

The 2013 WitOut Awards for Philadelphia Comedy

By

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2013 WitOut Awards for Philadelphia Comedy

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

Lights up. Cue Band. 32 Bars of music with dance before RALPH and JASON enter.

RALPH  
(singing)  
Who's the best?  
Who's the brightest?  
Who's the funniest in the land?  
Above the rest!  
Who'll rise the highest?  
And go home with award in hand  
Who's unforgettable, indispensable,  
had the best of all years  
It's the WitOut Awards...

JASON  
(singing)  
Who Cares!

RALPH  
(spoken)  
Who cares? Jason, what do you mean  
who cares?

JASON  
(spoken)  
Come on, Ralph. An awards  
show...for comedy...in  
Philadelphia?

RALPH  
We did it last year and everybody  
had a great time.

JASON  
One time was cute, but come on, you  
gotta admit this is pretty stupid.

RALPH  
Why?

JASON  
Cause Philly isn't a comedy town.  
Philly is a sports town, Philly is  
a food town, Philly is a  
make-yourself-puke-so-you  
can-throw-up-on-your-enemy town.

(CONTINUED)

RALPH

Philly has great comedy, Jason, you know that.

JASON

It's not a *comedy town*. Like New York, or LA, or Chicago.

RALPH

Don't say that. You don't mean it.

JASON

The *guy who wrote this song* moved to LA. What does that say?

RALPH

That this place is special enough to care about even after you move.

JASON

No, it says that he's a big stupid dumb dumb.

RALPH

Well if this whole thing is so stupid, then why did you agree to help host it?

A beat. They just look at each other.

JASON

(singing)

Ah, just go home!  
I can't believe this.  
The whole thing just makes me scoff.  
Get outta here!  
Comedy awards?  
We're just jerking each other off.  
You're all delusional Head contusional  
Drank way too many beers  
It's the WitOut Awards

RALPH

(singing)

We care!

JASON

(spoken)

Why the hell do you care?

(CONTINUED)

RALPH

(spoken)

We work hard at doing comedy.  
Tonight's a nice night of fun where  
everybody can come together and  
celebrate all the work that we do.

JASON

Sounds like more bullshit  
friendship propoganda.

RALPH

What's wrong with that?

JASON

(angry)

Stand-up comedians and improvisers  
will never get along! It's just the  
way things are! It'll never change!  
So stop trying to bring us  
together! Look where everybody is  
sitting right now! Just let us be  
separate like god intended!

Music stops. A long beat. The two stare at each other until  
they break the silence and the music comes back in.

RALPH

(singing)

It's the WitOut Awards...

JASON

(singing)

It's the WitOut Awards...

RALPH

It's the WitOut Awards...

JASON

It's the WitOut Awards...

RALPH

It's the WitOut Awards.

JASON

It's the WitOut Awards.

RALPH

We Care!

JASON

Who Cares!

Song Ends. Huge applesauce.

## BEST NEW ACT

RALPH

I'm going to get you to care about these awards by the end of the show.

JASON

But then the show will be over. So who cares if I care by then.

RALPH

I do, Jason. I do. You see...

Jason starts to walk away. Ralph pleads him to stay but he keeps on walking.

RALPH

(continued)

Wait, Jason! Jason where are you going? We have to host the show, Jason!

Jason walks right off stage. A beat.

RALPH

Anyway. Welcome to the 2013 WitOut Awards for Philadelphia Comedy! How about a round of applause for Samantha Brown and the Grimacchio Dancers and our house band for the entire night, Philadelphia Slick!

Hold for applause.

RALPH

(continued)

We have a fantastic show for you tonight - we will be giving away thirteen awards covering the entire spectrum of comedy right here in our fair city. We'll have some fun, some serious moments, and perhaps a few surprises. So let's get right to it with the first award for the night. She is a stand-up comedian and a member of former PHIT House Team King Friday and he is a member of sketch group Animosity Pierre and a producer of the annual Philly Sketchfest. Please welcome our first presenters for the evening Shannon DeVido and Matt Lally!

