behind the 8 ball.
There's an elephant in the room, and he's 15-feet tall.
But maybe if I work, some 80 hour weeks,
I'll be able to catch up, and my boss won't freak.*

*Oh who am I kidding, I'll never get this project to green,
And I'm already awaiting, the day-off on January 19.
I wish for this all this work, I could just hit the snooze,
Because I definitely have, the Post Holiday Blues.*

ROOMMATE AGREEMENT & GUEST POLICY

January 19, 2009 | *Articles Content*

I've had a fair number of visitors in my apartment, all staying varying lengths of time. I figure in order to make sure everyone's on the same page, why not create a Roommate Agreement / Guest Policy for people to be able to follow:

- I. Drew is always right, especially when it comes to things regarding his apartment or how to get to it.
- II. If you are staying less than 4 days, then "Make yourself at home" means you are a visitor and are welcome to food and beverages you with no monetary contribution. If you are staying longer than 4 days, then "Make yourself at home" means you are a roommate and are welcome to food and beverages, but be ready to contribute.
- III. Visitors are entitled to one "I'll come down and get you" when you are in the lobby. After that, you can make your way to the apartment all by yourself.
- IV. Women can always elect to be escorted to the subway. Drew, however, will not ride the subway with you all the way back to your place just to make sure you made it safe. That would be sexist.
- V. When there are multiple visitors at one time, the futon, twin air mattress, single air mattress, couch and recliner are all on a "first dibs, first served basis." Drew's bed is not "dibsable" and he is not required to share it with anyone.
- VI. Try not to break any of the dishes. Also the dishwasher is generally just used for drying, so clean the dishes before placing them in the dishwasher. With soap.
- VII. Use coasters and dinner mats. Clean up any messes.
- VIII. Ask before using one of Drew's computers. They are like his babies. You wouldn't play with someone's baby without asking first would you?

IX. Walking or running the 30 flights of stairs to the apartment makes you a certified guest in the apartment. Until then, you are merely a visitor.

X. Sometimes due to scheduling, or Drew's sanity, you may be kindly asked to leave. This is not Drew "kicking you out," but rather a "Thanks for coming by, but ..."

THE IDEAL IMPROVISER

January 25, 2009 | *Content Improv*

From everything that I've read, been taught, learned and experienced when it comes to improv, they are concepts and ideas that come back time and time again. And if you were to take those concepts, put them in a pot, and stir, you'd have an "ideal improviser" soup.

The ideal improviser doesn't think about these things, he just does them. (Of course until you reach that stage, you'll probably have to think about them from time to time, even if it means getting in your head. That's what rehearsals are for).

The Ideal Improviser...

Doesn't Think – The motto of the Upright Citizen's Brigade Theater is "Don't Think." It's true, the ideal improviser doesn't think about The Rules, or even this list of things; he listens, builds on what's been established, and plays.

Listens – No man is an island and no improviser can survive without his scene partners. Listening is the key to building a completely improvised world. After all, as *Truth in Comedy* tells us, "The only star in improv is the ensemble itself."

Ignores the Rules – The entire premise of Mick Napier's book *Improvise* is that you don't need to even know the rules to have a great improv scene. Asking questions, or saying no can work as long as you have commitment and agreement from your scene partners. As Charna Halpern says in *Truth in Comedy*, "The only rule that can *never* be broken is the rule of agreement."

Is Specific – Specificity is what adds spice to an improv scene and helps bridge the gap between what is real and what the audience sees as "real." As Tim Kazurinsky said, "The trick is to pretend that none of it is pretend." This comes in the form of being specific—in dialogue, references, character choices, object work, and stage picture.

Changes Things Up – Too much of the same can get boring, even if it started out great. No one wants to do (or see) anything that is the same for 50 straight minutes, even laughing—they need a break. The ideal improviser shows variety in character, emotion, status—everything.

Acts – In *Improvise*, Mick Napier said "Do something." In *Impro*, Keith Johnstone said "More than laughter they [the audience] want *action*." The ideal improviser does something and takes action. There is no hesitation and there is no talking about what might make for an interesting scene. The ideal improviser shows, not tells.

Has Fun – Mick Napier is quoted in *The Second City Almanac of Improvisation* as saying "At the heart of improvisation is play." That's why the ideal improviser gets onstage: to have fun.

The ideal improviser is just that, an ideal. He doesn't actually exist. But following the guidelines above, distilled from the rules, non-rules, and generalities of various methodologies, you can get closer to that ideal improvisers. And just like the chicken dance, my friends, that's what it's all about.

Sources

Experience:

- The 8th Floor
- Smarty Pants
- ComedySportz

Courses:

- UCB Improv 101
- UCB Improv 201
- UCB Improv 301

- Clocked!

Books:

- *Improvise* by Mick Napier (Buy It at Amazon.com)
- *Second City Almanac of Improvisation* by Anne Libera (Buy It at Amazon.com)
- *Impro* by Keith Johnstone (Buy It at Amazon.com)
- *Truth in Comedy* by Charna Halpern (Buy It at Amazon.com)

CHEVY VS CHEVY

February 1, 2009 | Content Video

My fake Super Bowl Commercial called "Chevy vs Chevy."

10 THINGS THAT SHOULD BE TRUE BUT AREN'T

February 8, 2009 | Content Stand-Up

10 things that should be true, but aren't:

1. Soccer should be called football. (American) football should be called soccer.
2. Monday should be considered the first day of the week. Sunday is part of the *weekend*, so it should be the end of the week.
3. The world should be on one system of measure. I don't care if it's metric or whatever it is we in the US call it, but, like Highlander, there should only be one.
4. The English alphabet should only have 25 letters—get rid of the 'Q.' It is a worthless, copycat of a letter that can't even be by itself most of the time.
5. There should be a Chick Fil-A in Manhattan. It should be open on Sundays and in close proximity to my apartment.
6. The word palindrome should be a palindrome. It's confusing that it is not.
7. Slow traffic should always keep to the right, no matter the form of transportation. If you're going to stand on the escalator, do it to the right side.
8. Chicken should have the same health benefits as vegetables and be consumed as often as grains.
9. "Shoulder" should be pronounced "shood-er" or "should" should be pronounced "shooled".
10. Puns should be heralded as one of the greatest forms of comedy.

Oh, and I guess there should be things like world peace and no starving children. I also realize that #1-3 could be solved by moving to a different country, but I shouldn't have to do that.

TO DRINK OR NOT TO DRINK?

February 16, 2009 | *Articles Content*

I made the decision not to drink alcohol at an early age and as a result, have remained sober for all 25 years of my life. But as I get older, as my views change, as I redefine myself—the question becomes: to drink or not to drink?

Naturally the decision isn't cut and dried for me. On the one hand, I haven't been a drinker thus far in my life, so why start now. On the other hand, there are a number of health and social benefits to having a beer or glass of wine every now and then. I've listened to a number of views on both sides of the fence on the topic, but ultimately it's me, the one sitting on the fence that must decide. So, in attempt to decide once and for all (or at least once and for awhile), I've decided to debate myself in a showdown of the case for sobriety versus the case for alcohol.

My Background

With each passing year, I get more and more bewilderment and wonder from other people as to why I don't drink. In high school I was a goody two-shoes because people assumed I didn't drink because it was illegal. In college it was because I was "straight-edge" or some kind of religious nut. Post-college it's because I used to have a drinking problem and am now a recovering alcoholic. None of those reasons are accurate.

My decision to not drink started with bad experiences with alcohol, or specifically, alcoholism. It wasn't until I was in high school that I realized someone very close to me had been drunk for most of the moments I remembered with him.

I still remember the day that it sunk in—the realization was a blow to just about everything I knew about the person. Incidents that I once thought were attributed to accidents or simply forgetting were now finally linked to their true cause—alcoholism.

On that day I vowed that I would never allow myself to succumb to the disease, and the easiest way to do that was to not drink.

Throughout high school I went to plenty of parties where people were drinking. When asked if I wanted a beer, I declined. Every now and then people would want to know why, but my friends respected my decision and left it at that.

Over time I realized that not all people who drink do it the point that it interferes with their lives—although far more people could gain from cutting back than realize. Just because someone drank didn't make them an alcoholic.

By the time I went to college I no longer believed that alcohol was the cause of all problems. I learned that alcohol was just a way some people compensated for a weakness or insecurity with themselves. While some people drank because they didn't know how else to have fun or to drown out their feelings, others would do it merely to relax or to spend some time with a friend. There was nothing inherently wrong with alcohol itself—alcohol could be fine in moderation so long as the people choosing to consume it were behaving responsibly.

But by that time, I had found a new reason not to drink—I didn't need to. I had learned that I didn't need alcohol to have fun. While other people got drunk, I could have just as much fun being sober. And call it hubris, cockiness, or simply confidence, I also knew I didn't need alcohol to get the supposed benefits alcohol provided, such as improved confidence or a relaxed state of mind; I had all of that on my own.

It wasn't until I graduated from college that I started reconsidering my decision. Not really because it bothers me to answer the question "why don't you drink?" (though I have to admit it can get old answering the same question fifteen times at a party), but because I'm wondering if it's part of the next evolution of Drew, part of Redefine 2009.

