

**Candor in Comedy: Shattering the Glass Curtain**

Written by Natalie Abruzzo

**Synopsis:** The imbalance of male vs. female in the comedy circles is staggering. In 2009, males are still dominating the comedy culture. Aside from the fact that there are indeed female legends of comedy, both past and present, there still exists a floating concept that women are not as funny as men, or are not funny at all. This documentary will explore the male dominance of the comedy circuit while expounding on the many talented women who have broken through the proverbial glass curtain to rise as stars in their fields. The perception that women are not funny seems to elude the female superstars of comedy. These women have forged ahead carving a place in history for themselves and paving the way for newer generations of women to grab their piece of the comedy pie. Comedienne's from writers, to stand ups, to sketch comedy actresses will examine their own struggles to break-down barriers, discuss how the stereotypes of female comics are morphing, and tell the audience why they continue to play the game. This documentary is a celebration of women and comedy.

**Treatment:** **Candor in Comedy: Shattering the Glass Curtain** opens by leading the audience to the west coast and treated to a car ride down during dusk down the PCH through Santa Monica, and across Sunset Boulevard where we see video images of the ocean, palm trees, The Beverly Hotel, RCA Records building, The Hollywood Sign, Billboards, and comedy institutions - The Groundlings Theatre, The Laugh Factory, The Comedy Store, Hollywood Improv. The LA images are seen through a car window as the car moves past the institutions ala Taxi Driver the movie. The audio has now morphed into I Love LA performed by Randy Newman. The audio track is low and there are graphics on the screen as The Second City flashes by and the audience is given the name of the institution and the year it was established. The audio track of I Love LA is brought down and the next series of clips are of The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson. The clips come up as we see him introducing Joan Rivers, Ellen DeGeneres, Phyllis Diller, then Rita Rudner, Roseanne Barr, Lily Tomlin, Rosie O'Donnell, Paula Poundstone, Elaine Bosler. The audio of the applauding live studio audience is captured and expanded as the Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson fades.

We are then whisked away to another great city for comedy greats - Chicago and we are exposed to video images of the Chicago skyline and the comedy institution that is The Second City. The Second City image is seen through a car window as the car moves past the institution ala Taxi Driver the movie. The audio has now morphed into My Kind of Town (Chicago Is) performed by Frank Sinatra. The audio track is low and there are graphics on the

screen as The Second City flashes by and the audience is given the name of the institution and the year it was established.

The film has made it all the way to the east coast and takes the audience through the bustling streets of the comedy capital, New York City. We hear the sounds of the city - honking vehicle horns, vehicles whizzing by - and video images of taxis', busy streets, tourists, traffic lights, pedestrian crossing signs -we are then directed to images of signage outside of some of the great comedy institutions of New York City - Saturday Night Live, Late Night with David Letterman, Upright Citizen's Brigade, Caroline's on Broadway, Stand-Up New York, Gotham, The Laugh Factory - The video images are as seen through a car window as the car moves past each institution ala Taxi Driver the movie. The video images of the institutions are set to an audio track of New York, New York performed by Frank Sinatra. The audio track is low and there are graphics on the screen as each institution flashes by and the audience is given the name of the institution and the year it was established.

As the audio is brought down we are taken into the world of Saturday Night Live and there is a montage of clips of Tina Fey portraying Sarah Palin. More clips from SNL of the Weekend News Update starring Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. Images continue to showcase film scenes of Mean Girls, and Baby Mama - both films starring Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. As the clip images are brought down, the audience finds themselves sitting with Tina Fey and Amy Poehler on the set Saturday Night Live. The two are commenting on their performances and their longtime friendship and comedy collaborations. The topics of discussion with Tina Fey and Amy Poehler at this time range from their comedy influences, when they knew they were funny, what barriers have they come up against in their careers, and when they knew they had made it.

The serious topic of shattering the glass curtain arises and Tina is reminded that she has conquered a male dominated field. The clips of the big Emmy Awards wins for Tina Fey and the 30 Rock team are interspersed throughout this section giving the audience a sense of Tina's accomplishment alongside Tina as she reflects on this success. As Tina and Amy share their stories of rising with the ranks we see clips of their fellow female comedienne influences. Tina and Amy are asked what made these particular women so influential and ahead of their time, and how these women made the job of comedy look so easy.

