

## About Us

The NYC Underground Comedy festival came from humble beginnings. A handful of shows at the West Bank Café Theater in October 2003 turned into a worldwide comedy event. In our 5 year history over 1000 comics ranging from Chris Rock to 2007 Emerging Comic's Contest winner Josh Homer have graced our stages. Comics have come from all over the world to participate in the festival, and in 2007 the festival went international with shows in China and South Africa.

We have entertained over a quarter million people in our 5 years in venues ranging from state of the art comedy showrooms to theaters to neighborhood comedy spots. We've even held free shows in libraries, schools, hospitals and homeless shelters so that people who can't afford to go to traditional shows can still get the gift of laughter. With the kind help of countless performers and behind the scenes people, we are able to further community through comedy.

We have also given over 300 industry professionals their first look at some of our rising stars. Those first looks have translated to TV appearances, paid work, and countless opportunities for comics. We are truly thankful for all of the industry who come to NYC every year to see the talent that we believe will be the next generation of comedy stars.

Finally, a big thank you has to go to the media. With coverage on ABC, VH1, NY1, MTV, press mentions in the NY Post, Stuff Magazine, Maxim, The Daily News, Newsday, The Village Voice & Time out NY, radio mentions on XM Radio, Sirius, AOL and countless other media outlets, the press has been more than kind to us each year.

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Staging the shows is very rewarding, going to where the people in most need is even more rewarding., Hospitals, Homeless Shelters, Womans Out Reach Centers, Libraries and Cultural Centers.

Comedians at every level invited to do the festival are asked and more than willing to perform on these charity shows.

From Dean of The Friars Club, Freddie Roman hosting "Operation: UpLink" In 2004 in an historic event bringing comedy back to "The Bitter End" once the home to legends Woody Allen, Richard Pryor, George Carlin, Lily Tomlin. Cheech & Chong, Etc. ... to all the events done by everyone from Emmy Award Winner, Rick Overton, Jim Gaffigan, NBC's "The Late Show/David Letterman's talent coordinator Eddie Brill.

Here's a list of a few of a few of our charites, and some of the other free events The NYUCF & family through the years have had the pleasure and honor helping, supporting and entertaining.

Operation Uplink is a unique program that keeps military personnel and hospitalized veterans in touch with their families and loved ones by providing them with a free phone card.

Comedy Fights Cancer is a 501 (C)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to improve patient quality of life through humor.

CFC delivers live and taped comedy to patients in hospitals and care facilities, organizes comedy benefits to raise funds for cancer research and celebrates laughter as a path to healing.

THE PATI VITALE FUND is to help Professional Stand Up Comics with their immediate healthcare needs should they fall prey to serious illness.

THE PATI VITALE FUND will support direct requests for medical assistance support from Professional Stand Up Comics in healthcare crisis. In addition, The Pati Vitale Fund will support Healthcare Initiatives.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society American Cancer Society  
 The Neil G Shastri Foundation Producers Jim Mendrinos Jim Mendrinos, a well-known and gifted Celebrity-Comedian, is one of the most sought-after comedy writers of his generation, having recently authored &quot;The Complete Idiot&quot;s Guide to Comedy Writing.&quot;

He has appeared on Comedy Central and is in demand at many famed New York night spots like The Improv, The Comic Strip Live and Gotham Comedy Club. He is a regular performer at Caesar&quot;s and aboard the Carnival Cruise Lines.

He started writing and performing stand-up at the age of 19, sharing the stage at The Comic Strip with future stars Chris Rock and Colin Quinn. He also toured the country with Sam Kinison and Bill Hicks.

As co-creator of the NYC Underground Comedy Festival, it is his love of comedy, his commitment to emerging talent, and his reputation that has made the festival explode onto the New York scene.

A gifted writer, Jim has contributed jokes to the tours of Rodney Dangerfield and Joan Rivers. He has contributed jokes to many late night television shows including SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE&quot;S WEEKEND UPDATE featuring Colin Quinn.