The Case for Sobriety

1. *I've Made It This Far*

As I mentioned above, I've made it to age 25 without drinking and I think I've done alright. I live in NYC, have a career I enjoy, a hobby that I love, and great friends and family. As they say, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

2. *Society Be Damned*

One of the pressures to drinking is that by being an abstainer, I'm immediately cast as different. Most people say they have no issue with my choice, but I do know it changes how I'm perceived. But what should I care that "society" says I'm the weird one? "Society" used to encourage smoking, but that didn't make it right.

3. *Avoiding Temptation*

Part of me, and a larger part than I'll actually admit, worries that by starting to drink, I could open up the possibility of alcoholism. I'm an ambitious person, I don't have time for anything that could potentially cripple my goals or drive. And while I'm confident of my own discipline and willpower, I am fighting genetics and a fondness for alcohol from both sides of the extended family.

4. *Saving Money*

Lets face it, alcohol is expensive. I don't know how much money I've saved since I stopped drinking soda and have never purchased alcohol. For me, I can have a great time out at a bar without spending a single dime.

5. *I'm Never Wrong*

I often half-jokingly say that I'm never wrong, so by changing my stance now I run the risk of negating my prior beliefs and people thinking I'm a hypocrite. Though to be fair, I've never verbally chastised someone for drinking unless it was illegal or against a contract they signed stating they would not.

6. *Seneca*

"Drunkenness is nothing but voluntary madness" – Seneca

The Case for Alcohol

1. *Redefine 2009*

My whole goal for 2009, the year I turn 25, is to reinvent myself into the older, more mature Drew. This comes in many forms including my physical appearance, how my apartment looks, and my diet. There's something seemingly mature about two friends being able to share a gin and tonic after a long day at work, or a beer during a football game.

2. *Society Be Damned*

As I get further into the corporate and comedy worlds, I'm experiencing more and more frequent "lets grab a drink and do some bonding" (though rarely do they say that last part). By not drinking, I immediately place myself as an outsider in those situations due to societal expectations. And when you're trying to build a group-mind in an improv group, build a relationship at work, or make a pitch as an entrepreneur, being an outsider isn't a good thing.

3. *Health Benefits*

If there were no health benefits associated to the occasional drink, I wouldn't even consider it. But as I grow older, I'm trying to be more conscious of my health and diet (thus the resolution to eat more fruits and vegetables). And with study after study after study proving the benefits of the occasional beer or wine, it's hard to deny that it would be a healthy decision (in moderation).

4. *Culinary Enhancement*

I've already mentioned a few times my push for dietary changes in 2009, but one part of that is to graduate my tastebuds to a more mature level. While I think I'll always love a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, it would also be nice to be able to enjoy a fine piece of salmon. A number of cooking experts (friends and professionals alike) have said that the right wine or beer can completely change the enjoyment of a meal.

5. *Opinions Change*

One of my cons to drinking is that I would potentially negate former Drew, but that's not really the case. Up to this point in my life, I know that without a doubt, the decision for me to not drink has been the right one. But the key is "up to this point." I'm a very different person than I was in high school, when I first made the decision, and in college, when I stuck my guns. But what was best for me then isn't necessarily what's best for me now that I'm all growed up.

6. *Benjamin Franklin*

"Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy." – Benjamin Franklin

Final Arguments

The decision is by no means easy. I've been sober for 25 years, is it really worth moving on from that? Or is it a change that can help me grow? There are a number of health benefits to drinking, but there are also health benefits to eating spinach and I don't think that's going to happen any time soon. I've always been an individual, but where's the line between individual and outcast?

The question comes down to this: is drinking alcohol part of my new life, the 25-year old, redefined, Drew 2.0? And the answer is...

The Decision

Yes and no. Of course a decision like this on a topic like this doesn't come with a straight answer. I say yes because it's possible I'll drink alcohol in the future, but I say no because I'm not going to "start drinking."

Many people *drink* to get *drunk*. I won't. My decision is to merely remove the ban on alcoholic drinks from my selection of beverages. Just like water, Gatorade, or lemonade, wine, beer, or spirits are now an option for me to choose. Does that mean I ever will? Not necessarily. I've always had the option to drink Ginger Ale, but I never pick it.

So what does that really mean? The occasion will dictate the decision. If I'm in a situation where I feel like trying a glass of red wine, or a gin and tonic, I will. If not, I won't. Who determines the decision? Me, of course.

The only rule I will add is that it will always be a 1-drink maximum. Why? Well I rarely have seconds of any beverage, besides water, in any given sitting, with perhaps the exception of Gatorade. And on top of that, I am a skinny guy that's never built up a tolerance before, and I'm not planning on getting drunk.

It was a difficult decision to come to, and would've been regardless of which way I chose, but it's one I'm confident is the right direction for me. After all, it is Redefine 2009.

EMOTICON STORY

February 20, 2009 | Content Short Stories

I wrote this a year ago at work, but I still think it's clever:



Oh good times on Instant Messenger.

LIFE IS LIKE A RUBIK'S CUBE

February 22, 2009 | Articles Content

As I went through the process of learning to solve a Rubik's cube, I realized it's much like the challenges of life:

SUBWAY STORY: RAOUL

March 1, 2009 | Content Short Stories

Subway Short Stories: Fictional stories written with characters inspired by riding on the New York City subway.

What is it about the subway that makes me so angry? I'm normally a happy guy—in fact I was ecstatic not even 20 minutes ago when I was in Best Buy playing Street Fighter 4. But now I'm on the subway and I'm pissed.

There's no particular reason I should be angry, I mean I can play on my PSP or listen to my iPod, but dammit I'm mad. Maybe it's the smell. This subway smells stupid. It's not as bad as that one time there was a homeless man sleeping on the floor of the train, or even that time someone threw up their Chinese food on the seat next to me (god that pissed me off). But it still smells dumb.

And what's that guy looking at? Looking at me and typing away on his phone. Does he get cellphone reception down here? I doubt it. What's so important in his big head that he has to write it down now? He's probably writing a dumb journal or something.

That girl next to him is kind of cute though. I wonder how old she is—probably either 16 or 30—I can never tell. Girls are tricky like that these days anyway. The young girls want to look 21, the old girls want to look 21. How am I suppose to handle that? I don't want jail-bait or a cougar. Stupid girls.

Maybe that's what I hate about this stupid train—that girl's voice on the speaker. "Stand clear of the closing door." Oh, like I'm going to try to stand in the middle of the door for the whole ride? Like this is a roller coaster and I'm trying to go on a thrill ride? Of course I'm going to stand clear of it. Anyone dumb enough to not get out of the way of a closing door probably isn't someone that's gonna listen to your stupid announcement.

Hmm, looking around and it looks like pretty much everyone else is pissed off too—it must be this dumb car. No one is ever happy on the subway because it's dumb. That guy—angry. That guy—discontented. That guy—wait, does that guy have a smile on his face? What is he so happy about? Is this is first time on the freaking subway? You think you're going to Jared's house or something? This is a subway, not Disney Land, why are you so happy? Maybe he's on drugs.

Oh, speaking of drugs, that's probably what this beggar will buy with the money he makes from these people. It's the harmonica guy. Oooh, you can play a song on a harmonica, here have \$1,000. You only know one song! You might as well be playing "Row Row Row your boat" and get the whole subway car to sing along.

Oh thank the Lord, it's about time we got to Union Square. Finally I can leave this stupid subway. Wait, why aren't the doors opening? Open stupid doors, open! I can see the people out there, we aren't moving, why aren't they open? Oh, well there go. Watch out people, let the passengers off the train!

WHAT I LEARNED FROM WATCHMEN

March 8, 2009 | Content Info

I recently finished reading *Watchmen* and thought it was a great story. I decided to write a post about all the great lessons shared within the story and have put it up on a site I'll be sharing more information about soon. Anywho, you can find this week's "creative" post at: [Life Lessons Learned from Watchmen](#).

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

March 20, 2009 | Content Stand-Up



They say no man is an island, but they are wrong—it turns out Roosevelt was. It says so. And who is the proverbial "they"? **John Donne**, **Thomas Merton**, and **Dennis Brown** apparently. Never knew that who Frank Sinatra was talking about in his song "They Can't Take That Away From Me."

The question is which Roosevelt was an island? Was it FDR? Probably not, and I don't just mean that because he had polio. OK, partially I do. What? I'm just saying it wouldn't be a very stable island (Too soon?).

Was it Teddy? That just doesn't seem right. I mean he already has a head at Mount Rushmore, he shouldn't get to be an island and a mountain. Although islands are kind of like mountains in the ocean with their peaks exposed.

I think it was Eleanor. She was man enough to be an island.

FUN WITH PHOTOFUNIA

March 22, 2009 | Content Other

This week's content comes via the site [Photofunia](#):





H2O RAP

March 29, 2009 | Content Skits

Here's a first cut of a rap song Woodruff and I are working on. There's still improvements to make, and eventually a video, but we're off to a great start.

H2O Rap

DREW TARVIN COMEDY REEL

April 6, 2009 | Content Video

A comedy reel I put together for promotional purposes:

TAX DAY HAPPINESS

April 12, 2009 | Content Stand-Up

Trying to find something positive about Tax Day:

21 TIPS FOR PERFORMING

April 19, 2009 | Articles Content

21 tips I picked up from watching a variety of performances this week:

Monday – Acting Class Graduation Show

1. Commitment is key. If you don't believe it, the audience won't believe it.
2. Always think about stage picture, always.
3. Acting is reacting—to your scene partner, environment, and circumstance.

