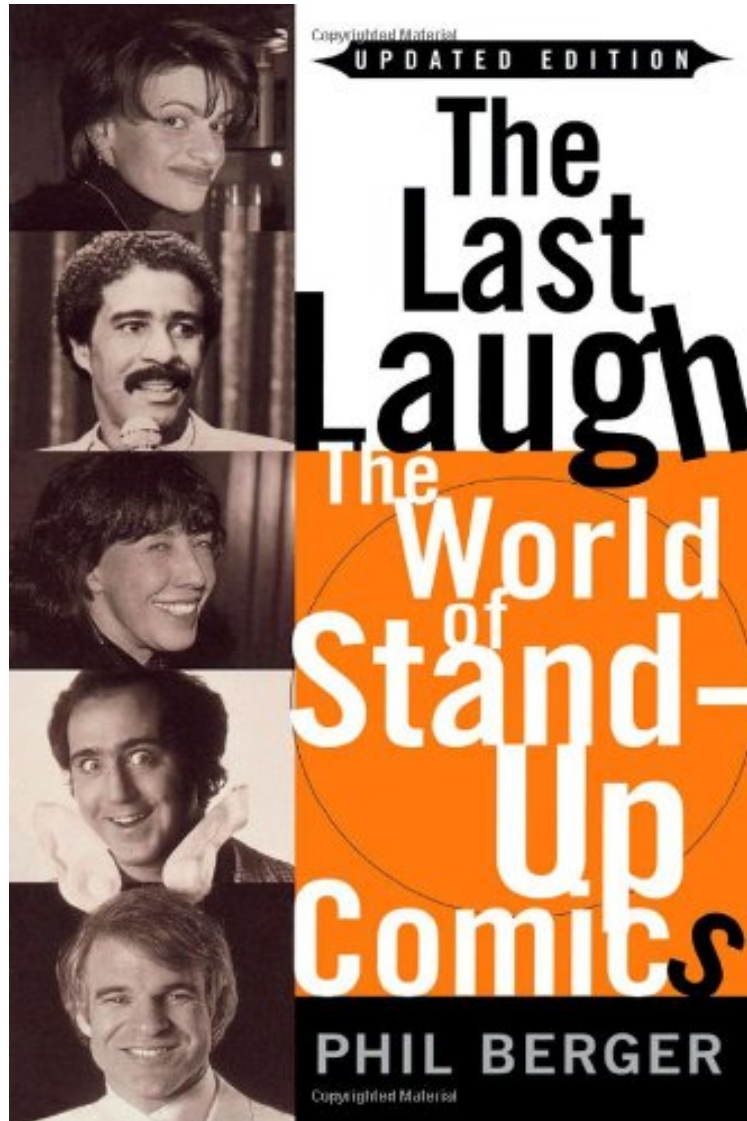


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## The Last Laugh: The World of Stand-Up Comics

*Phil Berger*

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**Phil Berger : The Last Laugh: The World of Stand-Up Comics** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Laugh: The World of Stand-Up Comics:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. ANYONE who is interested in comedy MUST read this book. It's essential for learning where standup first stood up. By Michael L Robertson I've read The Last Laugh probably six or seven times, which oughtta tell you how good a review this will be...and I'm delighted to learn that I can now have the Kindle version with me at all times. Phil Berger's book was the first to look at the origins and inside workings of

standup comedy. It's written in a sort-of jazz hipster patois that may seem a little dated now, but which certainly rings true when you see it alongside the jazz-influenced routines of Lenny Bruce, Lord Buckley, and other influential fathers of modern comedy. You'll get tastes of lots of comedians who were successful in the 50s and early 60s, but largely forgotten today. You'll learn about the part of Rodney Dangerfield's life you never heard before. You'll see who influenced Robert Klein and George Carlin who would go on to influence virtually every comic of the past 40 years. If you're building a library devoted to standup, this should be the first volume you buy. It is indispensable! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Material is good but published copy needs seriously formatting changes... By R. Keith Clingan Written in the late 1970s this book has a lot of insight but too much of it reads like one continuous passage. There are no chapter breaks to use as place markers when reading over an extended time. The formatting of the book was strange -- quotes of lines from comics were indented separately for the main text and place names were placed outside the main text. For someone who reads a lot of books and was a former newspaper editor seeing such unusual formatting is jarring. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good By Stanley A. Morris Good book/seller

The Last Laugh is the first and only book to take readers deep into the bizarre universe of the standup comic, from the classic years of Milton Berle, Sid Caesar, and Sheeky Greene, to today's comedy superstars. Phil Berger shows how styles and trends in standup have changed over the past fifty years, but how taking the stage in a comedy club is as tough as it's always been. Performers profiled in the book include Woody Allen, Lenny Bruce, George Carlin, Elaine Bosler, Robert Klein, Bill Cosby, Billy Crystal, Dick Gregory, Andy Kaufman, Steve Martin, Cheech and Chong, Eddie Murphy, and a host of others. Filled with comics' hilarious routines and anecdotes, this substantially updated edition also chronicles the lives and careers of more recent artists, including Richard Lewis and Jay Leno.

Hilarious yet harrowing the breakthrough book on the subject. (Publishers Weekly) Phil Berger is best known as a New York sportswriter... but his best work might be 'The Last Laugh.' (Robert Armstrong Minneapolis Star Tribune) Utterly authentic, a fascinating account of what life is like in an important area of American humor. (Steve Allen) About the Author Phil Berger is a journalist whose award-winning writings on sports have appeared in The New York Times Magazine, Esquire, Playboy, and many other publications. He is also the screenwriter for the film Price of Glory. He lives in New York City.