He was the sole writer for USA NETWORK PRESENTS: THE PROBLEM CHILD, starring Gilbert Godfrey. He also wrote the acclaimed documentary HISPANIC AMERICANS-THE NEXT GENERATION, which was hosted by Jimmy Smitts. He was the Head Writer/Associate Producer for the wildly popular syndicated series THUNDERBOX, which featured MTV alumni Ricky Ratchman and Eric Neis. He was also the Associate Producer/Writer for the internationally syndicated series HEAVYWEIGHT EXPLOSION.

He was the writer for SARAH HUGHES: A LIFE IN BALANCE, which aired on NBC and currently is developing a sketch comedy show, in association with Dorado Entertainment, for Nickelodeon.

Jim owns Hubris Entertainment ([www.hubrisentertainment.com](http://www.hubrisentertainment.com)), a New York City-based television and film production company, specializing in stand-up comedy projects. He is also a columnist for TWO DRINK MINIMUM and SHECKY Magazine where he flaunts his expertise as America&quot;s foremost comedy historian.

Jim also teaches at the GOTHAM WRITER&quot;S WORKSHOPS, providing instruction in film writing, theatre writing, sitcom writing, and, of course, comedy writing.

Jim currently resides with his wife in New York. Shelby Werwa

From Hollywood to Vegas, through Nashville and back to Broadway. Nominated for Emmys and a Grammy, this MTV award-winning producer extends his reputation for on-time, on-budget, creative, innovative television programming by Producing New Year&quot;s Eve in New York&quot;s Times Square. Last year he helped evolve this event by making it into a six hour international webcast for Microsoft&quot;s MSN Video. It was hosted by top NY Radio personality Romeo from Z-100. Some of the Highlights of the evening included Lindsay Lohan&quot;s performance in the heart of the Square which opened MTV&quot;s New Year&quot;s Eve Show; Live segments for Carson Daly&quot;s NBC Special with Kathy Griffin; A very special simulcast from Los Angeles as Jay Leno opened the &quot;Tonight&quot; show on the Screens in Times Square; Live interaction from our AstroVision Screens with Regis Philbin while hosting the Dick Clark show for ABC-TV. The NYC Police estimated the crowd to be one million strong for our live &quot;Sing-A-Long&quot; with the Broadway Cast of &quot;Good Vibrations&quot; the musical featuring the songs of Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys. Our international broadcast gets as many eyeballs as the Super Bowl when the &quot;Ball Drops&quot;. Shelby is currently working with his partners on this Event for 2006.

In 2003/2004 he produced &quot;America&quot;s Party&quot; a New Year&quot;s Eve Special Live from Las Vegas&quot; Venetian Hotel for Clear Channel Entertainment and Fox-TV. This show was hosted by Ryan Seacrest and Funkmaster Flex. It starred Metallica, Ashanti, Westside Connection, Hootie and the Blowfish, Puddle of Mudd, Keith

Urban and Musiq. He also produced Jay-Z's Farewell performance for Def Jam Records at Madison Square Garden. It featured Beyonce Knowles, Mary Jay Blige and R.Kelly. It was recently released on DVD after a successful run as a feature length motion picture. He was also one of the producers of the NFL's Kick Off Event in Times Square broadcast on VH-1 and CBS-TV, it featured Bon Jovi, Enrique Iglesias, Eve & Alicia Keys. In 2001 Mr. Werwa Co-Produced three LIVE one-hour Garth Brooks music specials from "Coast to Coast to Coast" for CBS-TV and Picture Vision. These shows were broadcast on three consecutive Wednesdays in November from three distinctly different locations; The Forum in L.A., The flight deck of the U.S.S. Enterprise with a full flight deck of sailors while docked in Norfolk, Virginia and on the beach in South Padre Island, Texas during a thirty mile per hour wind, rain and hail storm where the temperatures plummeted below 30 degrees for a live audience of 25,000 and millions of viewers at home. For A&E's The History Channel he produced their coverage of the World War II Memorial Dedication Ceremonies live from Washington DC.

