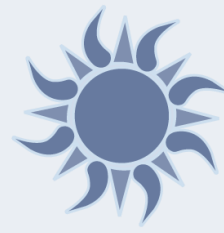


“Because College is More Than Just Classes”



UPB
University Program Board
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

MONTHLY HAPPENINGS @ UPB

University Program Board Public Newsletter

October 2014

How I Fell Into Being a Comedian: The Life and Times of Natasha Leggero



Imagine yourself a young girl from humble upbringings growing up in a small town in Illinois with only one stop light, one grocery store and a post office. Now picture your name in flashing lights outside some of the biggest and most well-known theatres in the world as you sell out comedy shows night after night. This is the reality of Natasha’s life and how humble beginnings can lead to an extraordinary endings

From an early age she was never really into comedy. She was a child actor, not a child star, but a thespian. Leggero loved to act and was in many of her high school plays in Rockford, Illinois. As quickly as she graduated she moved even quicker to New York City to go to Hunter College and get her degree in theatre criticism. She began reviewing plays after she graduated but that was not cutting it for her so she moved to Los Angeles. In an interview with Comedy Central, Leggero exclaimed, “I just got onstage one night and I just was really talking about what I thought about Los Angeles. I didn’t really think people would laugh or I didn’t even know what a comedian really was. I thought it was like an old man in a suit talking about his wife . I just talked about my life a little bit and it worked. So I just kept doing it really.”

Leggero just happened to fall into being a stand-up comedian. She was so naïve about her stumbled upon career path that she had never even heard of Sarah Silverman or any of the other big names in the comedy



Leggero's Stand-Up Act at The National Theatre

world. Her first gig was at a comedy store in downtown L.A. and still to this day she claims that it is her best show yet. Leggero carries on in the Comedy Central interview by saying, "I was so shocked that people were laughing and I had such a visual response to the laughter. It felt like waves coming over my body. I was not expecting it and it was just a very supportive room. I think I'm still trying to get that feeling back." From then on the sky was the limit for Leggero as she

began to star in T.V. shows, movies, roast famous celebrities and perform her stand-up routines in the nation's biggest cities.

Leggero's biggest comedic influences are John Waters, Woody Allen and Neil Simon. This is where her satirical, dark and society-mocking sketches come from. Michael Smith, in an article written for *The Raleigh Times* said, "Natasha Leggero is one of the funniest comedians touring in 2014, her elitist character and take on current social norms will leave you sweating from laughter. Her routine contains her hilarious takes on toilet-babies, music, poor people, pop figures and so much more. Inspired by the downward spiral of popular culture Natasha has decided to add some class and style in poking fun at the elements of society that she finds funny." As a late bloomer to comedy, Leggero did not start till the ripe old



Leggero's Interview with Spin Magazine

age of 26. In an interview with the website *Chicago Now*, Leggero states, "I didn't really understand that you could be a comedian and be fancy and just be yourself. I just thought that you had to be a man in a suit talking about your wife. I didn't realize that you could talk about your true experiences no matter what they are, even if it's just reacting to how people are dressing in LA."

More recently, Leggero took part as one of the guest roasters on Comedy Central's *Roast of James Franco* where she out-performed and overall roasted Franco to a pulp. This in turn helped her land her most recent

