

The 2013 WitOut Awards for Philadelphia Comedy

By

Aaron Hertzog

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 nominee's 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.