



>> COMEDY COLLEGE™  
Lessons in Laughter

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## COMEDY COLLEGE / BIOs

**Steve Martin**, one of the most diverse performers in the motion picture industry today, has been successful not only as an actor, but also as a writer of some of the most popular movies of recent film history.

Born in Waco, Texas and raised in southern California, Martin became a television writer in the late 1960s, winning an Emmy Award for his work on the hit series *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*. Launched by frequent appearances on Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show*, Martin went on to host several shows in the innovative *Saturday Night Live*. He has won Grammy Awards for his two comedy albums, *Let's Get Small* and *A Wild and Crazy Guy*, and had a Gold Record with his single, "King Tut".

His first film project, *The Absent-Minded Waiter*, a short movie he wrote and starred in, was nominated for an Academy Award. In 1979, Martin moved into feature films, co-writing and starring in *The Jerk*. He received best actor awards from both the New York Film Critics Association and the National Board of Review for his performance in *All of Me*. Some of Martin's other films include *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* and *Parenthood*. And in 1991, Steve wrote, starred in and co-executive produced the critically acclaimed *L.A. Story*.

In the fall of 1993, a production of Martin's first original play — a comedy/drama entitled *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* — was presented by Chicago's prestigious Steppenwolf Theatre. His book, *Pure Drive!*, is a collection of witty short stories that became a best-seller. And he is currently experiencing great success with the publication of his first novella, *Shopgirl*, which spent time on both *The New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times* best-seller lists.

Martin's most recent project is a black comedy *Novocaine* with Helena Bonham Carter and Laura Dern.

**Rita Rudner** is the only child of witty parents. Much to their dismay, Rudner displayed a complete lack of wit until the age of 25, whereupon she refused to say anything unless it was laced with wit. Up until age 25 Rudner preferred to talk with her feet, and danced in six Broadway shows that she no longer likes to name because readers will be compelled to go back and try to figure out how old she is.

Rudner's first solo HBO special, *Rita Rudner's One Night Stand*, was nominated for two Ace Awards, as was her English television show which later appeared on A&E. Rita's two one-hour specials for HBO, *Born to Be Mild* and *Married Without Children*, were ratings standouts.

Rita has written three books: her new novel *Tickled Pink*, the best-selling *Naked Beneath My Clothes*, and *Rita Rudner's Guide to Men*.

In 1989 Rudner married Englishman Martin Bergman. The two have collaborated in more ways than one. The movie *Peter's Friends* was their first produced script. It starred Emma Thompson and Kenneth Branagh and it won the Peter Sellers Award for best comedy film of the year. *A Weekend in the Country* was another script the couple created together and it was also Bergman's directorial debut. It premiered on the USA network and starred Jack Lemmon, Dudley Moore, Christine Lahti and Richard Lewis.

Recently, the couple collaborated again for an episode of *Hollywood Off Ramp* on E! called *Unfunny Girl*.

Rudner also recently signed a long-term contract to perform exclusively at the New York New York casino in Las Vegas in a theatre especially built for her. In between live appearances, Bergman and Rudner continue to write and sell movie and television scripts in Hollywood. She is currently a regular on *Hollywood Squares*.



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**Bob Newhart** is perhaps the only man in the world who can talk to himself on the phone without people looking at him strangely. He, of the world-famous one-way phone conversations, is also a household name to generations, thanks to his two extremely successful, long-running television series. And he is picking up new fans everyday, from youngsters to college students, who watch him nightly on *Nick at Nite* and who attend his comedy concerts in large numbers.

In 1959 he was introduced by a Chicago disc jockey to the head of talent at Warner Bros. Records, who immediately signed him to a contract. Thus was born *The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart*, which became the first comedy album to go number one on the charts. He was an immediate sellout in comedy concerts, in nightclubs and on theater stages all over America. Seven more albums followed, each extremely successful, selling in the millions.

*The Bob Newhart Show* debuted in 1972 on CBS, marking the beginning of a six-year run. It co-starred Suzanne Pleshette as Bob's wife, Emily, and one of the finest casts of feature players ever on television, according to most critics/historians. But by 1978, Newhart felt it was time to move on to other projects.

By now, his skyrocketing popularity carried him into motion pictures, where he was cast in a number of films: *Hell Is For Heroes*, *On A Clear Day You Can See Forever*, *Catch 22*, *Little Miss Marker*, *Hot Millions*, *Cold Turkey*, *Thursday's Game*, and *First Family*.

In 1982, he returned to CBS with *Newhart*, playing a New York, do-it-yourself book author turned Vermont innkeeper. Television fans remember the final episode of *Newhart*, in which he "awoke" in his old bedroom from *The Bob Newhart Show*, with his wife Suzanne Pleshette, next to him, when he proclaimed he had the strangest dream! Critics and fans alike have called this the single best and most surprising episode in television comedy history, including *Entertainment Weekly*, which put it at the top of its "Best All-Time Episodes" list.

Newhart still performs in comedy concerts, opting to continue live performances before sellout audiences all over the country and the world. With routines created by Newhart from today's newspapers in his unique style, and some of his early classic routines (which audiences demand he perform), he is still garnering critical raves and pleasing audiences at the same time.