

comedians, Bures adds a healthy level of randomness to his jokes, taking his audience to places they'd simply never experience otherwise.

8. Gary Gulman, "No Can Defend" (<http://www.underthegunreview.net/2012/06/12/stand-up-tuesdays-gary-gulman-2/>) (June 5, [Comedy Central Records](http://www.comedycentral.com/press/series/comedycentralrecords.jhtml?gallery=true) (<http://www.comedycentral.com/press/series/comedycentralrecords.jhtml?gallery=true>))

Having had the privilege of seeing Gary Gulman perform in his home clubs throughout Boston, I can't help but think that "No Can Defend" is by far the best work the comedian's done so far. With a knack for winging it at times, the new album offers a much more focused Gulman, whose humor is a little more concise than in the past. While the comedian recently released his own Comedy Central special, "In This Economy," last month, it's the CD that stands out the most to me (which may be due, quite simply, to the repetition of some material on the special).

7. Todd Barry, "Super Crazy" (<http://www.underthegunreview.net/2012/07/24/stand-up-tuesdays-todd-barry/>) (July 24, [Comedy Central Records](http://www.comedycentral.com/press/series/comedycentralrecords.jhtml?gallery=true) (<http://www.comedycentral.com/press/series/comedycentralrecords.jhtml?gallery=true>))

There's something oddly soothing in Todd Barry's calm, understated stage presence. He's not trying to prove he's better than you in any way, rarely jumping on any ethnic or other stereotype from which to draw humor – for Barry, the low-hanging comedy fruit is his own self. "Super Crazy", which was released via Comedy Central in July, is Barry's first feature length special and is definitely one not to be missed.

6. Matt Braunger, Shovel Fighter (<http://www.underthegunreview.net/2012/08/07/stand-up-tuesdays-matt-braunger/>) (July 17, [Comedy Central Records](http://www.comedycentral.com/press/series/comedycentralrecords.jhtml?gallery=true) (<http://www.comedycentral.com/press/series/comedycentralrecords.jhtml?gallery=true>))

Braunger's one-hour Comedy Central special, Shovel Fighter, is truly a delightful romp through the often-silly mind of the Chicago native. With a carnival-like set that's complete with paintings of dancing pigs and creepy babies being tempted by sausages, "Shovel Fighter" offers up hilarious tales ranging from Jaeger-Hulks and Lonelyman dinners to trying to act like a thug on a unicycle. Braunger manages to pull off an entire special in which no one gets uncomfortable or offended, but everyone runs the risk of wetting themselves with laughter.

5. Patrice O'Neal, "Mr. P" (<http://www.underthegunreview.net/2012/02/14/stand-up-tuesdays-patrice-oneal/>) (February 7, [BSeen Media](http://bseenmedia.com/) (<http://bseenmedia.com/>))

I don't think there's anyone who would argue that comedian Patrice O'Neal was taken from us far too soon. And in what couldn't be a more fitting tribute to the late comedian, "Mr. P" was released earlier this year posthumously by BSeen Media and embodies all that made O'Neal one of the best comics of his time – his brutal honesty, cleverly scathing commentary, and his one-of-a-kind style of audience interaction. There will never be another quite like Patrice O'Neal.

4. Tom Papa, "Tom Papa: Live in New York City" (<http://www.underthegunreview.net/2012/01/10/stand-up-tuesdays-tom-papa/>) (January 10, [Comedy Central Records](http://www.comedycentral.com/press/series/comedycentralrecords.jhtml?gallery=true) (<http://www.comedycentral.com/press/series/comedycentralrecords.jhtml?gallery=true>))

The bottom line is this – Tom Papa is more than just a very funny comedian. He's not only downright hilarious, but he simply exudes comedic expertise. Having toured as Jerry Seinfeld's opener for over ten years, I'm so happy that he's been let out of his comedic cage and finally shared with the masses. "Tom Papa: Live in New York City" is exceptionally slick and stylish (naturally, considering it was directed by Rob Zombie) and gives us a polished, suited Papa who is unabashedly honest and candid about both his own personal life and society in general. Whether listening to or watching Papa, it's clear to see he's a seasoned and highly-skilled professional who has mastered stage presence and timing. It's been six years since Papa's last (and debut) [CD](http://www.amazon.com/Calm-Cool-Collected-Tom-Papa/dp/B000BPDF38/ref=sr_1_1?s=music&ie=UTF8&qid=1326148684&sr=1-1) (http://www.amazon.com/Calm-Cool-Collected-Tom-Papa/dp/B000BPDF38/ref=sr_1_1?s=music&ie=UTF8&qid=1326148684&sr=1-1), Calm, Cool & Collected – but again, I feel like he was just waiting for his moment. And lucky for us, that moment has come.

3. Eugene Mirman, "An Evening of Comedy in a Fake Underground Laboratory" (<http://www.underthegunreview.net/2012/12/11/stand-up-tuesdays-eugene-mirman/>) (December 14, [Comedy Central Records](http://www.comedycentral.com/press/series/comedycentralrecords.jhtml?gallery=true) (<http://www.comedycentral.com/press/series/comedycentralrecords.jhtml?gallery=true>))

Having been a fan of Mirman's for years, the news that the comedian would be premiering a brand-new special just before the year ends was almost enough of a Christmas present for me. "An Evening of Comedy in a Fake Underground Laboratory" features a very up-beat and energetic Mirman doling out some of the funniest material he's done to date – including some hilarious potions and elixirs Mirman created just for the special and a slew of ridiculous captions for tea party enthusiast photos. The special debuted earlier this month on Comedy