Tuesday – Upper Level Improv Class Show

4. The ending of the show will leave the most lasting impression.
5. Never leave your scene partners hanging.
6. The "star" of an improv show isn't the person with the most stage time, it's the person with the most support moves.

Wednesday – Amateur Improv Show

7. Bigger / louder characters does not mean funnier.
8. Amateurs go for blue comedy by default.
9. Emotional reactions are entertainment.

Thursday – Professional Dance Show

10. It's the job of the performers to tell the audience what they should be paying attention to.
11. When the audience can tell you are having fun on stage, they'll have more fun.
12. Repetition (plus variation) and mirroring actions is fulfilling for the audience.

Friday – Professional Improv Show

13. It is better to edit too soon than too late.
14. Be specific—it's funnier.
15. Commit fully and do it immediately.

Saturday – Amateur Television Script Read

16. Make a choice. It doesn't matter what choice, just make one.
17. Know your audience and know what they know.
18. You have to sell it. Hilarious lines are ruined by poor performance. Poor lines are improved by commitment and confidence.

Sunday – Semi-Professional Play

19. A mistake is only a mistake on stage when it is called out as one. Otherwise the audience thinks that it was supposed to happen.
20. Know the history of the character, even if it never is said or written.
21. Look for the deeper meaning in the words or actions.

CRACKBERRY

April 26, 2009 | *Content Skits*

[scrippet]

INT. OFFICE – EVENING

THOMAS is sitting at his cubicle at work. His computer is on with a Blackberry Screen Saver. Thomas is intently typing away on his Blackberry, ignoring the computer in front of him.

A new text message comes in from someone labelled WIFE. The message reads "When will you be home?"

Thomas sighs and types back "I still have stuff to do." A message comes back from Wife, "Ur new BB came today." Thomas' expression changes, he types back "Be home in 10."

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY – EVENING

Thomas walks towards his apartment door, still engaged with his Blackberry. He gets to the door and opens it.

INT. APARTMENT – EVENING

Thomas walks in the door with a smile on his face and an excitement he can't contain. He looks up to see his wife, LAURA, waiting for him in the living room. Behind her are Thomas' brother DAVE and friend BEN.

Thomas is surprised to see them all there.

THOMAS

Oh...hey guys. What are you all doing here?

(to his wife)

Where's the Blackberry?

Thomas returns to his Blackberry. Laura, Dave and Ben all look at each other. Laura steps closer to Thomas, nervous.

LAURA

Honey, your Blackberry didn't come today. This is...This is an intervention.

Thomas looks up from his screen.

THOMAS

What? You mean it didn't come today?

LAURA

Did you even hear what I said? This is an intervention. We think things have gotten out of control.

THOMAS

Yes I heard you, you said it didn't come today. And it is out of control, you lied to me.

Thomas returns to his Blackberry. Dave gets up from his seat and walks up to Thomas.

DAVE

Thomas, you aren't listening. This is an intervention. You're addicted to that, that, that thing!

Dave points to Thomas' Blackberry.

THOMAS

What thing? What are you talking about?

LAURA

You're addicted to your Blackberry, Thomas. You never put it away.

Thomas looks at his wife and brother, then back at his Blackberry, then back at his wife and brother.

THOMAS

What? No? I just use this to get stuff done. Addicted, ha, that's a good one.

LAURA

Honey, we're serious. Here, come have a seat.

Laura guides Thomas to a seat they've set out for him facing the couch. Laura, Dave and Ben sit on the couch with Thomas sitting in front of them.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Let's put the Blackberry down for a second so we can talk.

Thomas glares at Laura.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Ok, ok, fine.

BEN

Listen Thomas, we are serious. This is an intervention, we think you have a problem. Ever since you got that thing we don't hang out anymore, you insist we talk on the phone instead. We're best friends, we live in the same apartment building, it's weird to talk on the phone, we should be hanging out watching the game or having a brew.

As Ben is talking, Thomas dials a few numbers and then puts the phone to his ear. Ben's phone starts to ring.

BEN (CONT'D)

Who are you... Are you calling me? I'm right here, we're already talking. Why would you be calling me?

Thomas speaks into the phone.

THOMAS

Sorry I can't talk right now, Ben, I'm in the middle of something, I'll call you later.

Thomas puts the phone down.

DAVE

It's not just with Ben, Thomas. You and I haven't spoken in weeks. You just keep sending me emails, and they all say "Sent via Blackberry" at the bottom.

Thomas is defensive.

THOMAS

Email is a perfectly suitable way to communicate Dave, welcome to the 21st century.

DAVE
Not when you're finding out your mother has breast cancer, Thomas!
Thomas is typing something on his Blackberry but looking intently at Dave. We see the message, "Mom died"

DAVE (CONT'D)
Are you typing right now? You son of bitch you better not be emailing me something.
Dave stands up and yanks the phone away from him. Thomas is pissed. Laura tries to calm him down and keep him seated.

LAURA
Honey, you have a problem. You're addicted and we want to help you. I want you to stop sending me text moans when we're making love.
Thomas' thumbs are moving as if were typing on an imaginary Blackberry.

BEN
Oh my God, look. He can't stop moving his fingers even when he doesn't have the phone.

LAURA
Can't you see Thomas, you're on the Blackberry constantly. Can't you see what this is costing you?
Thomas pauses for a second and thinks deeply.

CUT TO:
MONTAGE
We see a montage of Thomas' day, his Blackberry in hand the entire way: When he wakes up, in the shower, eating breakfast, on the subway, in front of his computer, at a urinal, in a meeting, on the subway, in the elevator, in the intervention.

CUT TO:
INT. APARTMENT – EVENING
Thomas has a look of realization on his face.

THOMAS
Oh wow, you guys are right. I've been on this thing all day. I'm going to need a better data plan.

BLACKOUT
[/scrippet]

THOUGHTS ON A WALK HOME

May 3, 2009 | Content Other

On Wednesday night I had sketch class at 8:15pm at UCB. Or at least I thought it was at 8:15. In actuality, it was at 7:15—I don't know how or why, but I had the time wrong in my calendar. As such, I showed up to the school ready to go, but alas had already missed an hour of the class, and was not allowed in (it's a UCB rule that if you are more than 15-minutes late you are not allowed in as it would disrupt the rest of the students—something I completely agree with).

So as a punishment to myself for my stupidity, I decided I would walk home, not realizing it was about 4 miles. But along the way, I had some random thoughts that I captured in my phone:

- Lady comes up next to me and says, "You ready to go home?" I say "Yes, how did you know?" Then she says "You ready to see Claudia?" and I said "I don't know who that is lady." Turns out she was talking to her dog the whole time.
- I need to be doing something for the HTW site every single day.
- I do always look to make the best of things. Even though I'm trying to be pissed at myself, I keep thinking of how I can at least make the most of the situation.
- Everyone wants to believe they are different or special. I actually am.
- I can make it about 2 north-south intersections before having to wait for a cross-walk.
- New York City companies spend a lot of money on electricity to keep up a prestigious image even at night. Matter fact, many of us spend a lot of many trying to keep up a meaningless façade.
- Roughly 35% of the women I'm passing are very attractive. 10% are "that aint right" attractive.
- I've jaywalked at least 20 times on this walk.
- If you don't have anything to say, don't say anything.
- Based on frequencies of stores, the 2 most important things to New Yorkers are money and coffee.
- Improv Everywhere idea: Get a bunch of old people to play bridge at the Gap, solely so you call it "Bridge the Gap."
- You should legally be allowed to stick sticks in the spokes of bicyclists if they are riding on the sidewalk.
- Burger Heaven. Heaven for who? Not hamburgers.
- Principles aren't principles till they cost you something. Damn you stairs.

Walk time = 1 hour 20 minutes, 4 miles. Stair time = 4 minutes, 30 flights.

LIES MY MOTHER TOLD ME

May 10, 2009 | Content Stand-Up

It's Mother's Day which means it's the one day out of the year that we all act like the sons and daughters that we should—or at least feel bad

if we don't.

And while moms certainly teach us a lot, I have discovered that not everything they taught us was true.

1. You Can Be Anything You Want to Be.

The problem with this lie is that it's so broad. Anything can mean anything. If this were true, and I wanted to be an Asian leg model, then I could. But this isn't the case. For one thing I don't have particularly attractive legs—there's nothing wrong with them, just nothing that makes them exceptionally attractive—and I'm also not Asian.

I certainly understand the message here, but we should at least keep it more honest, something like "You can be anything you want to be, within reason, and that doesn't involve changing your race."

2. If You Keep Making that Face It Will Freeze that Way

This would seem to be a rather innocent lie that is used to coax children into looking presentable, but it goes deeper than that. First, it teaches children inaccurate information about the human body which can be detrimental to a career in medicine. Second, it gets innocent children into trouble when they ask a particularly ugly woman on the bus if she was making a silly face and it got stuck like that.

3. Babies Come from Storks

In an attempt to avoid having an awkward conversation about reproduction, parents like to claim a stork dropped you off one day. Not only does this raise questions in the child (who were my real parents? am I an ugly duckling? where was I before the stork picked me up?), it also gives undo credit to storks. Why are they the bearers of children? Why not something cool like an Eagle or wolf? Or at least something sensible like a kangaroo, at least they already have the built-in baby carrier.