The audience is treated to clips of the likes of Phyllis Diller, Totie Fields, Gracie Allen, Carol Burnett, Lily Tomlin, Joan Rivers, Elaine Bosler, Rita Rudner, Paula Poundstone, Whoopi Goldberg, Roseanne Barr, Janeane Garofalo, Rosie O'Donnell, etc.

We move from Tina and Amy to delve into the world's of these comedy giants. Phyllis Diller, Joan Rivers, and Carol Burnett reflect on their beginnings, their peers, and the struggles with the glass curtain. The lovely ladies of laughter bring the audience into the many facets of comedy - discussing writing, stand-up, variety shows, sketch comedy, television sit-coms, the casting couch, the shift in stereotypes of female comedians, and whether they could have made a success of their acts in today's comedy circles.

The audio is brought up and an MTV-like music video-esque clip is run and the images are of the new generation of comedienne - these young, hot, ball-busting, chicks as we see video clips of their stage presence and performances. The audio track is blaring - Bootylicious by Destiny's Child - The likes of Sandra Bernhard, Chelsea Handler, Sarah Silverman, Leslie Mann, Maya Rudolph, and Kristen Wiig have arrived and they're not your mom's comedienne of 20 years ago. These ladies are toned, tanned, and tousled. They are ready for anything. We sit with each of them and they chat about their experiences, influences, reason for getting in the game of comedy, and how the game has changed from their perspective.

Maya Rudolph and Kristen Wiig, both Saturday Night Live cast members speak briefly about Tina Fey and Amy Poehler's successes and what they hope to learn from all of the great women that have graced the SNL stage. This is a lead-in to clips of the television shows 30 Rock, and Parks and Recreation. Clips are shown and we are given a briefing of how the television shows came to be and how they are feeling about their careers, families, and futures.

As **Candor in Comedy: Shattering the Glass Curtain** winds down, we close out the images with Carol Burnett's famous tug on her ear, and then Gracie Allen takes us out with a silly "Good night, Gracie." The clip fades out, the audio fades-up and it is New York, New York performed by Frank Sinatra once again. The song is at the end and the lyric is c'mon, come through, New York, New York. We fade to black. The End

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Video	Audio
Black	<u>Fade up</u> Music: Randy Newman -
<u>Fade up</u> Car ride POV car window Pacific Coastal Highway ocean view	I Love LA
<b>Lower Third:</b> Candor in Comedy: Shattering the Glass Curtain A Film by Natalie Abruzzo	Music: Randy Newman - I Love LA
<u>Cut to</u> Car ride POV car window Santa Monica	Music: Randy Newman - I Love LA
<u>Cut to</u> Car ride POV car window Sunset Blvd., Billboards	Music: Randy Newman - I Love LA
<u>Cut to</u> series of shots Car ride POV car window billboards	Music: Randy Newman - I Love LA
<u>Cut to</u> Car ride POV car window Palm Trees	Music: Randy Newman - I Love LA
<u>Cut to</u> Car ride POV car window The Beverly Hotel	Music: Randy Newman - I Love LA
<u>Cut to</u> aerial views of the RCA building, Hollywood Sign	Music: Randy Newman - I Love LA
<u>Cut to</u> Car ride POV car window The Groundlings	Music: Randy Newman - I Love LA

