

Brad Zinn in
“The Great Comedians -
Those Felt Hat and Big Cigar Funny Men”

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does this show appeal only to people over the age of 60?

A: Absolutely not! Although the show has built in appeal to folks over the age of 40 who remember most, if not all, of the characters Brad portrays in his program, the show has attracted many people in their 20's and 30's and even teenagers. Younger generations are drawn to this program especially if they have an interest in show business or show business history, or just desire to see some good clean laughs. A typical comment heard over and over again by Brad after the show from teenagers is “I didn't know everybody you did, but you were funny anyway!” Some of Brad's biggest fans are under the age of 25! Part of the mission of this show is to pass the memory of these great performers on to succeeding generations. That is why parents and grandparents are encouraged to “bring a teenager!”

Q: Still, why would anybody come to see a show about people they don't remember?

A: “The Great Comedians” is a theatrical experience for audiences regardless of their direct recollection of the performers being portrayed. Just as folks attend “The Will Rogers Follies” about Will Rogers (who has been deceased since 1935) or “Mark Twain Tonight!” about one of America's greatest humorists not seen by any living person today, “The Great Comedians” offers a similar glimpse into show business history and American pop culture of the 20th Century. For some folks this is a trip down memory lane, for others it is a journey of discovery. Younger folks will gain insight into what their parents and grandparents were laughing at in their youth.

Q: What is the ideal audience for this show?

A: “The Great Comedians” receives the very best response from a multigenerational audience of Americans. When there is a broad mixture of ages in attendance, everyone will enjoy the program more. However, audiences composed entirely of Seniors and Baby Boomers are quite enthusiastic! This is the ideal show to see with your kids or your parents.

Q: We don't have a lot of room on our stage. Is that going to be a challenge?

A: Brad Zinn has performed this program for over five years on all conceivable types of stages! As long as there is a raised platform of at least 12' by 12' and lighting adequate for people to see, the show will adjust. Of course, the show always welcomes room to spread out a little bit. The show is suitable for venues from 200 seats to 2000 seats. House supplied video projection is also acceptable.

Q: What about sound?

A: Brenda Zinn will work with your sound and light operators to call cues. If pre-recorded tracks are used, then a Mini-Disc player with “auto-pause” feature must be provided. Additionally, a wireless lavalier microphone for Mr. Zinn; a wireless handheld mic on a stand downstage right; and a hard wired microphone for Brenda to use during the show from wherever she is located.

Q: What about lighting?

A: Lighting needs are very simple. When more elaborate lighting is available to the show, one or two follow spots can be utilized, and a couple of simple area lighting plots, with one or two “specials.” All of the show takes place downstage or entirely on the apron if large enough.

Q: What kind of promotional support can we expect?

A: Brad Zinn grew up in show business and has an extensive background in stage, radio and television. Brad understands the importance of good publicity and promotion to assure a successful event. He is quite willing to participate in radio, television and print interviews either in person or by telephone, schedule permitting. Included in the promotional kit are full color posters, as well as collateral material, even pre-recorded radio spots. (Have a local announcer fill in the blanks with your theatre information and purchase appropriate airtime for an instant radio campaign.) Television commercials can easily be created using clips from the promotional DVD enclosed. A bio and photo is also included for publication in the program.

Q: Does this show have an intermission?

A: “The Great Comedians” can be performed with or without an intermission. It is entirely up to the theatre to determine what is most appropriate for your venue.

Q: Does this program require an introduction?

A: If someone from the theatre or sponsoring organization wishes to make an announcement, and then introduce the program, a pre-printed introduction will be provided for just such an occasion.

Q: Does the show sell any souvenir items?

A: Yes, with your permission. We have VHS and DVD souvenir tapes of a “Great Comedians” performance for sale, as well as posters and photos. Other items may be added at a future date. Please advise your theatre’s policy on the sale of such items well in advance of the play date(s).

Q: Is there a rider to the contract?

A: Every effort is made to be “producer friendly.” As long as there is an adequate supply of bottled water, and somewhere nearby to get a sandwich between set-up and show time, everyone will be very happy campers. If pressed, Brad will admit to a preference for cold Mountain Dew!

Q: Will Brad Zinn do a “meet and greet” event?

A: Absolutely. Brad is most happy to meet with members of the audience. (Try to stop him!) Generally, Brad prefers to schedule these after the performance. If you wish a “pre-show” event, please coordinate this well in advance of the date. Brad can always be found in the lobby after a performance to sign autographs, take photos, etc. - no purchase necessary!

Q: We understand that Brenda Zinn does a “pre-show” warm up act? What is that?

A: Brenda Zinn has been taught Vaudeville Sand Painting by one of the last living exponents of the art. Vaudeville Sand Painting has not been seen in at least two generations! Audiences are mesmerized to watch Ms. Brenda create beautiful, colorful landscape paintings from sand in only minutes. She generally completes three paintings in about 15 minutes. This is done silently to music while people are coming into the theatre and finding their seats. It sets the stage and mood for what is to follow, and is a bonus to you. The act is self-contained and takes place downstage center. Area lighting and pre-show music (supplied by the show) is all that is required during this time.

For more information, visit www.greatcomedians.net