



>> COMEDY COLLEGE™
Lessons in Laughter

PRODUCED BY



MINNESOTA
PUBLIC RADIO
www.mpr.org

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“Humor is but
another
weapon
against the
universe.”

—Mel Brooks

Comedy College is a new public radio program featuring alternating hosts Steve Martin, Rita Rudner and Bob Newhart. The show provides an introduction to the giants of American comedy — people like Lenny Bruce, Nichols and May, Bill Cosby, Jack Benny, Phyllis Diller and Shelley Berson. It offers up both classic routines and seldom heard material, combined with a little insider perspective on the business of making people laugh.

>> **FOCUS**

Comedy College discovers routines by the country's much loved and most prolific performers. It presents full, unedited episodes of old radio shows, entire live stage performances, improvisational sketches and scripted routines.

Along the way, hosts provide background on the comedians and insight into the work that has inspired their own careers. The show provides a greater understanding of what makes humor humorous, examining the genius of improvisational comedy, carefully scripted material, the essential timing of punch lines and the lyrical verse of comedic song. *Comedy College* stitches it all together with laughter.

>> **FACULTY**

The show's creator and executive producer is Garrison Keillor, humorist, author and host of Minnesota Public Radio's wildly successful radio variety show, *A Prairie Home Companion*®. “*Comedy College* is a graceful introduction to the giants of the trade and icons of American civilization, of which comedy is about 30 percent. If you were going to tune in just one public radio comedy series, this would be the one,” says Keillor.

It is hosted by three of today's most recognizable names in comedy—Steve Martin, Rita Rudner and Bob Newhart. Martin says, “I am fascinated by the history of modern comedy and feel privileged to be able to present the comedians who have figured so importantly in my life.”

Producer Tiffany Hanssen says, “It's thrilling to have been able to gather these greats in comedy—and to be able to offer listeners a chance to hear the old routines that are timeless in their ability to make us laugh.”

>> **AUDIENCE**

Comedy College premiered in 2001 as a 13-week pilot program. The show met with great enthusiasm and abundant feedback from listeners:

“What a great idea to share these comedy classics with us... I just sat back and laughed, laughed, laughed. keep ‘em flying!”

“Keep going... do all the great comics. It could take years!”

“Love it. Love it. Love it. How could it miss with Garrison Keillor and Steve Martin?”

Comedy College is produced by Minnesota Public Radio, the largest station-based producer of national programming in the industry. Comedy College can be heard on the Internet at www.comedycollege.net