<p>window Gotham Comedy Club</p>	<p>New York, New York</p>
<p><b>Lower Third:</b></p> <p>Gotham Comedy Club</p> <p>Established 1996</p> <p><u>Fade out</u></p>	<p>Music: Frank Sinatra</p> <p>New York, New York</p> <p><u>Fade out</u> music</p>
<p><u>Fade up</u> Saturday Night Live</p> <p>clip - Tina Fey as Sarah Palin</p>	<p>TINA FEY as Sarah Palin</p>
<p><u>Cut to</u> Saturday Night Live</p> <p>clip - Tina Fey and Amy Poehler Weekend Update</p>	<p>TINA FEY and AMY POEHLER anchoring Weekend Update</p>
<p><u>Cut to</u> Mean Girls the movie - clip of Tina Fey and Amy Poehler</p>	<p>TINA FEY and AMY POEHLER Mean Girls the movie</p>
<p><u>Cut to</u> Baby Mama the movie - clip of Tina Fey and Amy Poehler</p>	<p>TINA FEY and AMY POEHLER Baby Mama the movie</p>
<p><u>Cut to</u> Tina Fey and Amy Poehler</p>	<p>TINA FEY and AMY POEHLER: "answer questions and comment on their performances, long-time friendship, and comedy collaborations"</p>
<p>Tina Fey and Amy Poehler</p>	<p>TINA FEY and AMY POEHLER: "comedy influences, when they knew they were funny, barriers to their success,</p>

	when they knew they made it"
Tina Fey and Amy Poehler	TINA FEY and AMY POEHLER:  "how they have  shattered the glass curtain"
<u>Cut to</u> Emmy Awards Show  clips for 30 Rock team wins  highlights	30 Rock Emmy Award Show Emmy  wins acceptance highlights
<u>Cut to</u> Tina Fey	TINA FEY: "comfort level with  her success"
Tina Fey and Amy Poehler	TINA FEY and AMY POEHLER:  "answering questions about  their fellow female  comediennes like what makes  them so incredible and ahead  of their time"
<u>Cut to</u> Montage of  Performances by Phyllis  Diller, Totie Fields, Gracie  Allen, Carol Burnett, Lily  Tomlin, Joan Rivers, Elaine  Boosler, Rita Rudner, Paula  Poundstone, Whoopi Goldberg,  Roseanne Barr, Janeane  Garofalo, and Rosie O'Donnell  at different stages of their	Music: Helen Reddy - I am  Woman  PHYLLIS DILLER, TOTIE FIELDS,  GRACIE ALLEN, CAROL BURNETT,  LILY TOMLIN, JOAN RIVERS,  ELAINE BOOSLER, RITA RUDNER,  PAULA POUNDSTONE, WHOOPIE  GOLDBERG, ROSEANNE BARR,  JANEANE GAROFALO, ROSIE  O'DONNELL montage of

BLUE WATER HUNTERS TREATMENT

Safari. We open with a fade up onto the grasslands and savannahs of the Serengeti and experience a soul-stirring feeling of space. A jeep tears across the countryside chasing game, the hunters are standing and urging the drivers to push the vehicle to its limits. The jeep cuts through a stream, water splashes over the camera and a 30-foot fishing boat picks up where it left off, bounding over waves. The hunters stand at the bow urging the ship's captain to push the vehicle past its limit. A boat named the "Thrill Savvy" is pulling away from shore, the coastline shrinks & disappears. The boat far from land is alone on the water. <sup>spell</sup>

MONTAGE - A group of men begin suiting up for a dive. We see wetsuits, SCUBA tanks and their weapons 67in spear-guns being loaded and foot-long diving knives being slid into ankle sheaths. Each diver is given four second Picture Credit introduction and we meet Chad Mayweather, Francisco Ferreras, Manny Puig, Jeff Wyatt, "Jewfish" Joe Felicione, Al Schnepershoff, Tom Hanson, and Terry Maas.

*ed objective stance* During this segment we learn about the basics, the origins of and the attraction to the sport from the divers. <sup>PBV</sup> In near unison the divers enter the water. <sup>we</sup> Interview with Chad Mayweather, <sup>who</sup> is a diver seated on the boat's portside rail. Francisco Ferreras & Manny Puig take deep breaths and dive. Montage of Manny Puig in action while a picture in picture interview plays.

From the boat's aft, the dive shop and the pier, we learn about the risks of Blue Water Hunting. A series of quick clips showing spear hits and misses. <sup>we followed by</sup> Assorted video clips and photos of injuries. Jeff Wyatt shows off his battle scar.

