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Keith Lowell Jensen - Cats Made Of Rabbits

Other // Unrated // September 27, 2011 List Price: \$19.95 [Buy now and save at Amazon]

Review by <u>Rich Rosell</u> | posted October 23, 2011 | <u>E-</u> <u>mail the Author</u> | <u>Start a Discussion</u>

I wasn't sure what to make of this, considering I wasn't familiar with the comic. The cover art for this standup disc from Keith Lowell Jensen - entitled Cats Made of Rabbits - features a drawing of nude women with rabbit heads applying makeup. There are a couple of bare breasts, and to reinforce the point a blurb on the front even touts "How great is this DVD? You haven't even opened it and you've seen a bunny rabbit with boobs!" Promising, I'd say. On the back it mentions how Jensen "spews utterly sincere filth" and presents "obscenity laden" arguments and "wretched blasphemy" throughout. I'm a flagwaving atheist so that appealed to me, but it also gave me a bit of a pause, and made me think perhaps Jensen was going to go the obscenity-as-shock-value route, presenting himself as a comic who thinks it funny simply to be foul-mouthed without any actual substance to back it up.

The good news, after viewing this, is Jensen is a funny guy. I wasn't falling out of my chair, convulsed with laughter, but I liked where his topics went and the way he worked them. He has an easy, low-key delivery, and the way he works in the aforementioned "obscenity laden" content is very casual, less for shock value and more for that fact that those words fit perfectly within the context of the material. Sort of like real-life conversations. He's not



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All New Season Mondays at 8pm ET! shy about covering religion (and his own atheism), but despite the promise of "wretched blasphemy" it is really a small part of his 75-minute set, recorded in June 2009 at the Sacramento Comedy Spot. Just because a guy discusses the complexities of animal penises as an anti-Creationist concept doesn't qualify as blasphemy really, but it is pretty funny stuff.

Jensen covers familiar standup topics - call centers in India, having children - but he also ventures off that path, including a fair amount of vagina references, a fact that I only realized afterwards while reviewing my notes. Meaning it's not like that's all he talks about, but I thought it was interesting. Jensen manages to work in the theme of vaginas while covering ultrasounds, ducks and a strange dream he had about a tree; and to his credit, none of the bits are what I would consider filthy, none are alarmingly graphic, but they do focus on that part of the female anatomy and he makes the material seem less prurient and simply funny.

I'm not going to give complete recitation of Jensen's act (what's the point in that?) but rest assured that in a set covering job hunting, marijuana legalization and a wonderful atheist knockknock joke there is some genuinely entertaining material here. It's a very laid back and easy going, with Jensen seemingly comfortable working a room. That's why it seems odd that the backcover seems to want to promise a very different style of comedy.

THE DVD Video

The 1.78:1 anamorphic widescreen transfer is fair, plagued a bit by extremely soft edges and colors that come off muted. It is what it is, however, featuring a standup comedian recorded at a small comedy club, so the imperfections don't hold to the same level of criticism as the latest Hollywood blockbuster. The presentation here certainly won't 'wow' anyone, and the fact that it goes out of focus for a split second late in his set only adds to the sub-average quality.

Audio

There's one audio option, presented in a serviceable 2.0 stereo format. Not much need for anything flashier, and the mix here delivers Jensen's patter cleanly with no hiss or distortion.

Extras

Extras consist of an Interview with Keith Lowell Jensen (14m:48s), a trailer for Jensen's pan handler doc Why Lie? I Need A Drink and a television spot for his standup CD To The Moon.

Final Thoughts

Keith Lowell Jensen delivers a pretty solid 75 minute set, and even when the material didn't completely pay off I still found his delivery and stage presence extremely likeable.

Worth a rental for those who enjoy standup.

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