4. Santa Clause is real.

This is probably the mother of all lies (ha!) and it runs rampant among parents around the world. The worst part about this lie is that it's not really to benefit the child, but for the parents to try to threaten kids into behaving.

It also goes completely against the spirit of the holiday and the idea of giving—it teaches children not that our parents love us and work hard to give us gifts to make us happy and that giving is better than receiving, but that an old fat man will give us stuff for behaving moderately well.

But even with these few small lies, moms do teach us quite a bit. Here's to you, mothers, for all your hard work! I love you, Mom, Happy Mother's Day!

KILL BILL SKETCH

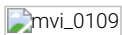
May 17, 2009 | Content Video

The intermission sketch at The 8th Floor 50th Show:

IMAGES FROM REFLECTIONS

May 25, 2009 | Content Pictures

A few cool images from the short film (click on each picture to make them larger):



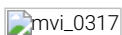
Empty Streets



Path in the Park



A Letter Written



Reflection

EXCERPT FROM HUMOR EBOOK

May 31, 2009 | Content Other

Below is an excerpt from the eBook I wrote for the Humor That Works site, available soon by signing up for the HTW Newsletter.

Excerpt:

A Personal Story

When I first started performing improv and stand-up years ago, I never knew it would turn into such a huge passion of mine. In fact, it's rather atypical for a person like me to even be interested in comedy and humor. I'm a computer science and engineering major. Not only do I have the methodical nature of an engineer, but I also have the introverted tendencies of a computer nerd as well.

In actuality, it was both of those traits that helped me realize just how powerful humor is. My education in computer science taught me the value of re-using things that work (object-oriented programming anyone?). My work as an engineer has trained me to look for the most effective and efficient way to get things done.

As it turns out, humor is 1) re-usable and 2) effective and efficient. It's re-usable in the sense that humor can work in any number of situations. It can bring people together over a silly joke, ease the tension after a stressful situation with a pithy observation, or even burn calories through laughter. It's effective and efficient as it demonstrates understanding, confidence, and gets people on your side. What's amazing is that humor even works in the more subjective areas of work and life, such as leadership or relationships.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. The point is that I started learning that humor can be a huge component of success. And while I started seeing this from my own experiences, I wanted proof I wasn't just crazy. Not because I didn't believe my own experiences or think I might be insane, but because I wanted to prove that I was right.

I ended up being righter than I could imagine. And that's the point of this eBook, to show you how right I am, to share with you what I've learned about the use of humor, both at work and in life.

Below are 15 ways that humor will improve your work and life, backed not just by my own experience but by various studies and smart people. Once you're convinced of the power of humor, head to the **Humor That Works** site to find out how to start using humor today.

Let's get started.

TOPICAL HISTORY HUMOR

June 7, 2009 | Content Stand-Up

I wanted to try to be like some of those topical comedians that make jokes about current events and stuff. Unfortunately I couldn't find any newspapers, but I did find my old high school history book. So here goes some topical humor:

- You hear about this Van Gogh guy? He cut off part of his ear because he was scared his friend was going to stop hanging out with him. Yeah, that would keep me around—I think he took "lend me your ear" a little too literally.
- This Abraham Lincoln character seems kind of shady. I heard he's lost a few other elections, what makes him think he can become President of the United States? I also heard he's a fan of theater, I wonder how that will play out for him.
- These Pilgrim people seem like interesting guests. It's nice to have company over, but I hope they don't stay long. I also find it weird that they left a place called Plymouth because they were unhappy, only to call the place they landed Plymouth. That'd be like naming one of my children "Smallpox."
- Hannibal seems to be tearing through the country—on elephants of all animals. Elephants actually make great war transportation; not only do they carry a lot of weapons, and always remember where they are, they work for peanuts too.
- This Mozart guy is making some pretty good music. And I just found out he's deaf. How does that make sense? That's like if Michaelangelo were blind or if Plato had no brain. Speaking of Michaelangelo, I think that guy is going to be pretty famous. I see nunchucks and the color orange in his future.
- Isaac Newton got hit on the head with an apple the other day. He started blabbing about something called gravity or something. Whatever Newtie, you got hit on the head. I stayed out in the sun too long today and you don't see me making up something like too much direct sun exposure causes uncontrolled cell division.

THE AFTER MATH

June 14, 2009 | Content Skits

This here is a diss song, for anyone who's ever hated on math.

Verse 1

So you think you're all cool, cuz u studied English,
Well I'm tired of stereotypes, so I'm about to extinguish,
Any wrong notions, you had about a man of the math
But listen up close, no repeats, like simple paths.

Screw your fancy words, and use of synonyms,
I'm the top of the curve, you an absolute minimum.
You're goin downhill, like a negative slope,
But I keep getting closer, to the genius asymptote.

Keep goin parallel, and don't cross that line
Your life is trigged out, and you need a cosin
Any hope you might have, is merely newfangled
Turn 180 degrees, like inside a triangle.

Chorus

I go 1 1 2, in the Fibonacci sequence,
Misbehave in class, cause juvenile delinquents.
Keep messin' around, you'll face the denominator
Fractions so cold, they in a refrigerator.

So accept your fate, don't try to be a hero,
Cuz you just can't do it, like dividin by zero.

Verse 2

Life is a numbers game, and it all adds up,
I'll divide you so bad, you wish you had a pre-nup,
Cuz you about to get, subtracted from the situation,
Like simple math, you'll need an operation.

No matter what you say, we are not equals,
Cuz I'll always be there and you'll b to the sequel.
Like an arrow pointin' right, I'm greater than you
A smooth operator, I'm g-r-4-times-2.

Are you frightened now? I know I'm scary
But unlike the little i , I aint imaginary.
I'm in my prime, like the number seven,
And 7 8 9, so now 9's in heaven.

Chorus

Verse 3

My rhymes is calculated, its true I won't lie,
But merckin you fools, is as easy Pi.
Three point one four, one five nine,
No decimal repeats, cuz I'm one of a kind.

My thoughts are integral, count 1 2 and 3
You're approachin zero, my limits approach infinity.
So say your prayers, "in God we trust,"
Cuz you gonna get derived, like calculus

But I've made my point, just like a decimal,
Youre just too small, you're infinitesimal.
Now I hope you understand, after hearin my wrath
There aint nothin left, except this aftermath.

DEAR DAD

June 21, 2009 | Content Other

This is probably one of the most honest things I've ever written, and it almost feels cliché to post it to the blog, but it seems appropriate for Father's Day. My Dad is fine now, but that night at 4am was scary and we didn't know what was going to happen. This is how I dealt with it.

Happy Father's Day, Dad. I love you.

Dear Dad,

It's 4am on Sunday, May 3rd, and you're sitting in a hospital. You're hundreds of miles away and I can't stop thinking about you. I don't know why, but I feel like I need to write this letter. Over the years there's so many things that we've said to each other, but there is one thing that I have never said enough, I love you.

I love you for helping me to grow up to be a man. While I wasn't lucky enough to get your eyesight (I guess not all of us can have better than 20/20 vision) I did get your math-mind, and a bit of your work ethic. You are one of the hardest working people I know, you'll work 16 hours a day and not even bat an eye. I also got your desire to just get things done; to finish a project, no matter how long it takes, or how close it is to Thanksgiving dinner when people are on their way over.

I love you for all of the things you've taught me. You taught me golf, and I swear I'll actually beat you one of these days. I remember when we'd go bowling, and even though I have a smooth roll, I couldn't knock 'em down like you. I remember learning Euchre; you've always been good at that. How you know what card David or I are going to turn up, I don't know, but you always know. I wish I had learned your ability to cook, I still think about London broil that you would make, always so good the day after.

I love you for your support. You were one of the first ones to fully support me in soccer, in comedy, and in moving to New York. You were

always there at my soccer games, a great person of support on the sidelines, as I ran up and down the field like a preying mantis. And you were there after comedy shows, telling me what you thought was funny, and laughing even when I embellished my childhood in the stories I told. You always tell me, without a doubt in your mind, that I will be successful, that I'll go on and make it at whatever it is that I choose.

I love you for your strength, your support, your encouragement. I love you for what you've taught me, shown me, and told me. I love you for the values you instilled in me, the character you've helped give me, and for helping me become the man I am today.

I guess I also inherited your hard exterior, and I think it's why I'm writing this letter. We were never ones to be highly emotional—I guess Mom did enough of that for both of us (just kidding, Mom). My friends joke about how I never seem to be affected by things, that I'm always able to think clearly and rationally. Usually that's a pretty good thing; I'm able to keep a level head, not get angry, and I always try to think about what's best. But unfortunately it also means that I don't always say what needs to be said. And while one letter will never be enough to tell you how much I care for you, or appreciate you for everything you've done, at least it's a start, right?

So as you sit in the hospital hundreds of miles away, I just think about all of that, and how much I owe to you and Mom. I don't know what will happen next, but I know we'll get through this. You're such a strong person, one little ol' heart attack isn't enough to keep you down. In fact you'll probably be trying to go back to work tomorrow. I know I haven't said it enough, but know that I love you. For all of the reasons above, and for so many more, I love you, Dad.

Your son,
Drew

MICHAEL JACKSON - NUMBER ONE

June 28, 2009 | Content Stand-Up

In honor of the late King of Pop, I thought I'd rehash a bit I worked on 2 years ago. This one is a little more positive and taken from, in order, from his **Number Ones** album. You can find the original bit at King of Pop Dreams.

