

Jamie Kennedy, Other Comics Perform in the Raw

Contributed by By Ali Kay

What turned a relaxing Sunday into a festival of laughs? Jamie Kennedy, Eddie Brill and K-Von's performance at the Tempe Improv on March 30th to a packed house of about 400 people. Kennedy was the headliner with his name illuminated on the billboard. The high-energy show started with the jovial comedian Todd Glass welcoming everyone to the Improv on a movie

screen, laying down the "laws of comedy" with a smile, but becoming stern when stating the zero-tolerance policy for heckling. Another "law" included no talking during the show. Point taken; there was no heckling during the show.

Following the comedy laws was up-and-coming comedian/host K-Von. He admitted some hardships about getting into stand-up. "I had a lot of fear (regarding performing comedy), so I took a year off," he explained. "Then I started it up again. I performed a bit about being Persian, and got my own Showtime special. Then, Jamie Kennedy saw me perform and asked me to tour with him." K-Von's comedy is edgy, funny and relatable to most people. There was a roar of laughter the entire time he was on stage while he talked about being broke and inviting a woman over to watch a movie on YouTube and then getting intimate in his trundle bed. His goal, he said, is to spread the word "trundle" (If you don't know what a trundle bed is... you definitely didn't grow up in the 80s.). He then went into an "I can't believe he is saying this" moment, when he joked about a tiger eating a little boy at a zoo. He pushed the envelope, but got huge laughs.

Next up was Eddie Brill, your typical New Yorker with that "Shut the F up!" attitude. Brill ranted about how McDonald's isn't even real food and how it's no wonder kids today are on Ritalin due to crappy fast food. At one point he imitated a twitching kid coming down off his Frosted Flakes and how the child calls his mom at recess and begs her to score him some Twizzlers to keep the sugar buzz going.

After Brill's rant session, Jamie Kennedy performed. You are probably familiar with Kennedy's movies, The Jamie Kennedy Experiment TV show, and his recent stint as a rapper with Stu Stone, but it seems he is underrated as a comic. His laid-back, almost hippie-vibe makes him ever so approachable. The comedian was clad in baggy jeans, a navy blue t-shirt and converse without laces, and his hair was disheveled in that "I just got off a plane" sort of way. Kennedy has the knack for pulling off dead-on impressions, various accents, impersonating women and performs as if he is talking to his best friends- this is what makes it so easy to watch him perform. He appears extremely comfortable in the arena of stand-up and is charismatic when mingling with the crowd. He had a fresh new set and is a crafty storyteller- and his method works. The audience was cheering with laughter throughout his set. One group of people was laughing so hard, they almost fell out of their seats. Kennedy had a certain connection with an 80-year old woman named Elaine, and kept apologizing to her after he performed racy material. "Did you think I'd be so raw?" Kennedy asked the woman's son, who shakes his head no. "I'm sorry Elaine. I am sorry you had to see that, but these are true stories," he says while hiding his face in shame. Everyone was treated like "Comedy Royalty" and enjoyed the festivities of high-impact comedy, even on a Sunday. At the closing of his act, he showed a bit of his new film Hecklers, a documentary that shows interviews famous comedians talking about what it's like to be heckled.

The show was followed by a meet-and-greet with Kennedy and K-Von. The comics were both very friendly and approachable, taking pictures with fans and signing autographs. K-Von seemed very happy to be touring with Kennedy and stated how shocked he was at how fast his career is taking off. And just when you think comedy can't get any cooler...it does. "Ah... you are the girls who sat up front and laughed the entire time," Kennedy said. "So...what did you think?" The response was simple and honest: "Very funny stuff!" The impressive part is that after all the fame, Kennedy is still down-to-earth and seems very humble. All the comedians were raw and fun to watch; this was definitely a great show. Don't miss seeing these comics! For information on upcoming shows at the Tempe Improv, call (480) 921-9877 or visit www.tempeimprov.com.