(CONTINUED)

CUE BAND: Shannon and Matt enter to the podium.

MATT

We are here to present the award in the category of Best New Act.

SHANNON

Best New Act at the Witout Awards, just like Best New Act at the Grammys celebrates emerging talent in our artistic field.

MATT

It is a representation of the future of our comedy scene and a look ahead to some of the best Philadelphia will have to offer in the coming years.

SHANNON

As long as they keep performing.

MATT

That's right, Shannon.

SHANNON

Did you know that the average career of an NFL football player is only three point three years? And the average "career" of a comedian is much shorter than that.

MATT

And we don't even smash each other in the heads. On purpose...All the time.

SHANNON

Here's hoping all of these acts can beat the odds and be around for a long, long, time.

MATT

Like kickers. They'll never get any glory, and only ever get blamed when they fail. But maybe they can have a lengthy, steady, unremarkable stay long after they've worn out their welcome.

A beat. They both smile.

(CONTINUED)

SHANNON

And the nominees for Best New Act  
are...

BOTH

Davenger...Hot Dish...Daring  
Daulton...The Flat Earth...American  
Breakfast.

MATT

And the winner is...

They open the envelope and announce the winner.

CUE BAND: Play the winner onstage. Stop as they take the  
microphone for their acceptance speech.

Acceptance Speech. As they end -

CUE BAND: Play the winner off stage and the hosts back on.

BEST PODCAST OR WEB SERIES

Ralph pushes Jason against his will onto the stage and the  
host area. Jason resists. Milk it. Do some physical comedy.  
Grunt and groan and stuff.

RALPH

Come on, Jason.

JASON

(whiny)

I don't want to.

RALPH

Jason, we agreed to host this show  
as a team and we're going to do it  
as a team.

JASON

But I don't like it. It's stupid.

RALPH

You haven't even tried it yet. Try  
introducing the next presenters and  
if you don't like it, I swear I  
won't make you do it again.

JASON

(thinking, scheming)

Ok, but you have to trust me.

(CONTINUED)

RALPH  
Ok. I trust you.

JASON  
Then leave the stage.

RALPH  
Are you serious?

JASON  
Yes, if you trust me to introduce  
them myself then leave the stage  
and let me introduce them myself.

Ralph is skeptical but he starts to leave the stage.

RALPH  
Ok.

Ralph walks away skeptically, he turns back a few times to  
give Jason inquisitive looks. Jason shoos him away.

JASON  
OK let's see...He's somebody who  
tricked the CityPaper into doing a  
cover story about him for some  
reason. And she performed stand-up  
on some show for women I never  
heard of called The View.

Ralph runs back on stage trying to stop him.

RALPH  
Jason!

JASON  
Too late! Already introduced.  
You're right, this is fun. Please  
welcome to the stage Corey Cohen  
and LaTice!

CUE BAND: Corey and LaTice enter as Ralph and Jason exit.

LATICE  
We are here to present the WitOut  
award for Best Podcast or Web  
Series.

COREY  
And just like The People's Choice  
Podcast Awards, better known as the  
Podcast Awards, *all* of our nominees  
are podcasts.

LATICE

Some of them are audio podcasts,  
some of them are video podcasts,  
but not one of them is a web  
series.

COREY

Last year, this award was called  
Best Podcast. This year, we decided  
to expand to include Web Series.

LATICE

But it doesn't matter. Because none  
of them were nominated.

COREY

Step your game up, web series.

LATICE

And the nominees for Best Podcast  
are.

Corey looks at LaTice and clears his throat.

LATICE

And the nominees for Best Podcast  
or *Web Series* are...

BOTH

Cheapodcast...Gettin' Close with  
Mike Marbach...Podcheese...Super  
Crappy Funtime.

COREY

And the winner is...

They open the envelope and announce the winner.

CUE BAND: Play the winner onstage. Stop as they take the  
microphone for their acceptance speech.