Mr. Werwa was honored to have Sony Music fly him to Montreal, Canada after 9/11 to supervise the TV production of Celine Dion singing "God Bless America" for the World Trade Center Telethon. This special version of the song was arranged and recorded by composer, conductor David Foster. In July of '03 he produced Ms. Dion's TV performances for "Top Of The Pops". In 2001 he was one of the producers of the Opening Ceremonies for the Special Winter Olympics from frigid Anchorage, Alaska that aired on PAX-TV. He returned to NYC where he produced a Los Lobos special for Sony Music. He "braved" the beginning of the Millennium and Y2K by producing Billy Joel's New Year's Eve Special at Madison Square Garden for ABC-TV and Sony Music.

His biggest show to date has been Garth Brooks LIVE from Central Park (the largest television show ever produced in NYC and one of the highest rated Specials ever produced for HBO). It was nominated for six Emmys including "Outstanding Variety, Music or Comedy Special."

Additional specials include Canadian Superstar Lara Fabian for Columbia Records recorded in Montreal; Latin recording artist Mark Anthony at the Hammerstein Ball Room for Sony Music; Jazz legend Chick Corea Live from New York's Washington Square Park broadcast nationally and international on HDTV during the '99 Panasonic Jazz Festival for Panasonic; the famous Irish tenor Frank Patterson's tribute to America, "God Bless America" featuring 600 Irish dancers for PBS; a special for Blues Guitarist Bill Sims with Warner Brothers; Mark Lowry and the Gaither Vocal Group at NY's Beacon Theater; a Tribute to Bill Russell for the NBA at the Fleet Center in Boston and Second Unit for The Backstreet Boys in Concert a Disney Production.

He ended '98 with his second consecutive ABC-TV New Year's Special After New Year's with David Sanborn featuring special guest Eric Clapton. His impressive television credits include: line producer and creative consultant on the Kenny Rogers Christmas Special for CBS; "After New Year's with David Sanborn" (97-98) featuring special guests Dr. John, Isaac Hayes, Joan Osborne, Boz Scaggs & Lou Reed; "The Paul McCartney World Tour" which was televised live on Fox-TV; "David Fincher's Legends of Rock N' Roll with Robbie Robertson & Martin Scorsese"; "The Best of Bedrock"; a one hour promo for "The Flintstones Movie"; with Rosie O'Donnell for Fox-TV & Meat Loaf @ the Beacon Theater for VH-1.

Shelby was a producer, creative consultant and supervised the post production of the Grammy nominated Travis Tritt: A Celebration for Disabled Vets which generated rave reviews on the Nashville Network before a successful release by Warner Home Video. He has also line produced a number of Specials for PBS; The Peter, Paul & Mary: Lifelines Special, The Harry Belafonte Special, The 1998 Gala opening of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, An Ode to Joy; PBS's New Year's Eve Special '98-99 and Spirit Dance.

Mr. Werwa has been involved with "live" productions before Garth. He was the Consulting Producer for 20th Century Fox's multi-camera filmed production of "Andrew Dice Clay Captured Live at Madison Square Garden" and Associate Producer on several live Pay Per Views: The Who's Tommy, Ozzy Osborne and Anderson, Bruford, Wakeman, Howe. He completed his second tour of producing and directing segments for Woodstock '99's Pay Per View. He held the same position for Woodstock '94 creating over 40 segments for that live broadcast and supervising the postproduction for Woodstock '94 - Pay Per View's European release. In March of '99 he completed his second consecutive year of producing and directing packages for the annual Essence Awards Show on Fox-TV. He is a DGA Director and in August of '03 completed producing and directing a ten-minute program for Canon USA featuring DP, Jonathan Schwartzman and the Canon XL1-S camera.

In the Eighties Shelby worked extensively with Grateful Dead. These shows included a live broadcast on Halloween from Radio City Music Hall, Grateful Dead's New Year's Eve Live at the Oakland Coliseum with The Neville Brothers on SHOWTIME, their 25th Anniversary Video "So Far", the humorous video "Hell in a Bucket" and a truly memorable and historic series of concerts featuring Bob Dylan and the Dead on Tour.