Michael Jackson said "**Don't Stop Til You Get Enough**," but I could never get enough of hearing Michael Jackson songs, so I guess I never stopped. I mean he could rock with anyone—he could **Rock With You**, he could rock with me, anybody. And whether I wore **Billie's Jeans**, Tommy's shirt, or my own clothes, there was nothing better than wearing a single glove and attempting the moonwalk—you just couldn't **Beat It**. With more screams than a **Thriller** movie, and more unintelligible words than a baby's conversation, MJ had a way of making everything work.

It's hard to imagine a world without Michael Jackson. In fact I can't, **I Just Can't. Stop Loving You** and your music because you're gone? It's not going to happen, even if you want us to, too **Bad**. Even if I had to pirate all of your music and shave my entire body, I'd become a **Smooth Criminal** because of your music and **The Way You Make Me Feel**.

When I look at the **Man in the Mirror** and listen to your music, I realize I'm not **Dirty, Diana's** not **Black or White**, and **You Are Not Alone**—we're all on this planet together, singing one **Earth Song** in unison. Like a meteor heading for this planet, **You Rock My World** with great music, from the start of dusk to the **Break of Dawn**. And if you just had **One More Chance**, to go on tour and amaze audiences once more, who knows what might have **Ben**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOM

July 5, 2009 | Content Video

CAREER BUILDER COMMERCIAL

July 12, 2009 | Content Video

Commercial entry for a CareerBuilder.com contest:

SUBWAY STORY: STEPHANIE

July 19, 2009 | Content Short Stories

Subway Short Stories: Fictional stories written with characters inspired by riding on the New York City subway.

God I am so tired. Why did I stay up so late? I want to fall asleep right now but I'm stuck on this stupid train.

That guy is asleep, but how does he know when to wake up so he doesn't miss his stop? I don't want to be asleep when we pass Bushwick and end up God knows where. Probably end up in some train yard with a bunch of vagabonds eating half-eaten sandwiches talking about the Vietcong.

I just ... wanna ... sleeeee... Whoa, wake up Stephanie, wake up. Come on, I can stay awake. I'm the Stephster, I pulled all-nighters in college all the time. I would stay up all night just talking Joshua—he was such a nice guy. I can't believe he got all weird after I told him I just wanted to be friends so that it wouldn't get weird and then he got all weird. Weird.

Oh look at that baby, it's so cute, fast asleep in it's stroller. I wish I could be pushed around in a stroller and sleep whenever I wanted. I bet Josh would've pushed me around.

... Oh God I just did that head drop thing. I'm awake though, I'm awake. I'll just sing along to my iPod. "He's got a big ego, I love his big ego." Do you think she's talking about his naughty parts? I bet she is, but then she says she has a big ego... does Beyonce have a—oh nevermind.

...

Oh God, did I fall asleep? How long was I out? What stop are we at? Oh, Williamsburg, I'm Ok. It's Ok. I can't believe I fell asleep, it's not even all that late, it's just been a really long week. I can't believe I have to get coffee for Mr. Stevenson so often. I know I'm his secretary, but you can't get your own coffee.

Wait, why is that guy staring at me? That creep was probably watching me sleep—sleezeball. He's the type of guy that would stay on the train all the way to the end just to hang out with the decrepid weird people and sip beer from cans found in the trash.

I'm so tired.

26 SINGLE PANE CARTOON IDEAS

July 26, 2009 | Content Other

26 ideas for single pane cartoons (a la the Far Side), from A-Z:

Anthropomorphized office supplies stage a coup at work
 Baseball bans all substances but bread and water
 Carrot Top meets his arch-rival, Steak Bottom
 Denim pants, shirts, jackets, shoes, and glasses come back in style
 Etch-a-Sketch art museum ruined in Earthquake
 Fireflies and the firefighterflies that put them out
 Gondola with the Wind
 Hurricane jealousy among lower Category hurricanes
 Interview with a Lampire (lamp that is vampire)
 Jaguar (the animal) goes out of business
 Kinder-garden
 Lackey School
 Mighty Mouse suffers defeat from Magnificent Mousetrap
 Nine Inch Nails meets MC Hammer
 Odd Numbers (acting bizarre)
 Picasso, the fifth teenage mutant ninja turtle
 Quilted Quicker Picker Upper factory
 Riddled (puzzles) with bullets
 Shipwrecks of the future
 TLC = Tender Loving Cher
 Underground Air Line (lesser known than Underground Railroad)
 Vietnam veteran veterinarian
 Walker, Texas Ranger (actual old person walker)
 Xerox Headquarters (two of them)
 Yosemite Sam, Grand Canyon Phil, and Rocky Mountain Bob
 Zero gets divided after The Great Number War

DAR MICROSFOT

August 2, 2009 | Content Short Stories

Dar Microsfot,

I think thr is something wrongg with my kyboard; spcifically the dlt ky and th ltr " do not appar to b workign. I am unabl to dlt or chang anything I typ.

As you can imangin, this maks it hard to writ things such as rports and mails. In fact. the othr day I had to submit a rport that was full of rrors becaus this stupid kybboard. Do you now how many words hav th ltr " in thm?!/ It maks m want to bash your fuc—

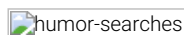
Pls ignor th last sntnc, I lost my tmpr. Bbbut if you could snd m a nw kyboard, that wswould m grat.

Sincrlly, Drw

WHAT GOOGLE SAYS ABOUT HUMOR

August 9, 2009 | Content Other

Out of curiosity, I tried searching for "humor" on Google, and the auto-suggest feature brought up some interesting results:



I have a few questions (and "answers" based on the top result in Google for each term):

- **Humor Abuse:** Are people abusing humor? Like they do drugs? Are there meetings for humor abusers? (Turns out "Humor Abuse" is the name of a play.)
- **Humor Poems:** Are humorous poems in high demand? I guess that makes sense, but I didn't realize it would be such a high result. (Looks like Ellen Bailey is a popular humor poet.)
- **Humor Shqip:** What? Huh? That's a word? (Shqip is an Albanian language spoken by 6 million people; humor shqip brings up an interesting YouTube video.)
- **Humor Hotline:** A hotline, for humor? Is this like other hotlines? You call up and pay \$.99 to hear jokes? (Rejection may be a synonym for humor according to the results of humor hotline.)

MOVIES BASED ON IMPROV TEAM NAMES

August 16, 2009 | Content Improv

Just taking a look at the Del Close Marathon lineup can be entertaining when the creative improv team names. Some of the names are so great that I think they could be the titles of some amazing Hollywood films:

- **Flap Jackson** – An action movie about a former Marine who has to track down the people who killed his family with a spatula.
- **Thank You, Robot** – The story of the first de-segregated school of humans and robots in the future.
- **The Upright Citizens Brigade** – A comedy about a revolt at an old folks' home.

Others sound perfect for sequels to existing movies:

- **Baby Wants Candy** – *The Incredibles*
- **The Karate Parade** – *Karate Kid*
- **Big, Fat and Stealthy** – *Beverly Hills Ninja*.

And of course there are a few that were probably also alternative or working titles for old movies:

- **Mister Licorice** – *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*
- **Remember That Time...** – *Memento*
- **Tucker Max** – *Flap Jackson*

ODE TO ORANGE

August 23, 2009 | Content Other

Oh sweet color orange,
Radiating not one but two instead
A sweet concoction of RGB
Not too yellow, not too red.
Given how much I do love thee,
Every day I go without, I wish I was dead.

SLAPSTICK PICNIC - MEANWHILE

August 30, 2009 | Content Video

Since I'm pseudo-on vacation this week, this post isn't necessarily my own creation, but I was part of it. Here's a clip of a recent "Slapstick Picnic" improv show:

AMATEUR FILMMAKING TIPS FROM SHOOT FROM THE HIP

September 7, 2009 | Articles Content

I just got back from the **Shoot from the Hip** project and had an amazing time. Not only did I meet some great people and make a pretty solid movie, I learned a ton.

I learned more about filming in 10 days than I could have by reading 100 books. Here are some of the bits of wisdom I picked up on making a film:

Acting

- Just like in improv, you have to interact with your fellow actors. Be paying more attention to them than yourself.
- Once you connect to your characters background, motivation, and objective, it becomes a lot easier to react as they would.
- Be willing to have fun with your characters and make interesting choices. Something as simple as having skittles with you can turn into a symbolic moment for the movie.
- When shooting the film out of order, remind yourself in each scene where you are in the story so you still have the right progression as a character.
- When improvising scenes, establish the important beats of the scene that need to be hit and then go. On the next takes, keep what worked and refine what didn't

Editing

- If you create a consistent hierarchy of folders on all of the computers you are working on, it will make it easier to transfer files and save the Final Cut Pro project files.
- Watching your edits on a big screen will help you identify small fixes such as needed cuts or audio issues.
- At the end of the day, continuity is less important than the performance. But it is what will set your movie apart from being amateur.
- If you "notice" an edit, it's not good.
- Multiple camera angles make switching between takes easier. Also having shots of the other person (and not being able to see the speakers mouth) allows you to use the best dialog without worry about syncing.
- Just like in improv, reactions make the joke. Your edits should include the best reactions.
- Cut in the middle of dialog when possible to maintain audio continuity for the audience. This also looks more professional and allows you to see reactions.
- Shots without actors acting or speaking can be used to round out the movie (things like establishing shots)
- If you sync all of your angles into a sequence you can quickly jump back and forth between the two angles.