VIDEO	AUDIO
Establishing shot and Title card of California's Catalina island.	
A boat pulling away from shore, the coastline shrinks & disappears. The boat far from land is alone on the water.	The boat engine drones on as water rhythmically splashes under its bow.
MONTAGE - A group of men begin suiting up for a dive. We see wetsuits, SCUBA tanks &...	JK: My wife is going to kill me, I promised her we'd go to Europe. Laughter.
Their weapons 67in spearguns being loaded and foot-long diving knives being slid into ankle sheaths.	Natural sound the weapons clinking & clanking and the ocean sounds grow louder.
In near unison the divers enter the water.	NARRATOR: <sup>VO:</sup> From the instant you leave the safety of the boat & slip beneath the waves...
Chad Mayweather is a diver seated on the boats portside rail. <i>Do we see a lower-third with his name?</i>	NARRATOR: Why risk life & limb just to catch a fish? CM: If you have to ask, you've never tried it.
Game fish of varying types are going back & forth.	NARRATOR: Even more extreme is Free diving. Diving sans tanks, with only as much air as you can suck in.
Francisco Ferreras & Manny Puig take deep breath's and dive.	NARRATOR: Skilled divers can hold their breath up to 90 secs. FF and MP have been under for 4 plus minutes.
Montage of Manny Puig.	NARRATOR: Called "Tarzan of the Sea" Puig wrestles his big fish. Perched on a boats aft, he will jump on the back of a passing shark or alligator.
A series of quick clips showing spear hits and misses.	NARRATOR: Aim is even more Critical.
Assorted video clips and photos of injuries.	NARRATOR: Instant kill or "Stone shots" are rare. Bad shots can leave big fish with enough "go juice" to swim for hours. Large tuna have cooked themselves as result of this exertion. <i>nasty</i>
Jeff Wyatt shows off his battle scar.	NARRATOR: Spearguns fire shafts that pierce a car door. JW: My spear missed by 2ft, the marlin whipped its head, severed my line and carved a huge chunk from my leg
A closer look at the Snorkels.	NARRATOR: Snorkels have double tubes, purge valves and collection areas.
A closer look at Masks.	NARRATOR: Low-volume masks greatly reduce the amount of air lost to mask-pressure equalization.
A closer look at Wet suits.	NARRATOR: The padded chest looks ridiculous, but it lets reload the speargun without cracking a rib.
A closer look at Fins.	NARRATOR: Carbon fiber & lightweight materials help divers gain "down time". The boost helps when



## Diners: America's Roadside Attractions

December 20, 2001 - Produced & written by Fred Lacey

### Video

### Audio

FADE UP EXT DINER (Maggie's diner)	MUSIC UP (Buddy Holly "Peggy Sue")
INT DINER CU PIES under glass counter - tilt up to MS Waitress delivering milkshake	MUSIC PLAYS along with NAT SOUND
CU CUSTOMER #1 in Booth eating dinner - looks up	
TWO SHOT FRIENDS in booth chatting with Customer #1	
MS DOLLY DOWN AISLE (camera passes customers in booths)	MUSIC & NAT SOUND UNDER NARRATOR VO: Maggie's diner, just off the New York turnpike has been serving up burgers and shakes since 1930
TRACKING SHOT MS WAITRESS with tray	Maggie's Diner hasn't changed much in the 70 years it's been in open. Customers can still get friendly service,
CAMERA FOLLOWS TRAY as she sets it down in front of a customer.	good food, and an atmosphere that takes us back to a time of innocence and youth.
MS WAITRESS scooping ice cream	CHUCK HAINES VO: "I remember when I was 8 years old, having my first milkshake.
CU MILKSHAKE MACHINE	
CU CHUCK HAINES	I was sitting right over at that counter. I took one taste and I thought I'd died and gone to heaven."
FADE to BLACK	
FADE UP MS SMILING WOMAN in passenger seat (B&W 1940s Ford commercial)	MUSIC UP (1940s "Two Lovebirds")
MS MAN DRIVING (from same commercial)	NARRATOR VO: Early in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century, America began a love affair that still burns today.
TRACKING SHOT CAR with couple	America fell in love with the automobile.