Acceptance Speech. As they end -

CUE BAND: Play the winner off stage

VIDEO BIT - BEST STAND-UP COMEDIAN

CUE VIDEO: TITLE: "The 2013 WitOut Award Nominees for Best  
Stand-Up Comedian". A quick video with each nominees name,  
and then a clip of each of them signing off from their set,  
except for Aaron Hertzog, show him saying "Hey Everybody!"

BEST OPEN MIC

Jason and Ralph enter. Jason looks pretty pleased with himself.

RALPH  
Pretty pleased with yourself,  
aren't you?

JASON  
I'd have to say that I am.

RALPH  
Well, you can't go pulling stunts  
like that, they've trusted us to  
host this show.

JASON  
They've trusted us to host this  
*stupid* show. I didn't exactly say  
anything *wrong*.

RALPH  
But you weren't nice either. You  
should be nice when introducing  
presenters.

JASON  
What if there's nothing nice to say  
about them?

RALPH  
There's always something nice to  
say.

JASON  
Oh yeah, well what if I'm  
introducing M...

Jason starts to say a name but Ralph quickly covers up his mouth with his hand from behind. He holds the position while he introduces the next presenters. Jason mumbles through Ralph's hand.

RALPH  
She is an excellent storyteller and  
member of PHIT House Team Hot Dish!  
and he is a stand-up comedian who's  
been a finalist in Helium Comedy  
Club's Philly's Phunniest Person  
contest. Please welcome Martha  
Cooney and Joey Dougherty.

(CONTINUED)

CUE BAND: They leave the stage with Ralph's hand still firmly placed over Jason's mouth.

JOEY AND MARTHA enter.

MARTHA

We are here to present the award  
for Best Open Mic.

JOEY

You know, this award is just like  
the Academy Award for Best  
Achievement in Visual Effects.

MARTHA

That's right. Because really great  
effects in a movie can make you  
believe that you're actually there.

JOEY

Just like a really great open mic  
can make you believe you're at an  
actual show.

MARTHA

And really bad special effects can  
occur from bad lighting or sound.

JOEY

Or the bar refusing to turn the  
sports game on their TVs off.

MARTHA

Or the host getting shitfaced  
drunk.

JOEY

Or doing time in between every act.

MARTHA

Or introducing someone as "the  
first lady comedian of the  
evening".

JOEY

Or introducing me as "the first  
lady comedian of the evening."

MARTHA

Has that really happened?

A beat. Joey just pauses.

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

And the nominees for best open mic  
are...

BOTH

Laughs on Fairmount...Sketch Up or  
Shut Up...Center City  
Comedy...Tight Six...Accidents Will  
Happen.

MARTHA

And the winner is...

They open the envelope and announce the winner.

CUE BAND: Play the winner onstage. Stop as they take the  
microphone for their acceptance speech.

Acceptance Speech. As they end -

CUE BAND: Play the winner off stage and Ralph and Jason back  
on.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF TWEETING

Ralph and Jason stand on stage. Jason has his arms crossed.  
Ralph is tapping his foot waiting for Jason to do something.

RALPH

Well...do it already.

JASON

(relenting)

They said if I didn't find a way to  
nicely introduce the presenters  
they would replace us as hosts mid  
show.

RALPH

And if there's one thing Jason  
hates more than this awards show -

JASON

It's not having all the attention  
on me.

RALPH

So here we go.

JASON

Our next presenters are the hosts  
of the...*wonderful* Comedy Dreamz at

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JASON (cont'd)  
The Barbary. Please welcome  
the...*funny and talented* Rose  
Luardo and Andrew Jeffrey Wright!

CUE BAND: Jason and Ralph exit. Andrew and Rose enter.

ROSE  
We are here to present the award  
for Special Achievement in the  
Field of Tweeting.

ANDREW  
An important award that is just  
like the Academy Award for Best  
Screenplay Based on Material  
Previously Produced or Published.

ROSE  
Exactly. Comedians use their  
Twitter accounts to write new jokes  
- some of which may later appear on  
stage.

