

Presented by:  velvet
hamster films

2020: A COMEDY SPECIAL

In Association With:  **IRON LIGHT LABS**



LOGLINE

The COVID-19 pandemic cut the world off from experiencing live comedy, but laughter prevailed.

We followed comedians and comedy club owners across the country and saw how the pandemic didn't stop comedy, it reinvented it.



ABOUT THE FILM

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The world shut itself down in 2020. As cities, states and entire countries reacted to the COVID-19 pandemic, restaurants, bars and other small businesses were forced to shutter their doors. Among the industries cut off from the world was live entertainment – and for comedians, comedy producers and comedy venues specifically, that posed a challenge. Adapt or die. With old models destroyed by the virus and government regulations, the entire way to deliver content to comedy fans had to be rethought. And for those owning or managing clubs, the way to make that a business had to be rethought too. The entire comedy world scrambled to find a way to survive. And in the process may have stumbled on new creative ground that will change the game forever.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Sometimes it's easy to forget the little things you missed during the pandemic. Or not even realize them at all.

During the very first shoot for this film, some hit me. It was a musty bar smell, foggy lighting in a dim room and a creaky sound of an overused stage. It was all the little things about comedy clubs I had totally forgotten in a year being separated from them.

In a grueling year, it was a nice reminder why we took on this project to begin with.

I had ideas brewing for a while about how to present comedy – and stand-up in particular – in new, innovative ways. But when COVID-19 hit, live comedy – like the rest of the entire world – came to a screeching halt. Those ideas were, presumably, ruined.

But comedy found a way to adapt. Comedians jumped out of the musty, dim rooms and into outdoor shows and the digital space. My idea for capturing the evolutions in comedy changed with it – not because of any genius realization on my part, but because when presented with a challenge like this, the only option is to adapt.

The world showed this past year that even a deadly obstacle like COVID-19 is no match for an entrepreneurial, creative spirit. In this film, we showed how the comedy landscape might be changed forever because comedians had to figure out a way to keep creating in the face of adversity.

And after months of filming in comedy clubs I can say with confidence that those little things – the sights, the sounds, the smells – will stick around, now with my renewed appreciation.



INTERVIEWS:



Mark Normand

As seen on *The Tonight Show*, *The Joe Rogan Experience* and *Conan*. Cohost of *Tuesdays with Stories*.



Emma Willmann

Seen on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and Netflix's *The Comedy Lineup*. Recurring role on *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*



Sarah Tollemache

Featured on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and *The Late Show with James Cordon*



Yannis Pappas

Featured on Comedy Central, Tru TV and VH1. Host of *LongDays with Yannis Pappas*.



Brian Redban

Co-creator and original producer of *The Joe Rogan Experience* and *Killy Tony*. Creator of The Deathsquad Podcast Network.



Matt Richards

Host of *HQ Trivia*. Also seen on *2 Broke Girls*, Nickelodeon and FUSE .





ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS:

Brandon Lewin, Emilio Savone, Patti
Shepanik, Brian Morton, Calvin Evans,
Sid Juwarker, James Webb, Mike
Abdelsayed, Luke Watson, Joel
Richardson, Deanna Kozak, KC Arora

TEAM

A PRODUCTION BY

Velvet Hamster Films

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Iron Light Labs

DIRECTOR

Joe Kaiser

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER(S)

Jo Jensen

PRODUCER(S)

Joe Kaiser
Erica Hilbert

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Remo Wakeford

EDITOR

Michael Ozias

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY

David Bateman



ABOUT VELVET HAMSTER



The Velvet Hamster is an award-winning satirical news and multimedia site, producing daily satirical articles, parody videos and podcasts.

Launching in 2019, the Hamster has developed a robust digital community across platforms and been recognized for its' biting humor and original display. In that short time, the Hamster's written content has been viewed on social nearly 50 million times and its' videos more than 7 million times.

While the Hamster has been compared to competitors like The Onion and The Babylon Bee, what sets it apart is largely its unique audience, which is predominantly millennial and 60% women. The Hamster's unique and broad appeal speaks to its originally funny content.

We empower purpose-driven people to change the world.



ABOUT IRON LIGHT LABS

We aim to change the way free-thinking people market their ideas, while also disrupting the entertainment industry and bringing powerful stories to the forefront.



HIGH RES IMAGES





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