

MAKE 'EM LAUGH

the funny business of america
6 x 60



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PBS
International

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Make 'Em Laugh: The Funny Business of America is a series of six one-hour episodes chronicling over 100 years of the funniest moments in the history of entertainment. The series features the most popular routines, the most ingenious physical shtick, the snappiest wisecracks and the most incisive, biting satirical jokes to have come out of American culture. By melding comedy performances with biography and comedic history, it promises to both entertain and educate while exploring what has made people laugh, and why.

Each hour-long episode focuses on a different theme based on a uniquely American type of comedy and explores how comedy has mirrored American society via ethnic, gender and race relations, politics, mores and taboos. Exclusive interviews with comedians, writers and producers provide invaluable perspectives on American comedy, and those who created it.

Make 'Em Laugh includes interviews with dozens of America's favorite performers, including Sid Caesar, George Carlin, Bob Newhart, Lily Tomlin, Mort Sahl, the Smothers Brothers, Cheech Marin, Phyllis Diller, Carol Burnett, Robert Klein, Steve Martin, Jeff Foxworthy, Joan Rivers and Roseanne Barr. Humorous, provocative, insightful, and compelling, *Make 'Em Laugh* re-acquaints millions of viewers with the funny moments they have long cherished, while introducing new generations to some of the most daring pioneers in American cultural history.

Hosted by Billy Crystal and narrated by Amy Sedaris.

Episode One: Would Ya Hit a Guy with Glasses?—Nerds, Jerks and Oddballs

Episode Two: Honey, I'm Home!—Breadwinners and Homemakers

Episode Three: Slip on a Banana Peel—The Knockabouts

Episode Four: When I'm Bad, I'm Better—The Groundbreakers

Episode Five: Never Give a Sucker An Even Break—The Wiseguys

Episode Six: Sock It to Me?—Satire and Parody

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CREDITS

Executive Producer: David Horn

Supervising Producer: Bill O'Donnell

Producer/Director: Michael Kantor

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Photo Credit: Joe Sinnott - Thirteen/WNET



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