

Standup Routine 2

by

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INT. COMEDY PERFORMANCE - NIGHT

DAN is standing on a wooden stage with a wireless microphone in his hand. A flood light shines on him. Everything around him is too dark to be seen clearly. Yes, it's the same stage JAMES performed on! DAN then waves to his AUDIENCE. A much more normal thing to do! The CROWD go wild.

DAN
Hello, audience! How are you??

The AUDIENCE woos.

DAN
Great to hear! Notice how I didn't start the show with a made up word like 'diddlings' and I promise you I will never threaten you at any point. Because I'm not a lunatic. See how this show is better than James's already?

A MAN in the AUDIENCE boos.

DAN
Oh God he's here.

The same MAN in the AUDIENCE woos.

DAN
(to himself)
No. Don't let him get to you.

MAN IN THE AUDIENCE
I heard that and yes I will!

DAN
Anyway, to start the show, let's all get to know each other. Give me a cheer if James has stolen your car in the last two or three years!

The AUDIENCE go wild.

DAN
That's what I though. And give me a cheer if James has hit you!

A MAN in the AUDIENCE woos again.

DAN
Was that you, James?

MAN IN THE AUDIENCE

Yes!

DAN

You've hit yourself, then?

MAN IN THE AUDIENCE

No, I hit you!

DAN

Right. Audience, give me a cheer if James has broken into your house!

Someone else in the AUDIENCE cheers.

DAN

Really? What happened?

OTHER AUDIENCE MEMBER

(raising his voice to
be heard)

I opened the front door and there he was. He just said 'hi' and offered me a wheel of cheese as he gave a cheesy grin... He then asked 'am I being cheesy?' I told him to leave and he did. Then he started crying, I heard him.

JAMES

Woo!

DAN

Why did you woo that, James?

JAMES

You suck!

DAN shakes his head in disbelief. He then confidently marches up and down the stage as the light follows him.

DAN

As this is a normal comedy performance, I will actually be telling jokes! Here goes!
What does James Hetfield drive? A metallic car.
In what film did James Bond forget to open his parachute? Sky Fool.
What do you call a boat made of James's penis? A Jim member ship.
Where did James Brown sleep? In a funk bed.
What does James Hetfield say when at the doctor's? Metallic-aaaaah.

(MORE)

DAN (cont'd)

What's the difference between James and someone who looks like Maynard James Keenan? One's foolish, the other's Tool-ish.

What's the difference between a diminished 5th interval and James? One's a tritone, the other's a try pown.

What member of Tool is a very enthusiast granny? Maynard James Keen Nan.

What's the difference between a friend and James saying he's normal? One's an ally, the other's a lie.

What kind of virus does James Bond have on his body? Spy wear.

DAN stops walking and exhales deeply.

DAN

Wow. A lot of jokes to get through. Hear that, James? JOKES. Not abuse.

JAMES

(shouting to be heard)

Did you just get them from Wiedemann Comedy.com?

DAN

No. Well yes, but I'm collaborating with the runner of the site, so it's fine.

JAMES

Are you?

DAN

Yes.

JAMES

How would it make you feel if I said he wrote some of my material?

DAN stares towards where the voice is coming from, hard.

DAN

I'd say you were a liar.

JAMES

Not true. How you diddlings? That's one of his!

DAN

But it doesn't make sense...

JAMES

I know. The sad reality is Simon simply says lots of gibberish. This may come as a shock to you, but he spends most of his time homeless on the streets of London just rambling nonsense at passers by. The 1% of the stuff he says that does make sense gets recorded by a fellow hobo. It's like a monkey typing constantly, in the end some of it will be good.

DAN walks across the stage again, but less confidently.

DAN

I don't believe you. When I met him, he was wearing a suit and a tie and he was really polite. A bit weird maybe, but nice.

JAMES

(speaking childishly
to be annoying)

Yes, but what happened when he left?

DAN stops walking in confusion.

DAN

He just said... I have to go to London...

JAMES

And did you ask why?

DAN

Yes, but he was really awkward and didn't answer the question...

JAMES

What does that tell you?

DAN

What?

JAMES

He's leading a double life, he isn't normal.