- One way to do editing is in the first pass "edit for radio"—just worry about getting the audio where you want. then you can adjust the video as needed.
- When possible, the editor should be the one to log and capture video since they will need to be watching all footage anyway to do their editing.
- When editing as an ensemble, you can create a master editing list that assigns scenes or chunks to each editor.

Directing

- When shooting two camera, if the OTS or CU shots are shot at the same time, then its easier for the editor to do back and forth edits (as opposed to shooting one cu and one wide and switching back and forth btwn takes).
- You can use lighting, sound, and camera placement to help tell your story.
- Allow for time to improvise in scenes. The best moments of the film can come from completely improvised bits in the moment.
- Having multiple cameras is easier on the actors, helps with continuity and shortens the shoot time, but is more footage for the editor, requires more people and potentially restricts the types of shots you can do.

Production

- Being able to do every role helps you appreciate them more and realize what you can do to make their jobs easier.
- The more filled out a continuity sheet, the more helpful it is to the editor.
- To help the editor, create a document that lists which tape and scene numbers were used for a particular scene.
- The setup is usually what takes the longest, not the takes. If the director can pre-plan as much as possible the crew can get there and set up. The talent can then come in once its setup (assuming they are rehearsed and have also already talked with the director).
- It can be tough to balance wanting to be efficient and stay on schedule and also taking the time to have fun and play with different decisions and options
- For scheduling, print each scene on a single strip. Highlight the different combinations of INT/EXT and DAY/NIGHT.
- Group each location time together and piece together the scenes that can be shot together.
- Organize all of the scenes into respective days taking into account location, time, characters, and costumes.
- With an ordered scene list, list the needed crew people for each one (and call time if different).
- The assistant director is there to make the directors job easier. They're the ones that keep things moving, on schedule. They have to be more in command even if to the point of sounding like a jerk.
- The AD yells quiet on set and then roll cameras. When the cameras are rolling and focused on slate, they each say speeding. The slate person then reads the slate information and drops the clapper. The camera people then get to their frame and say frame when they are there. The director then says action when ready and cut when done.
- The clapper is incredibly important when using more than 1 camera. The visual helps with the editing process for logging and the clapper hitting is the first nonblurry frame and is what allows you to sync audio at the sound of the clap.
- When slating, its better to actually clap the sticks instead of letting them fall. This will help in editing because the clap will be more succinct and the top won't bounce.
- Having a list of all of the beats of the movie is important. Then ultimately having a list of every scene plus a couple of sentences about the crux of the scene, major character changes or information, and any key lines
- Masking tape on floor can help you set your marks (even for things like tripods).
- Script supervisors are responsible for continuity of things like costume, actor movements, props, etc.
- You can take digital pictures to track prop locations and wardrobe.
- Slating at the beginning will help editing (both on camera recording and on the log).
- Script supervisor can also track how each scene went (good takes, mistakes).

Lighting/Sound

- When first setting up a scene, first try to control the environment (sound and lighting).
- Light is like water—you can have direct hard light or when you bounce it off something, it will spread and also become softer. Gels can change the ambience of the light.
- Work to make your lighting and sound seem realistic (you almost don't notice it).
- Top and back light can make someone pop out more.
- Use a blanket on the wall or floor to try to muffle any echo in a room.

Writing

- To determine the plot, think of each storyline separately and decide on each of their resolutions. Then list all scenes and beats for each one and match up where they overlap.
- For the story, write down all of the scenes on small cards and then rearrange them into the flow of the movie.

Camera

- For each location (and really any new shots) the camera settings for light and sound should be checked.
- To get focus, zoom in on your main focus point, get focus and then zoom to frame.
- Main types of shots include wide/master, establishing, closeup, ecu, two shots, over the shoulder.
- Remember the rule of two thirds when framing.

FOOTBALL IN OHIO

September 13, 2009 | Content Other

Being a football fan from Ohio is tough. On any given weekend in the Fall, you can never be sure what to expect. The Buckeyes are good enough for it to sting when they lose a big game. The Bengals are bad enough for it to sting when they almost win any game.

This weekend was a perfect example. The Buckeyes play at home against #3 USC and are leading with less than 2 minutes left. Forgetting that they started with great field position on a number of occasions in the second half and walked away with only 5 points (2 of which came on a mistake by the long snapper for USC), they had a chance to win if they could just stop USC on one more drive. They did not.

As is always the case, my hope was that at least the Bengals had a chance at winning, I could go 1-1 for the teams I root for at least. And for the slimmest amount of time, it looked like it was going to happen. The Bengals are stopped all day, scoring no points. Then Carson Palmer helps lead a perfect drive to make the score 7-6 with almost no time on the clock. The Broncos get backed up, and Orton throws a mediocre pass. The ball gets batted into the air... only to be caught by Stokley and then run for the game-winning touchdown. Bengals lose.

So in back to back days, my two teams lost in a combined 2-minutes. Yeah, being a football fan from Ohio is tough.

FUN WITH LETTERS

September 20, 2009 | Content Other

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DREWDREWDREWDREWDREWDREWDREWDREWDREWDREWDREWDREWDREWDREW
TT      TTTTTT      TTTTTTTTTT      TTT      TTTTTTTTTT      TT
AA  RR  AAA  AAA  AAAAAA  AAAAAAAAAA  AAAAAAAAAA  AA
RR  RRR  RRR  RRRR  RRRRR  RRRRR  RRRRRRRRRR  RR
VV  VVV  VVV  VV  VVVVVVV  VVVVVVVVVV  VV  VV  VVV
II  II  III  IIII  IIIII  IIIIIIIIII  I  II  I  IIII
NN      NNNNNN  NNNNNN  NNN      NNNNNN  NNNN  NNNNN
TARVINTARVINTARVINTARVINTARVINTARVINTARVINTARVINTARVINTARVIN
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SUBWAY STORY: CHRIS

September 27, 2009 | Content Short Stories

Subway Short Stories: Fictional stories written with characters inspired by riding on the New York City subway.

There she sits, on the subway, reading her book, *Love the One You're With*. From prior experience, I know that it's not a self-help book but rather a fictional novel. Why would they do that? And why is she reading it? Is she in an unfulfilling relationship, trying to fill a void her boyfriend leaves? Is she so lonely that she takes solace in fictional romance. Maybe she's a book critic and she's reading it for her next high-profile review and she's going to condemn it for setting up unrealistic expectations in the minds of females thereby screwing us guys. Maybe, but that's not the point.

She sits, on the subway, oblivious to the world around her, lost in her book and her iPod. I wonder what's she listening to. If I only I knew, I would know so much more about her. Is it a love song; is she already in love with someone? Is it a song about heartbreak; was she recently deserted by some lucky but foolish man? Perhaps it's a rap song and she too has 99 problems, a bitch not being one of them, and she's confused as to whether that means it's not a problem because she has someone that she likes, or is single and has no one. Perhaps, but I digress.

She sits, on the subway, enraptured in her book, her iPod and her tattered jacket, sweat pants and hideous Ugg boots. Was she intentionally going for that look? Has she let herself go because she's in a long term relationship and no longer has to try? Has she sworn off men for all the pain they've caused her and chosen asexuality by choice but not really? It's possible it's her style and she's seeking to attract a fellow frayed fella. I could fray my hair. But that's another story.

She sits, on the subway.

A GLIMPSE INTO MY DREAMS

October 4, 2009 | Content Other

Some of what I remember from my dreams this past week:

- I switched a label on a Prescription pill bottle with someone else's.
- There was a movie about zombies that I was watching, but was also in. It involved a lot of trying to knock the heads off the zombies; I was really good at it using a small piece of plywood.
- I was at a gathering of some sort where I changed my clothes 5-6 times, each time I wore business clothes, and everything was what is actually sitting in my closet right now.
- I went to an improv camp and had a really sweet scene that involved me singing.
- I talked to my future self via radio and he needed me to save him.
- Another improv show; one memorable scene included acting out the Evard Munch painting, The Scream and what the guy must have been screaming at.
- I was at the mall with someone and we made fun of a guy selling LaCoste. He got mad and chased us throughout the mall, which involved a lot of awesome street running tricks and flips.

NEVER DATE A ...

October 11, 2009 | Content Other

You should never date a(n) ...

- Optometrist because you'll never see eye to eye.
- Historian because she records everything you do.
- Proctologist because she'll be a pain in the butt.

Instead, you should date a(n)

- Police officer because she has her own handcuffs.
- Stock trader because shes used to the ups and downs.
- Construction woman because she knows how to screw.

PICNIC ANTHEM

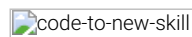
October 18, 2009 | Content Video

One of my improv groups, Slapstick Picnic, made this awesome rap video:

LEARN A NEW SKILL LIKE A PROGRAMMER

October 25, 2009 | Content Other

From Humor That Works, the code to learning a new skill:



PROJECT MANAGEMENT HAIKU

November 2, 2009 | Content Other

Scope creep, time delays,

And being over-budget:

Project Management

AAA STUPIDITY INSURANCE

November 8, 2009 | Content Skits

A revised version of a sketch I wrote last year:

[scrippet]

Stupidity Insurance by Drew Tarvin

INT. STUDIO – DAY

SPOKESMAN, a man in his 30's wearing a suit, walks onto the studio stage, looking directly at the camera through the entire walk. He stops in the center of the room.

