

Most Commonly Asked Questions to Dat Phan

Dat Phan really appreciates it when interviewers ask questions other than these



1) Where are you originally from?

I was born in Saigon, Vietnam, but I came to America with my family when I was baby. I grew up mainly in San Diego, CA.

2) Who are your comedic Influences?

My early comedic influences were: Benny Hill, Jon Ridder, Bill Cosby. With a lot of my new material my new influences are: Flight of the Conchords, Terry Fador, Believe It or Not, and John Mayer

3) How long have you been doing comedy?

I started comedy in 1996, when I was barely old enough to get into a comedy club.

4) What got you started in comedy and where did you start?

I went through a breakup with a girlfriend and the ex-girlfriend's mom suggested I go to college. So, I enrolled in classes and took a required speech class. I realized that most of my speeches made people laugh. After that I started performing at the La Jolla Comedy Store and then was forced to hone my craft at small coffee shops in San Diego, CA

5) What inspires you to write jokes?

I usually write when I'm in a meditative mindset. During that time I come up with some really crazy premises.

6) Is your comedy influenced by your family?

Yes. I do a lot of impressions of my Mom since she raised me as a single mom. A lot of humor, pain, and suffering stem from events in my life.

7) How does your mom feel about you using her as a main character in your comedy?

At first she was shocked and confused; she was hoping I would finish college and become a doctor or pharmacist. Then she was really shocked to see me win Last Comic Standing and be on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Now she just deals with it. She still doesn't understand, but she noticed that I am able to make a decent living doing comedy.

8) Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Telling jokes even better than I am right now and incorporating music into my act.

9) What was your worst comedy experience?

Performing at a bar where I watched the audience throw objects (e.g. ice) at the other comedians, before I went up.

10) Do you think your comedy is making a difference for Asian-Americans?

I certainly hope so. Sometimes it can be confusing growing up in America as an Asian-American. Hopefully my jokes can make light of the issues that we face every day.

11) Is touring everything you hoped it would be? Did you always dream of touring?

Yes. I see a different city every week and meet A LOT of people.

12) Do you joke all the time, onstage and offstage?

No. I'm quite serious offstage. I believe you have to be serious to observe the premises of being funny.

13) Do you want to be on the "Tonight Show"?

I was on the Tonight Show.

We mean the "Tonight Show with Jay Leno".

I was on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno.

What about the "Tonight Show with Conan"?

Sure.

14) How did winning Last Comic Standing in '03 impact your life ?

I'm able to do stand-up comedy full-time for a living now, which was my dream.