

InsideReno

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Laughing his way to the top

By Casey O'Lear

On Saturday, Oct. 4, University of Nevada, Reno alumni-turned-stand up comedian K-Von performed at the Grand Sierra Resort with veteran comedian Jamie Kennedy.

K-Von opened the show—his first ever in Reno—by referencing UNR's recent triumph over UNLV and making other jokes about the Reno community.

"I was really happy with the way it went," he said. "I started out with Reno jokes that I've never done before because nobody else would get them."

K-Von graduated from UNR with a degree in business before he decided to move to Los Angeles to chase his dreams in the entertainment industry.

"In college, I had no idea how to get started with comedy," he said. "My first priority was to get my college degree. I used to write jokes in the backs of my notebooks in class. The more boring the class was, the more jokes I would write. Then I moved to LA and it was a great chance to have a clean slate."

During his time onstage, K-Von joked about subjects ranging from his Persian heritage to current politics: "You know he's not going to raise taxes, he can't even raise his arms," he teased about Sen. John McCain.

onstage, they have to talk about things that keep the audience interested. If you're not keeping them engaged for 30 or 40 seconds, you lose credibility. That's why it's so stressful. It's hard. You have to think of cool, interesting topics or topics that everyone can relate to."

K-Von has even translated his comedic prowess to televisions everywhere by appearing on Showtime's "Comics Without Borders" and as the lead in the horror/comedy flick "Gingerdead Man 2".

"No one pictures you in a movie until you've done a movie," he said. "You have to show them what you're capable of. Hollywood likes to have a bandwagon. With every movie you make, you expand your audience. It's fun to get to be a character and take risks."

K-Von has recently been performing shows with Kennedy, who is best known for his roles in the "Scream" movies, "Malibu's Most Wanted" and his television show "The Jamie Kennedy Experiment". "It's a really great opportunity," said K-Von. "He's been doing this for over 15 years. He has great command of the stage, and he has a successful movie career."

Kennedy's set also consisted of jokes about politics, race and sex—"I talk about sex, but I don't know much about it," he said repeatedly throughout the show.



Comedian K-Von performed at the Grand Sierra Resort Saturday night. This was the first time he performed in his hometown. K-Von graduated from UNR in 2003 and is currently touring with comedians

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