SPOKESMAN

Do you often find yourself saying "Hey guys, watch this?" Do people regularly say "How the hell did you manage that?" after you do a something? Is the most common reaction you get after telling a story looks of disbelief mixed with people laughing at you? If so, you may be interested in a revolutionary insurance company designed just for you.

EXT. STREET – DAY

CAR GUY 1 is standing in the street. A car, still running, is stopped in the background. CAR GUY 2 is lying on the ground, his leg is clearly broken.

CAR GUY 1

Dude, I told you you couldn't jump over my car.

CAR GUY 2

I told you that you had to be going at least 40 miles per hour, you were barely pushing 35, man.

CAR GUY 1

Don't blame me for you not being able to jump.

Car Guy 1 looks off screen. His speech becomes very stale as he reads aloud from a cue card next to the camera.

CAR GUY 1 (CONT'D)

But we better get you to a hospital, that looks pretty bad.

Car Guy 2's dialogue matches Car Guy 1's.

CAR GUY 2

No way, man. I can't afford this and there's no way my insurance company will pay for it.

Car Guy 1 looks directly at the camera.

CAR GUY 1

What? You don't have AAA Stupidity Insurance?

INT. STUDIO – DAY

SPOKESMAN

That's right, here at AAA Stupidity Insurance, we insure you against yourself. How often do you get into a car accident? Once or twice a year if you're lucky. How many times do tornados really tear through your house? Unless you're Dorothy, not often. But how many times do you do something stupid? Every day.

EXT. FRONT YARD – DAY

INSURANCE AGENT, a man wearing a suit similar to that of the spokesman, is standing in the middle of a yard, talking to YARD GUY, a young man with a sling on his arm.

INSURANCE AGENT

So you're saying the pink flamingo gave you a look, so you came over to your neighbor's yard and started to make out with it.

Yard Guy looks back and forth between Insurance Agent and a lawn gnome on his next door neighbor's porch.

The guy nods towards Insurance Agent, but then shifts his eyes back to the gnome.

YARD GUY

(to himself)

You dirty gnome, you.

INSURANCE AGENT

And then your neighbor came out and confronted you, so you grabbed the flamingo, ran into his back yard, and proceeded to bash the flamingo into your neighbor's garden of Zinnias, screaming "You're such a tease," and injuring your arm in the process.

Yard Guy bites his lip and looks seductively at the gnome.

YARD GUY

(to himself)

Oh no I won't roam alone.

As Insurance Agent speaks, Yard Guy walks sexily to the gnome.

INSURANCE AGENT

Well, that should all be covered under your Level 2 Stupidity policy.

INT. STUDIO – DAY

SPOKESMAN

At AAA Stupidity Insurance, we insure you against what really happens – your own stupidity. What other policies consider “negligence” or “incompetence,” we consider legitimate claims.

As Spokesman speaks, videos pop up of the activity he is describing.

A hand moving towards a moving fan:

SPOKESMAN (CONT'D)

Break your hand seeing if you can stop a fan with just one finger? Covered.

A fork moving towards an electric outlet:

SPOKESMAN (CONT'D)

Electrocute yourself while testing your electrical outlets? Covered.

A man and a horribly unattractive woman:

SPOKESMAN (CONT'D)

Suffer from beer goggles, bring a girl home, and need to pay to clear up the clap? That's right, your covered.

The Spokesman comes on screen again.

SPOKESMAN (CONT'D)

With us, you'll never be without coverage again. AAA Stupidity Insurance, not having it would just be stupid.

A screen comes up with text that is read at a fast pace.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Stupidity Insurance covers damage to health caused by mistaken judgement, general contests between friends, damage done unto inanimate objects, and injuries to drunk people done while drunk. A stupidity test will be issued prior to assigning coverage to assess the level of insurance required and appropriate premium level. AAA Stupidity Insurance is not liable for legitimate accidents, natural disasters, or other acts of God. In the case of death caused by a stupid event, all insurance claims are null and must be taken up with your life insurance agency (you do have life insurance right?) Void where prohibited and the state of New Jersey.

FADE TO BLACK

[/scrippet]

600: THE MOVIE TRAILER

November 15, 2009 | Content Video

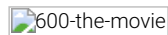
Ok, so I didn't make this (the very awesome Justin Noble did), but it's worth sharing:

600: The Movie – November Tuesdays @ 11, UCBT from Justin Noble on Vimeo.

600: THE MOVIE POSTER

November 22, 2009 | Content Other

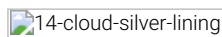
Continuing on the theme of me not really helping much to create it, but it being awesome and promoting The Movie, here's the Movie Poster made possible by Rob Hugel, Don Fanelli, and Keith Bethea.



CLICHE PICTURES 1

November 29, 2009 | Content Pictures

A few pictures that represent common cliches:



Images modified from:

- <http://www.sxc.hu/photo/434278>
- <http://www.sxc.hu/photo/232215>
- <http://www.sxc.hu/photo/1118259>
- <http://www.sxc.hu/photo/1045515>

WHAT TO GET YOUR COWORKERS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

December 6, 2009 | Content Other

From *Humor That Works*:

It's that time of year when you have to pony up some cash for the people you spend the most time with—nope, not your family or friends, but your co-workers. And if you're wondering what you should get your boss, direct reports or peers, here are some of the best gifts you can get a coworker.

Paperclips

Paperclips are one of the most versatile office supplies around, and make for a great gift for any fellow employee. Your peers will thank you when they realize you spent all that time walking all the way to the supply closet to get their gift.

Lingerie

Lingerie is the perfect gift for your assistant or boss. It shows the person that you know she is more than just a worker, but an actual person as well. Victoria's Secret was that lingerie is great for team-building.

If your boss or assistant is a man, this also has the added benefit of letting him know you know he has a softer side than his stern attitude might suggest.

More Work

What says "I value you the work you are doing" more than more work for them to excel at? By giving a coworker or direct report more work, you are letting them know you think they are great, and that you understand that few things are more precious than spending the holidays with family, friends, and your work laptop.

A Pink Slip

Christmas colors may be red and green, but nothing says the holidays like the color pink. Giving out pink slips is not only easy on your wallet, but it's also giving the gift of time to your direct reports—time they can spend with their families, having fun and looking for a new job.

Drugs

Anyone can buy a bottle of wine (assuming you are over the age of 21 or have a good fake), but it takes a real "go-getter" to score some illegal narcotics for a gift. Not only will you show your recipient that you were willing to go that extra step past the law, but also that you encourage them to take a break and relax, recreationally.

In fact, if you're not sure what to get a coworker, a good rule of thumb is that the more inappropriate, illegal, or deadly it is, the better! Here's to a happy holiday season and starting the new year without a job!

Note: These are not actually good gift ideas, please do not give them out to your co-workers. For ideas that are actually good, check out [Gifts Coworkers Will Actually Like](#).

PC SUPPORT

December 13, 2009 | Content Skits

[scrippet]

INT. OFFICE CUBICLE – DAY

JERRY is sitting at his computer with a Word document open. KELLY is standing next to him, leaning over, looking at the screen.

JERRY

I don't think it's supposed to be like that.

KELLY

I don't know, I've seen it like that before.

JERRY

I'm just going to call PC support, they'll know.

Jerry leans over and picks up his phone. He dials Arun in PC Support.

ARUN (V.O.)

Hello, PC support.

JERRY

Hi, yes, I have a PC question I was hoping you could help me out with.

ARUN (V.O.)

Of course, no problem. What seems to be the issue?

JERRY

OK, we have Word open and we're trying to write a report and we were wondering—do people still say Indians or are they Native Americans now?

ARUN (V.O.)

Ah yes, common question. Indian refers to people from India. If you mean the quote unquote Indians that native to the United States, they are called Native Americans.

JERRY

OK, so Indians are the dot kind, Native Americans are the arrow kind.

There is a pause as dead air fills the phone.

ARUN (V.O.)

That's a bit racist, but yes. Is there anything else I can assist you with?

JERRY

Nope, that's it.

ARUN

Well thank you for calling "Politically Correct Support," have a nice day.

INT. OFFICE BREAKROOM – DAY

Kelly and Jerry are sitting for coffee. Arun walks in.

ARUN

You guys called again?

KELLY

That was quick PC guy. We were asked to explain how the company is giving back to the community and we want to release a press statement that says we're giving back by giving hobos free cans of Axe body spray.

JERRY

Yeah, now do we use hobo, bum, or something retarded like "home challenged."

Arun twitches as he hears them.

ARUN

I find that offensive. First, you shouldn't say something is retarded if you mean to imply that it is dumb or silly. Retarded shouldn't really be used at all, the correct term is "mentally disabled." Second, the oft-used but still not perfect term is "homeless."

KELLY

Oh, that's gay—

Kelly catches herself. Her tone becomes very polite and she looks proud of herself.

KELLY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I mean, that's homosexual.

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY – DAY

Arun is walking down the hallway, Jerry calls after him,

JERRY

Hey PC dude, got a quick question for you.

ARUN

It's Arun.

JERRY

What? I've got to run too, but I just had a quick question. I'm about to go hit on the new secretary, do I call her babe or toots?

ARUN

You shouldn't call her anything but her name, and that could be sexual harassment. "Babe," "toots," and "dollface" are all inappropriate for the office.

