

# Imran Al Aradi. *Ticking your Funny Bone !!*



HE'S HANDSOME, HAS A GREAT VOICE, AND PLAYS A GREAT SELECTION OF MUSIC BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY HE CAN HAVE YOU LAUGHING OUT LOUD AND ROLLING ON THE FLOOR, WITH HIS WITTY LINES. NOW SIGNED UP WITH PUNCHLINE, HE IS BAHRAIN'S BEST COMEDIAN, THE ONE AND ONLY FUNNY MAN, IMRAN AL ARADI.

**"I've always wanted to be a comedian but the idea of actually standing in front of an audience as a comedian and deliberately making them laugh sounded insane 5 to 7 years ago,"** says the king of Comedy. During his university days, Imran was known to make everyone laugh by mimicking well-known comedians, but also adding his own twist to the jokes.

In the beginning, Imran had an uphill climb, as many did not consider standup comedy to be a career, like in the West. In Bahrain, it was meant only to be a hobby. The idea of making a living, having a career as an entertainer was not acceptable, recommended or even possible maybe.

He was given a hand in 2001 when his friend's father offered him a gig at a local hotel, as the comedian. But Imran politely refused the offer, thanking him for the vote of confidence but secretly thinking it was crazy.

Imran first shot at fame was in 2006 when he was selected as the new voice of Radio Bahrain. His first stage performance as a standup comedian was in 2008, when he was asked to host the "Axis of Evil" comedy show, which featured international comedians Ahmed Ahmed and Maz Jobrani.



WHAT INSPIRES ME MOST IS THE EFFECT OF LAUGHTER ON PEOPLE, THEY SAY THAT LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE; I SAY THAT LAUGHTER IS THE "ONLY" MEDICINE. IF WE CAN LAUGH TOGETHER, WE COULD DO ANYTHING TOGETHER. LAUGHTER IS THERAPY.

"After my first appearance as a comedian, many companies started hiring me for their staff parties, corporate events and social gatherings to perform. Given the fact that there are no comedy gurus to look up to and learn from, that experience was extremely valuable because it taught me the basic elements of comedy."

Before starting out on Radio Bahrain, Imran had even worked in the Telecom Industry. He used to work in the telecom industry once as a product marketing manager and moved up to a communications technology consultant

"There was this one time during my employment at the telecom company, where without warning, my boss invited me to a meeting which was worth tens of millions and introduced me as the "company comedian".

"Taken by surprise I stood there as the clients asked me to say something funny. My response was "hm, ah.. Like what?" suffice



to say they cracked up and we got the deal! From that day onwards my boss kept introducing me as the company comedian to everyone!"

"Ironically my first day as a comedian was also my last day as a corporate employee! But I can proudly say that I've been a freelance entertainer living from one show to another and proving people wrong that yes, I can be an entertainer and make



a great living out of it. Today I am a signed artist with Punchline Media who basically pay me to do what I do best; yes I get paid to crack jokes!

His jokes are driven from daily life experiences, people he knows, family, friends and personal opinion. He believes that anything can be humorous, even a conversation with a stranger can be converted into a joke to be shared onstage.

I BELIEVE THAT EVERY PERSON HAS UNLIMITED COMEDY MATERIAL AT HOME. THERE'S ALWAYS AN UNCLE OR AN AUNTY WHO BRINGS COMEDY GOLD TO THE TABLE, IN MY CASE THAT WOULD BE MY MOTHER. SORRY MOM, YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU.



Although he tries to get his jokes in order before heading onstage, he believes that best comedy is improv, which is humor that comes out on the spot.

“I write my jokes beforehand but most of the time I just get up on stage without any preparation at all and improvise the whole thing. I don’t usually get nervous since I absolutely love being an entertainer.

Obviously the humor has to be there but I believe that the most critical aspects of standup comedy would be confidence and delivery on stage. If I am well aware of whom my audience is going to be I usually don’t worry about them getting my jokes. However, if I have the slightest doubt that they might not, I simply take that as a challenge.”

“I’ve taken the risk of not preparing many times before setting stage; luckily I’ve managed to walk away satisfying the audience. But once, I did face

an experience in Dubai where I spent the whole day writing a joke and when I finally delivered the punch line, nobody laughed! I had to recover by making fun

*Every moment onstage has been quite a high for the entertainer, but the one moment that stands out was “the first time I delivered a punch line and 2000 people laughed together and the time I sang a humorous song called “I wanna be Bahraini””*

of how I spent hours writing that joke which they didn’t laugh at!”

But being a comedian also has a down side too.

“I believe the most awkward moment is when people find it odd when I am serious and not being funny! Or when they expect me to be exactly how I am on stage in a normal conversation! I’ve decided that every time I come across a banker, I am going to ask them

for money! Just like how they ask me to crack a joke!”

People are always asking him to crack a joke when they meet him.

“Sometimes I feel like a vending machine for jokes, I’ve had people stop me in malls and randomly ask me to say something funny ... I’ve actually had a friend who called me once asking me to

make his friend laugh because he was having a bad day,”

says the funny man.

Because he knows how difficult it was to really get a platform to grow as a standup comedian, he now organizes auditions for local talents.

“That was a fruitful experience as we were to find, develop and polish a number of local comedians, thus developing a pool of local talent.”

To stay updated on his shows or to sign up for his auditions, just check out [www.imranalaradi.com](http://www.imranalaradi.com)