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Comedian's show is about the story, and the laughs



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Comedian Paul D'Angelo will perform Saturday at the Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main St., East Greenwich, from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

By Kali Lamparelli, Special to the Independent

Comedian Paul D'Angelo will perform at the Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main St., East Greenwich Saturday, from 8 to 9:30 p.m., and will bring his lawyer alter ego, Paul Murphy, with him.

Over the course of a decade, D'Angelo was waking up and going to work as a Boston lawyer and going home only to turn around and work his comedy routine. "Paul D'Angelo," just his stage name, was crafted out of a need to hide his comedic side from his daytime job as a lawyer.

D'Angelo spent an entire year writing comedy before he got on stage at an open mic. "I didn't give people the chance to laugh at my dream. I didn't have that option," D'Angelo said in a recent phone interview. "I was a very good lawyer, so I knew I had to be just as good or better at stand-up, right away, or I would be ridiculed into a conventional career path.

"I thank God every night that I am doing what I am doing," he added.

Most audiences would probably agree with him, even those who need a dose of humor more than anyone. From larger concert venues to smaller and more intimate gatherings, D'Angelo said, "Every night in comedy is a roller coaster."

While writing his book, "Stories I Tell: A Comic's Random Attempts to Make Some Sense Out of Nonsense," which can be purchased on Amazon, D'Angelo realized his comedic influences began in childhood through the loving and hilarious stories passed along by his father and uncle. "My father and uncle had fantastic senses of humor and passed on their wit, timing and ability to win over a crowd," he said.

Although his father and uncle had a great impact on him, D'Angelo deserves some credit. As a boy, he cut out cartoons from the funny papers. "I was reading Mad Magazine and looking at jokes in Playboy magazine...or so I told my father," he said.

At this stage in his career, D'Angelo said he has lost the ability to "tell lame jokes" and that, at the heart of each show, is the story.

"Some of my material is just done for the fun of it; a lot more of my act has a lesson about ourselves, and the world that we all live in, intertwined with the laughter."

D'Angelo has followed his comedic passion all over the world and said he has met some interesting people, but the most meaningful moments are the quiet ones, when D'Angelo gives DVDs of his comedy routine to someone who needs a good laugh.

No matter where he goes, he said, the desire to give people joy is always the same.

"Whenever I do a show, I want people to enjoy themselves, relax, laugh and forget about all the pressure and tension of their everyday lives, if only for the length of my set," D'Angelo said.

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