



# Jeff Bradley - Comedy Plus!

standup+stunts+illusion

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**For booking and information contact:**

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*"Take one-part stand-up comic, mix in a bit of Penn & Teller, add a dash of Cirque du Soleil and you may come close to describing Jeff Bradley's show..."*

*"More than a comedy act - hilarious and thoughtful, stunning and poetic"*

*"Stand-up meets cirque"*

## BIO

"In 1984 I saw my first live stand-up comedian. I was hooked. From that moment on I spent every night I could in comedy clubs. But I wasn't performing. I was studying. It looked like fun. It looked exciting, and it looked like the hardest thing I could ever imagine doing. I think that is what attracted me more than anything else. Eventually I got on stage and countless open mike nights, one degree and five years later I was performing full time. And that was just the beginning..."

This was about the same time as Cirque du Soleil and Penn and Teller were becoming well-known. Both were big influences on me. Penn and Teller showed me that something as simple as a card trick can be as big and theatrical as you want it to be, while Cirque inspired me to strive for elegance and class in performing. I think my performance style developed along the same line as Cirque and Penn & Teller. Both Cirque and P & T were breaking new ground in their own way. Cirque strived to "re-invent the circus", while P&T made fun of magicians who were performing stale routines. In fact, after a few years of performing generic "hack" material, I feel that I found my footing and my act really started to develop. It might be a bit of a niche market but my ideal audience is one that thinks they have seen it all and has become tired of the same old routines and tricks. I have heard, literally hundreds of times, "you know, I normally hate (jugglers/ magicians/ standup), but I really loved your show."

I don't claim to have invented new props or a new style of performance. I just present things theatrically, comically, as original as possible and with elegance and class that some may consider missing in today's comedy."

## **INFLUENCES**

“Comedically, my influences are vast and diverse. Of course I tip my hat to W.C. Fields, who could be considered the grandfather of all variety comedy. Another big influence was George Carl, a brilliant yet little known clown who made an art of doing nothing on stage and was the only act I ever saw make Johnny Carson actually cry with laughter. When George Carl died I put a little tribute to him in my show. Those who knew him will recognize the moment. Of course Johnny Carson himself was never afraid to be the butt of the joke. In fact his confident self-deprecation is more or less how I describe my style. And although the list of all my influences would be too long to compile here (Letterman, Hicks, Hedberg, Gervais, Louis CK, Spalding Gray...) I will add the understated comic genius, Buster Keaton and Bugs Bunny with his sarcastic, devil-may-care attitude.

And of course, I don't think you could find a present day comedian who wasn't influenced by Mad Magazine...

## **PHILOSOPHY**

Do it better, do it different, or do something else. As artists and performers we have an obligation to be creative and original, if for no other reason than to give future generations of artists something to look up to and to strive for, as they find their own way.

The secret of show business: A good friend was working backstage at a children's talent show and helping out a budding young performer. My friend, thinking that this 7-year old might be nervous, asked if she knew what she was supposed to be do when she got out on stage. The 7-year old replied with what I think is the ultimate secret of show business, “I'm just going to go out there and make them like me.”

## **THEATRE, COMEDY AND ALL THAT**

I have a background in the variety arts, (magic, juggling, dance, mime, acting) but for the most part, my show demonstratively underplays those skills and instead emphasizes the comedy aspect. I think of everything in terms of theatre, or perhaps like a sit-com, in which the audience is one of the characters. Theatrically, there's just not much in juggling say, 7 objects, other than the fact that most people can't do that. So you're limited in how you're going to make that entertaining. Similarly, if a magician takes out a deck of cards we know he's going to be able to tell us what card we've chosen. The challenge then becomes, not the trick itself but the play, the theatre, that goes on between the presentation and the resolution. If you think theatrically, everything becomes an opportunity to add humour or drama.

## Q & A

Q. Comedy Plus? What's that?

A. It's taken me a long time to find my "brand." Comedy Plus allows me to be a comedian, a magician, a circus performer, an artist.

Q. What can we expect at one of your shows?

A. The essence of comedy is surprise. Theatre is the unexpected. Why then tell people what is going to happen other than that they will be entertained? That said, while I consider writing and creating a continuous, on-going part of my job, I can tell you that, depending on the venue, you may see straight standup comedy, or unusual, non-traditional juggling and skills (okay, I'll admit that I am somewhat a master of the cigar boxes) , or some effect that I may think is beautiful, stunning or funny. Or you may see a mix of all of that.

I tend to be vague when telling people what to expect when they come to my show, partly to keep the surprise aspect of things, but also because I don't want to be limited creatively with my show. I create comedy and theatre. And I make people laugh.

I entertain.

## PERFORMANCES AVAILABLE FOR:

- Comedy clubs
- Cruise Ships
- Colleges
- International Theatre Festivals
- Casinos
- Adult or All Ages
- Adaptable to all venues, all audiences
- English, Spanish, French, Silent



**PRESS**

"Highly accomplished"

*Times of London*

"A virtuoso"

*La Vanguardia, Spain*

"Sensational!"

"Critic's Choice"

*Edmonton Journal*

"Very funny!"

*Catalunya Radio, Barcelona*

"Spectacular!"

*Hamilton Spectator*

"Star of the show"

*Hong Kong Standard*

"Highly skilled...great humour."

*Coffs Harbour Today, NSW Australia*

**Quotes from Cruisecritic.com**

*This evenings show was Jeff Bradley who had been billed as a Juggler so only a few of us went. And though he did some juggling and some magic he was really more of a comedian and we enjoyed the show very much.*

*The comedian, Jeff Bradley (was) hilarious!*

*"Juggling comedian Jeff Bradley was much better than I had expected...really entertaining!"*

*Jeff Bradley, a top variety comedian, was the showtime star tonight.*