ANDREW  
Or tweet 140-character-versions of  
jokes that are already in their  
act.

ROSE  
You know, I'm one of those people  
that thinks the book is always  
better than the movie.

ANDREW  
Me too - a book just leaves so much  
more to the imagination. You get to  
create the world in your own head  
and don't get somebody else's  
vision of it.

ROSE  
That's why I like reading people's  
tweets even better than I like  
hearing them tell jokes.

ANDREW  
Because I can read their tweets in  
my own *hilarious voice*.

ROSE  
Making *their* jokes better because  
*I'm* saying them.

(CONTINUED)

ANDREW

I like anything with me in it  
better than anything without me in  
it.

ROSE

Indeed. And the nominees for  
Special Achievement in the Field of  
Tweeting are...

BOTH

Chip Chantry...Christian  
Alsis...John Kensil...Mary  
Radzinski...Jim Grammond

ANDREW

And the winner is...

They open the envelope and announce the winner.

CUE BAND: Play the winner onstage. Stop as they take the  
microphone for their acceptance speech.

Acceptance Speech. As they end -

CUE BAND: Play the winner off stage

VIDEO BIT - BEST SKETCH GROUP

CUE VIDEO: TITLE: "The 2013 WitOut Award nominees for Best  
Sketch Group". A quick video with each nominee's name, then  
random lines or scenes from a sketch from each of the five  
sketch groups.

BEST MALE IMPROVISER

Ralph and Jason enter.

JASON

You know, Ralph, I think I can  
really get behind this whole saying  
positive things about the awards  
business.

RALPH

See, I knew you'd come around.

JASON

In fact - I printed out these  
anonymous online comments that say  
positive things about the awards,  
I'd like to read some right now.

(CONTINUED)

Jason produces a piece of paper from his pocket.

RALPH  
(worried)  
Oh no.

JASON  
Oh yes...Let's see. Someone with the handle "I'm Important, Get Over It" wrote: "Whoever said these awards are cliquy doesn't know what they're talking about. Are all my friends going to get nominated? Yes. It's not my fault that all of my friends are the best comedians in the city. Get over it already."

RALPH  
Oh boy.

JASON  
What else...TKTKTK

RALPH  
Ok, this isn't right.

JASON  
Hmmm, how about one more...TKTK

RALPH  
Oh buddy, two can play this game.

Ralph exits. Jason is left to introduce the next presenters.

JASON  
(sarcastic)  
She is a member of the *incredibly talented* sketch group ManiPedi and he is part of the *extremely hilarious* Secret Pants. Please welcome Briana Kelly and Brian Kelly!

CUE BAND: Briana and Brian enter. Jason exits.

BRIANA  
We are here to present the award for Best Male Improviser.

BRIAN  
Which is just like the MTV Movie Award for Best Summer Movie You Haven't Seen Yet.

(CONTINUED)

BRIANA

Especially if you're a stand-up comedian.

BRIAN

That's right, you stand-ups out there probably don't even know who any of these guys are...Except Darryl, of course.

BRIANA

It's a shame. You'd probably get along with all of them. They're cool guys...Except Darryl, of course.

BRIAN

But you're too busy going "improv?" pfft fuck that noise, I don't need to go to a class to learn improv, i'm improv-ing right now. I live most of my life without a script.

BRIANA

We know you do that. Don't say you don't.

BRIAN

And for you improvisers out there, this award is more like the MTV Movie Award for Best Summer Movie So Far.

BRIANA

Because there's always so many new, talented improvisers popping up all the time?

BRIAN

Because MTV only gave it out once.

BRIANA

And the nominees for Best Male Improviser are...

BOTH

Luke Field...Alex Newman...Dennis Trafny...Darryl Charles...Andrew Stanton.

BRIAN

And the winner is...

They open the envelope and announce the winner.

(CONTINUED)

CUE BAND: Play the winner onstage. Stop as they take the microphone for their acceptance speech.