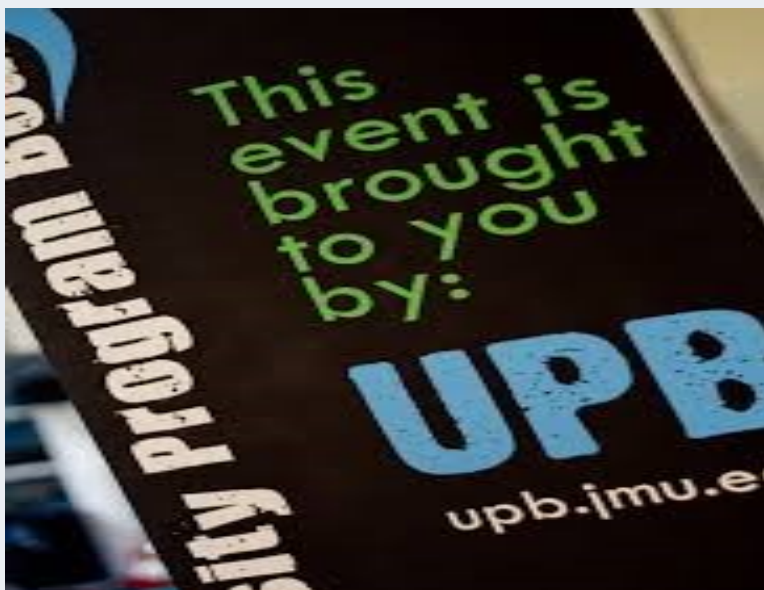


Leggero on Comedy Central's Roast of James Franco

role in the movie *Neighbors*. In addition to her cinematic success, Leggero is most known for being a permanent panelist on *Chelsea Lately*. This is where she truly made a name for herself in the comedy world and really got her face out there to the public. Also, it didn't hurt that she was a judge on the very popular comedy reality competition, *Last Comic Standing*. With all of Natasha Leggero's success in film and TV, she still found enough time to

release her debut comedy album, *Coke Money*, and it received stellar reviews from critics. Mark Gould, a writer for the popular website The Laugh Button said, "It doesn't take a long time to listen to the album to realize that bravado is the main tool in her box" Gould stated, "Natasha knows she looks good, and she knows she's hilarious, and we're all helpless. Laughing is the only real option here."

Leggero is in the midst of a cross country comedy tour and her next stop is at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. The show is a part of The University Program Board's Fall Comedian Series and it will take place on October 18, 2014. Tickets are on sale at www.jmutickets.com . Leggero will feel right at home in Harrisonburg, with the small town feel and all; but let's hope that she brings her A-game!



Sign from a UPB Event



Leggero's Stand-Up Act at The Chicago Theatre

About UPB

The University Program Board (UPB) is a student-run, student funded organization receiving more funding from the Student Government Association than any other student group. UPB strives to offer a variety of educational and entertaining programs to complement your academic experience while bringing programs to educate and enlighten the JMU student body. Events offered include concerts, movies, speakers, novelty acts, and many more which are open to ALL students. We would love to see you take advantage of these great opportunities and attend the events planned for you!



UPB Members

Hilarity Ensues with Leggero

The University Program Board (UPB) at James Madison University (JMU) officially announces Natasha Leggero's planned arrival on campus. Leggero has had roles in a variety of comedy movies and television shows that include *Neighbors*, *He's Just Not That Into You* and *Arrested Development*. Leggero, a consistent panelist on *The Chelsea Lately Show* was also one of the roasters on *Comedy Central's Roast of James Franco*.

"Leggero's humor is snippy, yet still cute." Exclaimed Mark Gould, a writer for the popular website The Laugh Button, "Although not the most offensive comedian, yet delightfully inappropriate, and just as funny as any of her peers." Leggero just recently released her stand-up album titled, *Coke Money*. It received stellar reviews from critics. "It doesn't take a long time to listen to the album to realize that bravado is the main tool in her box" Gould stated, "Natasha knows she looks good, and she knows she's hilarious, and we're all helpless. Laughing is the only real option here."

Comedian Show @ Wilson

If you are interested in seeing Natasha Leggero and want more information check out the Facebook event, <https://www.facebook.com/events/548398081954706/?fref=ts>.



Natasha being Natasha

The show will take place at Wilson Hall on October 18, 2014. Tickets are on sale at www.jmutickets.com and they will be \$8.00 for students and \$10.00 for the public. Tickets will also be available at the door and they will be \$10.00 for students and \$12.00 for the public.

In the past UPB has brought such comedians as, Erik Griffen, Nasim Pedrad and Jay Pharaoh. UPB's most recent act, last spring, was a sold out show with Nicole Byer and Alice Wetterlund from *Girl Code*. "I have never seen that much hype for a comedian show at JMU and I have never seen Wilson Hall that flooded with students," stated Janice Yahner, a member of the special events committee of UPB.

"We are all very excited to bring Natasha Leggero to JMU and I hope that the rest of the community is as excited as we are," stated Yahner.

"This event is going to be one that you cannot miss!"

History of UPB

UPB is one of the longest running and largest student-run organizations on campus. It was founded over 40 years ago and is still running strong to this day. The University Program board has brought to JMU such acts as: Fleetwood Mac, The Doobie Brothers, Jimmy Buffet, Dave Mathews Band, Busta Rhymes, OAR, Passion Pit and Macklemore. But it is more than just concerts and comedy acts that UPB does, they also provide many other events around campus for students to have an escape from schoolwork. They offer Late Night Breakfast's in which students pack a dining hall on campus late at night to indulge on some free food. In addition, they plan fun activities like glow stick capture the flag and dodgeball tournaments. All in all UPB provides a good time for students campus-wide.

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