



Private Breslin



Comic Mark Breslin spent three days at Yuk Yuk's last week — one of 16 comedy clubs he owns — in break from producing Joan Rivers' show. Staff photo

When Mark Breslin was pondering a career, he had two choices — poet or stand-up comic.

He flipped a coin and comedy won.

That choice has meant a lot more yuks for comedy fans across Canada.

And the 37-year-old Jewish kid from Toronto is laughing all the way to the bank.

He was in Vancouver last week for a three-night stint at Yuk-Yuk's, one of 16 comedy clubs he owns.

He was taking a break from his job as comedy producer for the new Joan Rivers Show.

It's his first-ever interview with The Province, he says.

So let's have a few giggles, Mark, okay?

"Wellll . . . I can't be funny just like that."

And the private Breslin is much softer, less abrasive than the stage persona.

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In his show, the pocket dynamo delights in picking on the patrons in the front-row seats, leaving them squirming with embarrassment.

Favorite comic topic? Sex.

"My show is a great prophylactic. After all that talk about sex, why would anybody want to do it?"

So how about Breslin's personal life.

"My personal life? It's very difficult for me to (coughs), very difficult for me. . . help, I'm going to be sick!"

So we picked some topics.

Clothes: "I'm clothes-obsessed. Shop-

ping is a kind of Zen exercise. I could take a course to become a better person or I could change my shirt! I'll change my shirt."

Food: "My mother could only cook three things properly. Chicken soup, dill pickles and apple sauce and you can't live on these things. Now I like hot Indian curries, spicy foods. I'm rebelling against the blandness of my background and the country that I live in."

His act: "Jack Benny was cheap, Don Rickles is cruel. I have a theory that the nicer people are on the stage, the more rotten they are off-stage. I'm not cruel or vicious to strangers. It's just a joke. The joke is that the host is treating his guests badly."

Vancouver: "It's the single-mother capital of the world, I have never met so many in my life. And it's extremely white — albinos come here to get tanned. This city

needs a massive increase of obnoxious, loud immigrants."

Movies: "For me, there's no such thing as a bad movie. I just like sitting in the dark with strangers."

Marriage: "I like women but I'm militantly single. I'd like to get married — but I like sex."

Aging: "I'm 37 but I have the mind of a mature eight-year-old. I live on the edge but as I get older it's becoming more and more upholstered."

Family: "I have two sisters, one 20 years older and the other 25 years older."

"When I was growing up I was doted on, I suppose, by three mothers, which is why I have a triple Oedipal complex and am so screwed up."

L.A.: "It's the kind of place where you go out with a woman and on the third date she tells you her real name. The real cost of living in L.A.? Three IQ points a year."