Acceptance Speech. As they end -

CUE BAND: Play the winner off stage

BEST FEMALE IMPROVISER

Ralph and Jason enter. Ralph has a paper in his hands.

JASON

What's that ya got there?

RALPH

It's a list of anonymous *negative* comments from the internet. So I can show you the kind of people who are on your side.

JASON

Go ahead, read them. See what I care.

RALPH

OK. TKTKTKTKTK

JASON

Doesn't bother me.

RALPH

How about this one. TKTKTKTKTK

JASON

So what.

RALPH

Ok, one last one. Someone by the name of "J. GRIMDAWG" says "These nominations are bullshit. How can you have a Best Short Run or One Time Show category and not nominate The Grimacchio Variety Hour. That was by far the best show in the city this year. Fuck this show and fuck WitOut."

A beat. Jason is stunned.

RALPH

(continued)

Now, while I certainly agree that The Grimacchio Variety Hour was one

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RALPH (cont'd)  
of if not the best shows in the city this year and the voters are absolutely crazy that they did not nominate it...I kinda think I see what's going on here.

JASON  
(playing it off)  
What, there's nothing going on here.

RALPH  
Jason, I think that last comment was from you. I think you're just mad we weren't nominated for an award and that's why you're acting like this.

JASON  
That wasn't me. J. Grimdawg was not me.

RALPH  
Then who was it?

JASON  
I don't know, Jeremy Grimberg? John Grimmading? Jorge Grimirez?

RALPH  
Who are any of those people?

JASON  
What? You don't know them? Why don't you get out of your bubble, stop being so cliquey, and announce the next presenters.

Jason exits.

RALPH  
One is a very funny stand-up comedian who was nominated this year for Special Achievement in the Field of Tweeting, and the other needs no introduction. Please welcome John Kensil and Dr. Moody.

CUE BAND: Ralph exits, John and Dr. Moody enter.

Whenever John talks, he flaps Dr. Moodys mouth too - and they both constantly nod, so we don't know which is actually supposed to be the one talking.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

We are here to present the award  
for Best Female Improviser.

Pause.

JOHN

And just like the 2013 WitOut Award  
for Best Male Improviser, it is  
just like the MTV Movie Award for  
Best Summer Movie You Haven't Seen  
Yet and also just like the MTV  
Movie Award for Best Summer Movie  
so far...except for girls.

Pause.

JOHN

Hey - which one of us is talking  
right now?

Pause.

JOHN

I don't know I was gonna ask the  
same thing.

Pause.

JOHN

Quick, on the count of three, say  
your least favorite Spice Girl. One  
two three the worst one.

Pause.

JOHN

This is never going to work. Let's  
just announce the  
nominees...Ok...And the nominees  
for Best Female Improviser  
are...Jess Ross...Kristen  
Schier...Maggy Keegan...Emily  
Davis...Amie Roe.

Pause.

JOHN

And the winner is.

They open the envelope and announce the winner.

CUE BAND: Play the winner onstage. Stop as they take the  
microphone for their acceptance speech.

(CONTINUED)

Acceptance Speech. As they end -

CUE BAND: Play the winner off stage

VIDEO BIT - A LIST OF ALL THE NOMINEES THAT VOTED FOR THEMSELVES

CUE VIDEO: TITLE: "And Now...A List of All the Nominees That Voted for Themselves". A scrolling list of every single nominees name set to *You're So Vain* by Carly Simon.

BEST STAND-UP BIT

Jason and Ralph enter. They stare at each other for a few seconds.

RALPH

I have nothing to say to you.

JASON

I have nothing to say to you.

RALPH

Then let's just introduce the presenters and get on with it.

JASON

OK. She is a hilarious member of super improv groups Hey Rube and Apocalips.

RALPH

And he is the head writer for Dog Mountain and new host of Guilty Pleasures.

JASON

Please welcome Lizzy Spellman.

RALPH

And Joe Moore.

Ralph and Jason are pleased and surprised at their teamwork as they exit.

CUE MUSIC: Lizzy and Joe enter.