



Comedy Now! Starring Russell Peters

(VSC, 1997, 2003) w/ Peters. Rating: **NNNN**

If you've got any sort of video recorder and don't mind the commercials, then neither of these issues is particularly necessary. Indeed, if you taped the Anderson roast off the Comedy Channel a couple of weeks back, you've got the uncensored version; given the language (obscene) and content (likewise), the U.S. version must have run about 20 minutes.

Anderson agreed to be roasted for a large donation to PETA, but the various comics involved quickly realized something: sex tape, breasts, dating mediocre rock stars, Tommy Lee's dick - that's all there is. Courtney Love is actually funnier than most of the comics - though Sarah Silverman and Jeffrey Ross have their moments. Her material isn't off-the-rack and she's completely self-mocking.

The way to do this right is the Comedy Central Dennis Leary Roast, also on DVD. It's mostly that posse of Boston comics who have known Leary and one another for decades, and when you insult Leary, you know he's going to get his rebuttal at the end. Anderson has some jokes written for her, and she can't deliver them.

The VSC release of Russell Peters's two appearances on Comedy Now!, however, are gems. Peters is Canada's leading South Asian comic, and he's hilariously sharp. There are more genuine laughs in any 10 minutes of his shows than in the whole 80 minutes of the Anderson roast. If you don't want to wait for the reruns, this is worth grabbing. And it's inexpensive.

Extras: Peters: none. Anderson: "rehearsal" footage, outtakes, interviews