DAN

That's the strangest thing I've heard in my life.

JAMES

Doesn't your comedy routine sound a bit rambling to you?

(MORE)

JAMES (cont'd)
You've just repeated a load of jokes
about people called James.

DAN walks confidently, again.

DAN
I'm just going to ignore you. Now on
with the rest of my routine...
Bleblebleb bluergh, blib. Got some
change?

DAN gives a huge smile and waits for a laugh but doesn't get
one.

JAMES
Did Simon write that for you, too?

DAN
(casually)
Yes. I don't understand what it
means, but he said it was good... He
insisted. I have plenty more of that
kind of stuff...

JAMES
But it didn't get any laughs. People
are feeling awkward.

DAN
Really? It's just that Simon has so
many jokes about you and bees, I was
quite impressed. So I thought if he
says 'blibbleblibberoo' maybe I
should too.

JAMES
And did he ever randomly ask if you
had a personality disorder out of
nowhere and did he boast about all
the ones that he's been 'collecting'?

DAN goes white.

DAN
No. Well, yes, but...

JAMES
How did it make you feel?

DAN
I guess scared and confuse... Oh I
don't have to put up with this, here
are some bee jokes...

JAMES

We've all heard them before!

DAN

Really? Would you like something more specialist? Ever heard a joke about a particle for example?

JAMES

Go on...

DAN

What do physicists call fun parties?
Party cools.

The AUDIENCE give an amused murmur.

JAMES

Another one of Simon's?

DAN

Yep.

JAMES

And can I ask how he told the joke to you?

DAN

I think his exact words were 'cool party, party cool. Cooool. Party party party! Cool! C-c-c-ool! Particle! What do physicists call fun parties? Party cools.'

JAMES

And how did THAT make you feel?

DAN wanders up and down biting his thumb.

DAN

A bit nervous mayb... Look, just let me get on with show. Why must bees never train other bees to use lasers? Because if they did, they'd spread ray bees.

JAMES

Heard it.

DAN

Oh. But Simon said it was the best bee joke he's ever written...

JAMES

And how did he tell that one to you?

DAN
Bee bee b-b-bee, bee bee bee b-bee
rabies! Bee lasers, b-b...

JAMES
I think we all get the point.

DAN
To be clear, some of the stuff he
says is good, though.

JAMES
Do you have any material that wasn't
written by Simon?

DAN
I have to admit, distancing myself
from him seems like a good idea. It
seems so obvious now... I know what
to say...

JAMES
Go on...

DAN smiles crazily.

DAN
I got some good reactions when I
pointed out how much of a dickhead
you are. I really think I brought
people together!

JAMES
I have a joke about you: What car do
you get if you give Daniel average
grades?

DAN
What?

JAMES
A C Dan. But your routine is more of
an F.

DAN
Well that joke was Simon's too, so.

JAMES
So what?

DAN
Look why don't you come up here and
perform yourself if you're so much
funnier than me?

(MORE)

DAN (cont'd)
I guarantee that you'll incriminate
yourself in a second.

JAMES does so. He then takes DAN'S mic and budges him out of
the way. JAMES is cool. The light follows him as he walks.
DAN is in the dark.

JAMES
So, I set fire to Dan's shed the
other day.

DAN
A-ha! I knew it!

JAMES
Knew that I'd incriminate myself or
that it was me?

DAN
Both.

JAMES
Even though I wrote 'Ben woz here' at
the crime scene?

DAN
Yeah.

JAMES
So you didn't get into an argument
with Ben?

DAN
I did actu... No I didn't, screw you!

DAN takes the mic back in a rage. Both are lit up.

JAMES
We could be a double act, you know?
Boss face and toss face. The former
is me.

DAN
Did Simon write that for you?

JAMES
No...

DAN
Good. Well now we're clearly out of
material from a paranoid
schizophrenic who spends half his
life as a tramp rambling at people, I
think we should end on a high and
stop this performance.

(MORE)

DAN (cont'd)
How's that sound?

JAMES
Great!

DAN
Yes. And now you're really going to
jail. Bye.

DAN throws the mic to the floor and leaves the stage as
JAMES gives a thumbs up to the AUDIENCE.