



OPEN MIC  
at

*Stardome*

COMEDY SHOWCASE

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The StarDome comedy club is not the traditional comedy club and The StarDome Showcase Open-Mic is not the traditional open-mic. When you take to the stage at The StarDome, you are walking onto a stage that has been the launching pad for many of the top names in the comedy industry from Steve Harvey to Sinbad - both got their start at The StarDome.

We at The StarDome are proud to be a talent incubator for comedy at the national level. After over 33 years as a professional comedy club in Birmingham, Alabama, our reach spans much further than the local area. Our venue is recognized as one of America's top comedy clubs. Our stage is a much sought after space by the leading names in comedy. Our relationships with a vast array of talent managers and booking agents positions us as a "star-maker" for the right individual that has what it takes to become the next top comedy star. The Comedy Showcase Open-Mic is the proving ground for new comedic talent.

## **Comedy Showcase Open-Mic Overview**

The StarDome hosts a regular Comedy Showcase Open-Mic in the Broadway Room. Potential comics sign-up months in advance to perform at an upcoming Comedy Showcase. The StarDome offers our guests the best entertainment possible and that includes the Comedy Showcase. Each Comedy Showcase participant's comedy material must fall within the bounds of good taste and must be original material. Vulgarity will not be accepted and we ask that all material be PG-13 in nature. Be respectful of the audience - it is a sign of a professional.

Each Comedy Showcase participant must have 3-5 minutes of PREPARED material. The showcase is not a venue for taking to the stage to tell the audience about your day or to discuss whatever happens to pop into your mind once you get on-stage. It is a proving ground for those seeking to become a professional comic. Please respect the process. Time limits will be strictly enforced out of consideration to fellow comics and to our guests.

## **Comedy Showcase Guidelines**

1. Be a realist. You have to become an amateur before you can become a professional. We strongly recommend that each showcase participant take a workshop or class prior to attempting their first showcase. While comedy instinct is key to success, there is an art to stand-up comedy. You would not build a house without training to be an architect; you should not try to become a comic without some level of training. The StarDome offers classes and workshops if you are serious about your craft.
2. Be prepared. Develop your material and learn your material before taking to the Showcase stage. Do not get on the stage and "wing it" as this is rarely successful. Be respectful of our guests by providing them your very best.
3. Be professional. All Comedy Showcase participants are expected to dress in a professional manner. Cut-offs, sandals, etc. are not appropriate. Remember, the first impression can be key.
4. Know the rules. Also, respect the rules. The StarDome does not tolerate vulgar content. Clever content is the best content. We will end any routine that falls outside of the bounds of proper and you will not be allowed to return to the Showcase stage in the future. Respect our guests and fellow participants. Your audience has paid to see good entertainment.

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5. Be on time. Showcase performers must be at The StarDome by 7:00 pm on the night of your scheduled performance. If you are late, your spot may be re-assigned and you will have to re-book stage time on another Comedy Showcase night.
6. Promote the event. You are expected to promote your participation in the Comedy Showcase. This means you are required to have audience members at your showcase performance. The more people you bring, the better you will feel. If you are signed to perform in the Comedy Showcase, you will be on stage, unless you are late. Your friends and family will enjoy the experience and look forward to seeing you on stage at another Comedy Showcase. If you do not have audience members here to support you, you will forfeit your spot in that night's Showcase. The more audience members, the better the experience for both the comic and our guests.
7. Do not be a no-show. If you have been sign-up for a Comedy Showcase, please respect your fellow comics and show up. There are others wanting to be on stage and you have been fortunate enough to get the gig. If you do not show up without sufficient notice, you will be barred from future showcases for 12 months.
8. Be sober. If you show up under the influence, we will remove you from the set-list and you will be required to re-apply for another showcase at a minimum of 6-months into the future. There is a difference between having a drink prior to the show and being non-functional because you are under the influence. We reserve the right to bar you from any future performance at The StarDome.

We recognize that these guidelines may seem a bit harsh, but being an entertainer takes discipline. If you fail to develop a disciplined approach in the early stage of your career, you most likely will not have a career. At least not as a comedic entertainer. The most successful comics are respectful comics.

## **The Comedy Showcase Competition**

There will be 8 Comedy Showcase Open-Mic events in the Broadway Room leading up to the Comedy Showcase Finale in the main Showroom. Each Comedy Showcase Open-Mic event will be judged by two judges. The winner from that evening's event will win a spot in the Comedy Showcase Finale which will take place approximately every two months.

Participants in the Friday night Comedy Showcase Open-Mic event will be judged on their material, their delivery, their appearance and their overall performance.

The Comedy Showcase Finale will be judged by the owners of The StarDome - Bruce and Cheech Ayers. These two individuals have been in the industry for over 33 years and have helped the careers of many of today's top names in comedy reach the pinnacle of success.

The winner of the Comedy Showcase Finale will earn the right to appear on The StarDome's main Showroom stage as a featuring act.

THANK YOU for participating in The StarDome Comedy Showcase Open-Mic event. We wish you the best of luck and look forward to seeing you become one of our rising stars.

