

HOW TO BE FUNNY

A 90-second monologue

By JANE CAFARELLA

ANDY, (M or F – any age), a stand-up comedian, tells a group of fellow comics about the advice s/ he gave to an aspiring young comic.

This should be delivered straight – even dead pan. Not funny.

I'm standing at the bar, just before the gig and this guy comes up and says it's his first night doing stand-up.

"Any tips?" he says.

"Yeah," I say. "Be funny. They'll love you."

He looks at me and grins, "My friends think I'm hilarious."

So, I tell him – And your mother loves you, too. So what? These people aren't your friends. If you aren't funny, you'll die because they'll kill you with their blank stares. Bang, Bang! They'll freeze you out.

It'll be the worst experience of your life, and then you'll go home and tell your friends, all about it – every humiliating detail.

They'll laugh themselves sick. And the next night, you'll get up and tell a funny story about how you died on stage. How you pooped your pants out of fear.

And they'll laugh their heads off because everyone's pooped their pants out of fear, and because *that's* the secret to stand-up – recognition!

You tell them a story where they recognise themselves and how ridiculous life is, and they'll love you.

Good luck!

He/she sculls her drink, yanks up his/ her pants, and exits to go on stage.

178 spoken words

jane.cafarella@gmail.com

+61 408 880 185

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