Mr. Werwa has also worked as a freelance Advertising Agency producer for Renegade Marketing on the Panasonic and Brother P-Touch accounts, for Saatchi Advertising on British Airways and for Spotco on the shows Rent & De La Guarda. He worked as a producer on the production side of television commercials as well. For Spotco he produced and directed commercials with Bernadette Peters for the Broadway Show "Annie Get Your Gun". Some of the client's he

has produced commercials for have included Burger King (co-producing nearly 50 spots as part of the in-house team at DMB&B), Busch Beer, Maxwell House, Pennzoil, Pam Cooking Spray, Christian Children's Fund, Ford Motor Company, Estee Lauder, McDonald's and Panasonic.

Shelby has also produced dozens of Music Videos. He won the MTV Award for Best Performance Video with Vernon Reid and Living Colour's "Cult of Personality". He was always involved from concept through completion of post, working closely with the artists and directors. Some of these artists include Anita Baker, the B-52's, Judy Collins, Grateful Dead, Whitney Houston, Billy Joel, Reba McEntire, Sting, Randy Travis and Travis Tritt.

Mr. Werwa is a consulting producer for Clear Channel Entertainment Television in New York, Picture Vision in Nashville and Rope Trick Productions in Los Angeles. He can be contacted at 917-859-6502.

#### CAROLE MONTGOMERY

With over 2 dozen television credits to her name, CAROLE MONTGOMERY is an respected veteran of the standup comedy scene nationwide. In addition to her numerous tv appearances, Carole has headlined clubs & colleges across the USA and starred in 2 different Las Vegas production shows. In her ten years as a LAS VEGAS STAR, it is estimated that she has been seen by over 2 million audience members. TEST THE LAS VEGAS SUN calls Carole "one of Vegas's premier comics". THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS NEWS says Carole SEATTLE TIMES calls Carole "one of the strongest women working today". is "one of the pioneering female comics of the modern era".

Ryan McCormick Recognized by PR News as one of their top rising stars in 2005, for more than 7 years, award-winning Ryan McCormick has created exciting and dynamic public relations campaigns for numerous entertainment, non-profit, and corporate clients. He is President of Rising Sun PR and has served as the New York Underground Comedy Festival's Publicist since 2004 (and is also a Producer). McCormick has a unique relationship with press because he is one of them at heart - A former Senior Producer for CBS, Assistant Editor for Long Island Business News, and Production Assistant for K-Rock Radio. McCormick has also penned articles for a number of publications ranging from the New York Post to Good Times Magazine. In September 2006, he landed the New York Underground Comedy Festival \$2.5 million in press and 189 million media impressions. McCormick's efforts also resulted in three New York Post Page Six mentions in one month. That same year he became PR Manager of the Comic Strip Live, a title he has held since. In June 2008, McCormick set a Guinness World Record for the "Most Consecutive Hours Ever Worked by a Publicist." He will be producing the 3rd Annual New York's Funniest Reporter Show and is readily available to any questions you have about the festival. Ryan can be reached at (516) 901-1103 and at: Ryan@risingsunpr.com John Rigoris John is a talented filmmaker / editor, having been involved in projects such as the soon to be released feature, "Kingdom Come." With thousands of production hours under his belt producing for such companies as SiTV, The Italian-American Network, Antenna, and AOL Comedy, John is a dynamic new face on the comedy scene. John supervises all media for the NYC Underground Comedy Festival. Last year that meant coordinating over 90 hours of video and audio recording in just 10 days. John is also the co-owner of New Media Comedy, a media production and distribution portal specializing in cell phone content. HUBRIS PRODUCTIONS, LLC

HUBRIS PRODUCTIONS, LLC is the production entity for the event. With over a decade of work in film, TV, Radio and New Media, as well as countless live events, HUBRIS ENTERTAINMENT, LLC is poised as the premier content provider in the comedy market.