

Venice Division 6 Operator Darrell Carter Stands Up for Comedy

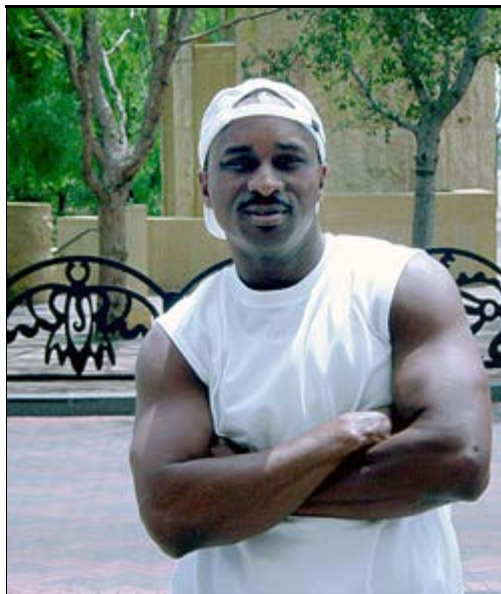
By FRANKLIN A. HOLMAN

(August 15, 2003) There's something funny going on at Venice Division 6.

Just look at the fliers posted around the division. They read: "Darrell Carter, Performing Stand-Up Comedy."

During the day, Carter is a Metro Bus operator. At night, he's a comedian.

Carter, 43, started doing comedy in 1991 when the manager of the Comedy Act theatre dared him to go on stage. The following week, he took the stage and has been doing stand-up ever since.



Darrell Carter: Bus operator by day, comedian by night.

He has performed at the Apollo, the Improv, the Comedy Store, the Laugh Factory, clubs and colleges in North and South Carolina, New Jersey, and New York. When he's in the groove, Carter performs three to four times a week.

"I perform anyplace where there is a mike and a stand," he says.

The next time he'll take the stage will be August 31 at the Pasadena Icehouse on Colorado and Lake Boulevard in Pasadena.

'Just you and a mike'

"There's nothing like getting up in front of the audience, where it's just you, a mike and a stand and nobody else," Carter says. "There is no band or anybody to fall back on but yourself."

But he admits there's more than just the challenge of being on stage alone; the comedian has to make it through the act.

"Once you get the first joke out of the way and get a laugh, you're on a roll. If you don't get a laugh, you think, 'What do I do now?' So it's a challenge," Carter says. "If you lose an audience during a set, you have to regain that audience."

Carter's comedy is influenced by Damon Wayans and Richard Prior.

Throughout his act, he tells jokes about personal experiences, his family and some transit-related jokes. But, mainly, his performance focuses on dating and the single life.

Carter is recently divorced and has two children, Taj and Chaz.

Kids are his focus

"My kids are my focal point as far as raising them and bringing them up right, Carter says. "I try to spend as much time as possible with them."

Carter's family and fellow employees are supportive of his comedy act. His coworkers attend his performances and provide positive feedback.

Throughout his 20 years as a bus operator, he has performed at such MTA functions as the retirement celebration on the Queen Mary for BJ Harris, Lon Harris and Eddie Hill.

Carter hopes to move from comedy to acting in the near future.

"Some people still can't believe that I do comedy," Carter says. "They poke fun at me, but I tell them that when I'm rich and famous, I'll come back here in my limo."

Carter can be booked for a show by contacting (310) 745-3780.

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)