JERRY

Oh, good one, thanks.

A random girl walks past Jerry and Arun.

JERRY (CONT'D)

(to the girl)

Hey! Dollface! How about making me some coffee?

Jerry smacks the girl on the butt as she passes.

Arun looks fumed.

INT. OFFICE ROOM – DAY

Kelly is talking to her boss, MR. SHETMEN.

KELLY

I don't know sir, let's see what PC support says when he gets here.

Arun walks into the room.

MR. SHETMEN

Thanks for coming so fast, we have a PC question.

ARUN

Of course Mr. Shetman.

KELLY

What's the right way to say, "We have to hire more black people."

ARUN

I'm sorry, Kelly?

MR. SHETMEN

We need more diversity and we have to hire more black people. I know we can't say slave, can we still call them "N—"

Arun leaves the office and slams the door before Mr. Shetmen can finish his sentence.

INT. OFFICE MEETING ROOM – DAY

MRS. TUCKER is at the front of the room, with Mr. Shetmen, Jerry, and Kelly sitting in seats in the room.

MRS. TUCKER

I am sad to announce that Arun has passed away. He was found in his apartment after overdosing on anxiety medication.

MR. SHETMEN

That is sad... Who was Arun?

MRS. TUCKER

He worked in PC Support?

Blank stares from everyone in the room.

MRS. TUCKER (CONT'D)
The fine Indian gentleman?

Jerry does air quotes as he speaks.

JERRY
We had a "Native American" working here?

FADE TO BLACK

[/scrippet]

SKETCH COMEDY REEL 2009

December 20, 2009 | Content Video

MY BEST TWEETS OF 2009

December 27, 2009 | Content Other

Though I no longer posted a joke every day in 2009, I did start to use Twitter more. Some of the tweets were informational (like every time I was at Shake Shack), and some were just observations or thoughts that I had.

Below are my best tweets of 2009. You'll notice that I started having better tweets later in the year when I finally started using Twitter for more than just status updates.

My Best Tweets of 2009

subway tip #241 – even if someones ipod is loud enough for everyone to hear, it is not a radio and you should not make requests 8:39 AM
Jan 15th, 2009

if a tree falls in the woods, and theres no one around, do the other trees make fun of it? 9:12 AM Mar 5th, 2009

just had an ekg, yeah you know me 11:57 AM Apr 1st, 2009

24 and halo. its like i never left college 11:58 PM Apr 20th, 2009

i wonder how mlk jr got to dreaming about civil rights, my dreams are always about work or showing up somewhere naked 7:53 AM Sep 17th, 2009

people who say "someone has a case of the Mondays" give me a "case of the Mondays." 11:49 AM Sep 21st, 2009

and with the coats come the Uggs. ugh 8:52 AM Sep 29th, 2009

saw a commercial for product that grows your eyelashes. seriously? eye lashes do not need Viagra 8:36 AM Oct 2nd, 2009

anyone know any midgets? I want to befriend one to get over my fear. does that make me a bad person? 2:54 PM Oct 4th, 2009

if someone is appointed to a position, and then removed from power, are they disappointed? 6:35 PM Oct 7th, 2009

Gave a homeless man a pack of Disney Princess fruit snacks on the subway; now we both have a story to tell our friends. 3:47 PM Oct 12th, 2009

the band Earth Wind and Fire was two elements away from being able to call Captain Planet. 2:31 PM Oct 20th, 2009

i always forget my umbrella. i blame Resident Evil. 8:31 PM Oct 24th, 2009

not a fan of tights under shorts. just wear pants. 11:59 PM Nov 6th, 2009

advantage to working from home: pizza rolls for lunch. i am half man, half child. 1:39 PM Nov 9th, 2009

primordial dwarf just gave me attitude for telling him the elevator was going down. wanted to say "don't get short w/ me" but didn't 4:50 PM Nov 28th, 2009

November only has 30 days in it. i know this because of my knuckles. 1:26 PM Nov 30th, 2009

i just took a step and realized i missed Biggie. i guess Diddy and Faith Evans were right. 2:31 PM Dec 3rd, 2009

i wonder if animals wonder what it's like to be human like i wonder what it's like to be an animal. i wonder if Stevie wonders this too. 10:28 AM Dec 6th, 2009

great start to humpday / pants and shoes soaked from the rain / should have worked from home #haiku 9:27 AM Dec 9th, 2009

forgot how big things are in the Midwest. the stores, the portions, the people... 11:08 AM Dec 23rd, 2009

so now the question is, what do you do on Christmas Adam? 2:26 PM Dec 26th, 2009

just tried alligator. if you're wondering, i did say "see you later..." before eating it. 12:02 AM Dec 31st, 2009

DREW'S BEST OF 2009

December 31, 2009 | Info

Last year I started doing a "Best of" and "Worst of", so here's to the Best of 2009:

Best Monthly Focus – Improvise

My favorite monthly focus was back in July when I did something improv related every day of the month. It led to over 90 hours of improv, 23 shows seen, and 7 performances. It was a blast.

Best Weekly Project – Solve a Rubik's Cube

Ok, so maybe I'm a geek, but one of my favorite things from this year was learning to solve a Rubik's Cube. Why? Because it provides a mental challenge (and something I can do on conference calls at work), fills a childhood dream, and attracts the ladies... one of those might not be true.

Best Decision – Shoot from the Hip

It was a close call for the best decision of 2009; there was the AIN conference, the goal to improve my tastes, and of course having Chick Fil A for 3 times in one day. But ultimately it was my decision to do the Shoot from the Hip project that I think was the best. Not only did I get a chance to learn more about film, play 2 major characters in a movie, and have an absolute blast, but I also decided to take Magnet Classes as a result where I've met some amazing people and really grown as an improviser.

Best Personal Development – Tasting More

I've had the same general tastes in food for my whole life. The practice to try more foods and drinks has led to some interesting revelations, wider variety in food options, and a few gross faces. Say what you want about my eating habits, but at least I'm trying, right?

Best Travel – Milwaukee

2009 was another year of fun travel. I went to Cincinnati (no surprise), Philadelphia, DC, Boston, Chicago, Milwaukee, Portland, and upstate New York. Of all the trips, Milwaukee was my favorite as I was able to do non-stop improv at the ComedySportz tournament and meet some awesome, like-minded people.

Best Improv Show – BASH

I've seen a number of amazing shows this year, but the most impressive was definitely the one-man improvised musical starring Blaine Swen. It was hilarious, heart-felt, and incredibly inspiring.

Best Improv Performance– Duo Show at The Creek

I was fortunate enough to perform a lot this past year. Some shows went well, others not so much, but my favorite show I performed in this year was a duo show with Woodruff at The Creek. I might have had funnier shows, but it was the most fun and showed I could rebound from one of my worst shows (which took place about an hour earlier).

Best Movie I Saw – Avatar

While it may not be the most original story, *Avatar* is a great example of original storytelling. Fusing real life and CGI, the movie takes you to a new world that you feel apart of. Definitely my favorite of 2009.

Best Book I Read – Story

I got through a number of good books this year (*Outliers*, *In the Blink of an Eye*, *Sorrows of Young Werther* to name a few), but my favorite was *Story* by Robert McKee. It changed the way that I watch and understand movies and anything else with narrative structure. It's a fascinating perspective.

DREW'S WORST OF 2009

/ Info

Along with the Best of 2009 comes the worst:

Worst Monthly Focus – Closure

The intent for December was to wrap up a few loose ends before the end of the year. I didn't do any of them.

Worst Weekly Project – Write 8 Chapters

This wins for Worst Weekly Project because I didn't come close to accomplishing it—I didn't even start the project. It was a poor decision that led to poor results.

Worst Decision – Not Doing Personal Backups

I made the mistake of not doing personal backups at work (relying, instead, on a web-based version). When my harddrive failed over the holiday break, I had no backups to pull from and am still without my email from the last 3 months.

Worst Personal Undevelopment – Ignoring Commitments to Myself

In the second half of the year, I really slipped when it came to honoring commitments to myself. I planned on doing something, would start it, but then never finish it (just look at the reviews of some of my weekly projects or monthly focuses). I have a rejuvenated spirit towards getting things done, so here's to making 2010 a better year of accomplishment.

Worst Improv Show – College Group

I saw a college group perform that wasn't very good (no, it wasn't 8th Floor). There was so much denial, lots of references to genitalia, and a huge lack of commitment. It was not a good use of 30 minutes.

Worst Improv Performance – Slapstick Picnic at The Creek

I don't know what it was about this show, but I did nothing to make it better or even mediocre. The rest of the group members helped keep some semblance of humor in the show, but I did not. Luckily an hour later I was able to redeem myself with one of my favorite shows of the year.

Worst Movie I Saw – Uncertainty

My least favorite movie of 2009 was *Uncertainty*, with Joseph Gordon Levitt. It had a great premise regarding how the choices we make lead to entirely different circumstances, it just wasn't well executed or well told.

Worst Book I Read – None

I'm happy to say that all of the books I read this year were valuable in one or another.

AN ARCHIVED LOOK BACK AT 2009

/ announcements

In 2009, my goal was to come up with some sort of unique piece of content every single week. It could be a video, a sketch idea, a cartoon—any type of creative endeavor that helped expand a skill.

Below are all of the weekly content creation posts from 2009; enjoy!