



# FUNNY BUSINESS

Meet Bradley Meehan.  
Kansas City's Funniest Person.  
No Joke.

Bradley Meehan recently earned bragging rights as winner of the 2005 All Comedy Radio “Funniest Person in Kansas City” award. Performing standup comedy is harder than most people think. Actually being funny and making people laugh is even more difficult. In addition to his comedy coup as premiere local funniest performer, Meehan has written a book titled “*Dropping the Kids Off at the Pool.*” The bathroom book compiles Meehan’s observations, tried and true advice, jokes, and witticisms from his standup comedy performances and daily journal.

Meehan spent a few moments to wisecrack and share insights about laughter.

PRESENT: Where are you from?

Meehan: I’m originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan, but I took the road less traveled around the globe a few times until I finally ran out of gas in Kansas City in 2002.

PRESENT: How long have you performed comedy?

Meehan: I actually started in the womb. I was opening for Sam Kinison in there. My mom had no idea about the comedy club (also known as the Womb Room), or Kinison. Professionally, I’ve been doing it about two years. I caught the comedy bug after trying open mic night on a dare and haven’t been able to stop. It’s highly addictive; you should try it.

PRESENT: What impressions do you perform?

Meehan: I’m most noted for my “Christopher Walken.” I make regular calls and commentary on 610 Sports as Walken. I always put him into situations he shouldn’t be in, like a backstage orgy at a Village People concert. Come to think of it, no one should ever be in that situation.

PRESENT: Why do you think humans are the only animals that can laugh?

Meehan: Perhaps you just haven’t heard another



animal laugh - I have. I was jogging through a trail once, and an opossum hissed at me. I screamed, it pointed, and laughed at me. Then it said I run like a girl. It’s lonely at the top of the Intelligently Designed Food Chain. Humans need to laugh. There was no reason for that opossum to laugh.

PRESENT: Do you travel for performances?

Meehan: I perform mainly in Missouri and Kansas. I do a lot of shows at local clubs and bars to provide an alternative to karaoke night or bringing in a band.

PRESENT: What makes for a tough crowd?

Meehan: Alcohol – either ‘lack of’ or ‘too much.’ After a few drinks, everything seems funny. That’s where you want the crowd. But, after too many drinks, there’s always someone in the audience who thinks they’re pretty funny, too. And they’ll shout out random bits of drunken insight. It’s like Tourettes, only not as funny.

PRESENT: When you develop material, how do you know what’s funny?

Meehan: I have a pretty twisted sense of humor. But the good news is, if you’re still reading this article, so do you. My litmus test is if my wife doesn’t laugh at all, it’s probably very, very funny.

# PRESENTING

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Comedy is an art form. Although it may seem ‘off the cuff’ when you hear it, jokes are worked and re-worked behind the scenes until they’re perfected. You may have to incubate an idea for weeks or months until you find the perfect punch. Then it’s funny.

PRESENT: Perhaps the most famous Missouri humorist was Samuel Clemens aka Mark Twain. If you had to rename yourself as a performer based on a system of measurement, what would your name be?

Meehan: I’d start a boy band called, “The Ohm Boys.”

PRESENT: Now that you’ve been named the 2005 All Comedy Radio “Funniest Person in Kansas City,” are you constantly looking over your shoulder and checking your back?

Meehan: This is a competitive business so I avoid grassy knolls. There are some great comedians in Kansas City and new people try it for the first time each week. But, I was lucky to have started with a group of guys that are climbing the comedy ladder at the same time. We’re more friends than competitors. It’s a nice network to have.

PRESENT: Are these questions completely stupid?

Meehan: No. Vin Diesel movies are completely stupid. You’re entertaining.

PRESENT: Observational humor has been extremely popular and common in recent years. Seinfeld certainly wasn’t the first or the last funny observer. What do you think people will be laughing at in 2069?

Meehan: "Did ya hear the one about the Kansas School board?"

PRESENT: Why perform comedy? Some comedians relied on jokes and impressions to avoid beatings in school, a coping mechanism when moving often, or simply as a way to get attention. What’s your motivation or inspiration? The comedy club groupies? The endorsement offers for vinyl siding?

Meehan: There are two reasons to do comedy: to get some laughs, and to get some girls. Guess which two I’m not getting?

Honestly, there is no greater feeling than filling a room with laughter. To think that something I said made these people feel so good that for a split second they forgot about their rough day at the office, or the overdue mortgage payment; there is no greater reward for me. It’s like group therapy with a ‘two-drink minimum’ co-pay.

PRESENT: Which state is easier to make fun of? Missouri or Kansas?

Meehan: Missouri – just because of Branson. Branson is like Dollywood without the sophistication.

PRESENT: Why does comedy matter? Don’t we have enough stimulation to numb our senses in the Information Age?

Meehan: Laughter is free. There’s no equipment to buy, no contracts to sign. It’s just a wonderful side effect of happiness. And, although the technology may numb our senses, we still use it to forward the funny email to our friends, download the MP3 of a silly song, or TIVO episodes of “Full House” because Dave Coulier might say, “Cut. It. Out.” and it secretly makes us feel good. Laughter is truly the best medicine; Nyquil is a close second.

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Bradley Meehan performs regularly at local comedy clubs and appears on 610 Sports Radio. His book, *“Dropping the Kids Off at the Pool”* can be ordered online at [www.DroppingTheKidsOffAtThePool.com](http://www.DroppingTheKidsOffAtThePool.com).

## COMIC CURVEBALLS FROM STANDUP COMEDIAN BRADLEY MEEHAN



### Sink or Swim

My kids are taking swim lessons; a five-day class at \$90 a piece. I remember my mom just dunking me under in the cold blue water. To this day, I still have nightmares about that urinal.



### Old Dog, New Tricks

I saw a guy at Wal-Mart today with a bag of dog food and a box of Depends in his cart. I was thinking, "Dang, how old is that dog?"

### Summer Camp

I saw a summer camp specifically for kids with A.D.D. (Attention-Deficit Disorder). It was so nice. They showed a little boy swimming, boating, hiking, fishing, skiing, and canoeing all at the same time.

### Drop Out

My son already wants to drop out of school because he hates his teacher. He says she's a real bitch and the principal is an asshole. The problem is that he's homeschooled.



### Ultrasound

My wife went to the doctor for abdominal pain and was hooked up to an ultrasound, which looks like a giant auto diagnostics machine. We found out that she wasn't pregnant, but there's a crack in her tail pipe causing her number two cylinder to misfire.