

W. KAMAU BELL

W. Kamau Bell told the very first joke about Barack Obama on Comedy Central's Premium Blend waaaaaaay back in 2005. Unfortunately, the joke predicted that Barack would never be President. (Oops!) Comedy Central later announced that Kamau had told the very first joke about Barack Obama. For this, Kamau was named on that network's list of Best 100 Obama Moments.



Comedy Central has three times invited Kamau to perform his critically acclaimed solo show, *The W. Kamau Bell Curve: Ending Racism in About an Hour*, at their theater in Hollywood. "The Curve" enjoyed a long run in San Francisco, had continued success in Oakland and Berkeley, and played to full houses in 2009 at the New York International Fringe Festival, and in 2010 it had an extended run in New York City as a part of terraNova Collective's 7th Annual SoloNova Festival. Time Out New York said, "Happily, Bell finds comic gold in the wide range of material he mines, offering provocative insights into an ugly reality. **FOUR STARS**" He has been honored as San Francisco's Best Comedian by three different publications: *7x7 Magazine* (2010), *The San Francisco Bay Guardian* (2010), and *The San Francisco Weekly* (2008). The SF Weekly also profiled him in a cover story in 2009.

Kamau has also released two stand-up comedy CD's, *ONE NIGHT ONLY & Face Full of Flour* which was named one of the Ten Best Comedy Albums of 2010 by both iTunes & Punchline Magazine.

And in addition to Comedy Central, Kamau's other TV appearances include *Comics Unleashed*, KQED's *Spark*, ABC's *View From The Bay*, and *Filter* on G4. Kamau has also been featured on several of the biggest comedy podcasts including, *WTF with Marc Maron*, *Comedy & Everything Else*, *Citizen Radio*, *The Sound of Young America*, and *Jordan, Jesse, GO!* As a writer, Kamau is featured in the books *What Would Bill Hicks Say?* and *At The Tea Party* edited by GritTV's Laura Flanders.

Kamau has twice appeared at the prestigious *Just For Laughs Festival* in Montreal and has been featured on HBO Canada. Kamau has also been featured at *The 2009 Aspen Rooftop Comedy Festival*, *The 2010 Bridgetown Comedy Festival*, and *The 2010 New York Comedy Festival*. Kamau spent two years appearing regularly on radio station *Live 105* as half of the movie review team *Siskel & Negro*. (Kamau is Negro.) The duo can still be heard online at their podcast at *Rooftop Comedy*. Kamau has another podcast with *Living Colour* guitarist *Vernon Reid* called *The Field Negro Guide to Arts & Culture* (Legally all of Kamau's podcasts have to have the word "Negro" in the title.)

BOUND & GAGGED COMEDY

Kamau has been profiled in several different newspapers, including four separate occasions in The San Francisco Chronicle — even once (not ironically) during Black History Month. But Kamau is most proud of co-founding The Solo Performance Workshop (2005), a school for emerging artists. The San Francisco Weekly called Kamau “smart, stylish, and very much in the mold of politically outspoken comedians like Dave Chappelle and Margaret Cho” - though he was more excited that they called him “handsome.”

QUOTES

"W. Kamau Bell is ferociously funny.."

ROBIN WILLIAMS

“W. Kamau Bell is the most important guy doing comedy right now. Do yourself a favor and go see him. He’s got the most astute, hilarious and completely righteous material going and he’s going to be a legend in his own lifetime like Richard Pryor and Lenny Bruce. Think Bill Hicks but slightly taller.”

MARGARET CHO

“One of our country’s most adept racial commentators with a blistering wit and a willingness to say what you quickly realize you’ve always thought. He is relentlessly intelligent, fusing references to create a rich expression of incredulity in a post-Obama world.”

PUNCHLINE MAGAZINE

“Smart, stylish, and very much in the mold of politically outspoken comedians like Dave Chappelle and Margaret Cho”

HIYA SWANHUYSER, THE SF WEEKLY

“W. Kamau Bell is in the vanguard of a new era of American comedy for an unsettling, troubling, and strangely hopeful time. Firmly in the fearless tradition of Mort Sahl, Lenny Bruce, Richard Pryor, & Chris Rock. Comedy as common sense purged of the absurd hypocrisy that is Our America.”

VERNON REID, SONGWRITER & GUITARIST OF GRAMMY AWARD WINNING BAND, LIVING COLOUR

“Alright, everyone. All at once now. Go to iTunes and download W. Kamau Bell’s new comedy album- Face Full Of Flour. Hilarious, with somethin’ to say about the world. You like comedy? You like Dave Chapelle? You like Black People? You’ll love this shit.”

BOOTS RILEY, ACTIVIST & RAPPER FOR STREET SWEEPER SOCIAL CLUB & THE COUP

“Simply put, U ROCK!!!! Funny, honest and politically incorrect while being fully correct!”

JIMI HAZEL, LEAD SINGER & GUITARIST OF 24-7 SPYZ

“The show was great—really great. Smart, I learned things, I laughed, I was proud to know you and the fact that you are black really works for the show.”

MARC MARON, WTF WITH MARC MARON

BOUND & GAGGED COMEDY

QUOTES

“Happily, Bell finds comic gold in the wide range of material he mines, offering provocative insights into an ugly reality” ★★★★★

TIME OUT NEW YORK

“The personable, quick comic skewers racism, stereotypes and an assortment of iconic taboos with provocative wit” ★★★★★

THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

“Tall, dark and hilarious... Bell’s solo show is daring, insightful, challenging, sometimes interactive, up-to-the-minute-and did I mention hilarious?”

NYTHEATRE.COM

“W. Kamau Bell plays against type and comes with not only the insights you wish you had spewed first but also the wit.”

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN

“By making no subject off limits, keeping no discrimination too taboo, and leaving no room for self-denial, Kamau’s Bell Curve is not only a powerful comedic performance but an outlet for a necessary dialogue.”

FLAVORPILL.COM

“Seldom do homegrown comedians have as much personal magnetism or shrewd observations as W. Kamau Bell.”

EAST BAY EXPRESS

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