

INTERVIEW



Young Guns

Rock & Sandler

COMEDY USA Executive Editor, Donna Coe, spoke with two of the youngest and hottest comedians in the country today. See what it's like to be young, gifted, black, white, 21 and funny.

ADAM SANDLER: MTV game show "Remote Control" as Stick Pin Quinn, MTV guest veejay, "Showtime At the Apollo", a recurring role on "The Cosby Show," and a film to be released next year entitled "Only In America".

CHRIS ROCK: "Uptown Comedy Express" on HBO, "The Late Show" with Joan Rivers and again with Arsenio Hall, "Beverly Hills Cop II" "Miami Vice", "Showtime at the Apollo", "George Schlatter's Comedy Club" MTV Comedy Cuts.

COMEDY USA: How long have you been doing comedy?

SANDLER: Four years. I started at the end of high school.

ROCK: I've been doing it for about three years.

CUSA: And how old are you?

ROCK: 21.

SANDLER: 21.

CUSA: Where are you from?

SANDLER: I was born in Brooklyn, New York and grew up in New Hampshire. I came back to New York to go to college.

ROCK: I'm from Brooklyn, too.

CUSA: Do you find any difference between you, as the young Turks of comedy, and your older fellow comedians?

ROCK: Kids aren't cautious at all. We

don't really care. We say whatever we think is funny.

SANDLER: You can get away with a lot more when you're young. It can go either way, though. Sometimes audiences are interested in hearing what a young person has to say, but it can also work against you. They can feel, I'm older than this kid, why do I have to listen to him?

CUSA: Do you think that as you get older you might lose that edge?

SANDLER: I think of that a lot. I think, though, that as I get older, my material will get better.

ROCK: Believe me, I'm never gonna lose my edge. I've been in movies and I still can't get a cab. I'm not gonna lose my edge.

CUSA: You mean you're not going to turn into Alan King.

ROCK: I love Alan King.

SANDLER: I think that years ago King was doing the same thing we are.

Maybe when I'm older I'll be doing the same thing, but in 20 years it'll be unhip compared to what I'm doing now.

Basically on stage, I'm just being Adam. I'm not Joe Stand-Up, I'm just myself.

CUSA: I guess if Pryor can keep his edge...

SANDLER: Pryor lost his edge. Don't you think he lost it a little?

ROCK: He stopped getting mad.

CUSA: What makes you mad?

ROCK: I hate it when somebody says, "You do too much black stuff."

White people laugh. There's no color on humor if everybody's laughing.

CUSA: What do you want to say with your humor?

ROCK: I want people to think and realize what's going on. My whole philosophy on stage is that I was born a suspect.

SANDLER: I'm not trying to say anything. I'm just trying to have fun and make it that much easier to pick up women.

CUSA: What kind of an audience do you like?

SANDLER: I like a crowd in their 30s. That's my best audience. Sometimes in front of a young crowd, they look at you and think: Hey, this kid is my age. I'm

funnier than he is." But when they're a little bit older, they're there to be entertained, there's no ego involved, they just want to laugh.

ROCK: I like a middle aged crowd more than a college crowd. We're around older people 90% of the time so we might have a maturity about us that other kids our age might not have. Our frames of reference have to go from the Democratic Convention to Popeye.

CUSA: Who are some of the comedians that you like?

ROCK: Eddie Murphy, Eddie Murphy and Eddie Murphy.

SANDLER: Rodney Dangerfield. I was into Phil Silvers, too.

ROCK: And Alan King. I used to watch him on the Roasts. I like Eddie because he's so cool. A lot of comics get laughs by being goofy, Eddie gets laughs by what he says.

CUSA: What club comics do you like to watch?

ROCK: Gilbert Gottfried.

SANDLER: Yeah, I like Gilbert. And Colin Quinn.

ROCK: Adam, is Colin a genius?

SANDLER: Yeah, he is.

ROCK: He's someone I can watch every night.

SANDLER: You can see him do the same shit over and over and still laugh.

CUSA: How do you feel about being a decade or more younger than the people on the Young Comedians Show?

ROCK: I get mad at the producers.

Everybody has this thing in the back of their minds that years mean something. Years mean nothing in show business.

SANDLER: I don't think my age is brought up that much anymore. I don't even notice that they're older than me anymore. All I think when I watch those shows is I wish I was on.

CUSA: Do you hang out with other comics?

SANDLER: I have an outside circle of friends from school, but at night I just hang out with comics. Me and Chris go out and pick up black women.

ROCK: Adam's hot with black chicks.

CUSA: What about comedy groupies?

SANDLER: It's a major plus.

ROCK: Yeah, it's a plus.