

The Apiary

August 03, 2005

Inside With: Jeff Solomon, musician and member of the sketch group, Elephant Larry

Jeff Solomon is already familiar to comedy fans as a writer/actor/musician for the award-winning [Elephant Larry](#), whose current show, "BOOM," has sold out every performance for the last three months at [The P.I.T.](#) The New York Times recently called E.L. "a hilarious multimedia mix of the deadpan and the maniacal." [Elephant Larry's](#) act, which often showcases Solomon's musical efforts, have won acclaim from the mainstream press and indie critics alike. Now, Solomon is aiming to score similar success with his first legit album.



BOOM has been running for a long, long time--it's like the Cats of comedy. Is it the same show every week? Or do you add in new sketches?

Boom has been running since April! It's far and away the longest-term project that Elephant Larry has ever done. It started off being the same show every week, when we had only planned to run the show for a limited time. Once the show started getting extended, which has been happening a few weeks at a time, we realized that this was not going to be anything like our previous shows, which always had short runs and featured the same material. We realized that our writing process would have to evolve to fit the long-term nature of BOOM. So now, we're cycling all different kinds of material in and out of the show: we're writing new sketches and trying them out, we're giving a few older sketches a quick polish and restaging 'em, and slowly, the show is becoming something entirely new for us. We're hoping that every month or so, people will come back and see a different show from what they saw previously.

Always been curious about this--what is your guys' relationship with The Onion? You're sponsored by them!

They're continuing to sponsor us for BOOM, which is terrific (and occasionally results in free beer for our audiences!). We've got a great working relationship with them, largely coming from us having advertised with The Onion in the past. They don't exercise any kind of creative control on the show or anything, we just work with them for marketing and PR purposes. It's great to be associated with them; we love their writing and sensibility.

Does the rest of Elephant Larry know that you're moonlighting as a musician?

Oh, yeah, they know all about the music stuff. We all went to college together, and music composition was my major there.

And we heard you're having a release party TONIGHT for a new album. Is it a comedy CD?

The new EP isn't a comedy record; it's kinda quirky singer/songwriter stuff. I try to explore my song subjects in similar ways that someone writing a sketch will explore a plotline or character development. In both formats, you've got a very limited space to explain a situation or relationship. The challenge is the same for me in either form of writing: to say what you need to say in an efficient, timely manner, while still giving your characters room to breathe and interact naturally. The exact problems and solutions are different every time. I really enjoy writing and producing songs for Elephant Larry shows, but it's also nice to be able to explore some more personal areas that I don't necessarily feel like joking about.

What do you say to people who try to pigeonhole you as just a "sketch comedian" or just a "skilled musician"?

Since songs have always been a part of Elephant Larry shows to some degree, I think people get the feeling that music and comedy are both my thing. But I've also been writing songs since I was 15. 10, if you count a couple of REALLY bad songs. I'd be happy to be pigeonholed as either.

Kinda like the US Weekly of NYC comedy. We are The Apiary. Submit stories, thoughts, or some buzz to: theapiary@gmail.com

The Weekly Buzzer



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Which is more gratifying--playing a song for someone or making someone laugh?
Sometimes I get to do both, which ROCKS! Honestly, they're both ways of connecting with people, and that's really what matters most to me.

Jeff Solomon is hosting a release party tonight @ [The Living Room](#) at 8PM for his EP titled "Around the Square." [Elephant Larry](#) performs Saturdays at [The P.I.T.](#)

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August 02, 2005

Doorstopper - Chris Elliott & Adam Resnick @ The Onion's Presentation of *Cabin Boy* - 7.28.05

By: Keith Huang



Last Thursday, The Onion hosted a screening of "Cabin Boy," a poorly received "salty-slapstick" feature film that was written, conceived and directed by [Chris Elliott](#) and [Adam Resnick](#), the two-man comedy writing team also responsible for the early '90s Fox sitcom "Get a Life." More than 100 people turned up for the film.

After the screening, Elliott and Resnick participated in a Q&A and also hung out with fans to answer questions, receive praise and sign posters and DVDs. One moviegoer handed a cellphone to Elliott to say hi to his buddy. Indeed, Elliott and Resnick

were all too glad to chat.

What was your reaction when, in the middle of July, the Onion asked you to host a Q&A to follow a screening of "Cabin Boy"?

ADAM RESNICK: "When I got the call my reaction was 'No way,' and I called Chris and he said 'No way,' as well. But seriously, tonight while I was walking up here, I thought, 'No one will show up.' And secondly, the ones that do show up are just going to be hostile and bust our balls. So what do we need that shit for? But then, in the end, I talked to these guys [from the Onion] and they said it won't be like that. So then I convinced Chris maybe it'll be something nice. If it turns out to be ugly then we'll just walk off."

CHRIS ELLIOTT: "Adam asked me about it, and I said, 'Sure,' but then I thought it could turn out to be one of those things where just a few people show up, but he said, 'Man, what the fuck. Let's just do it.'"

So what do you think about The Late Show today? And Conan O'Brien?

CHRIS ELLIOTT: "I think it's great Conan's going to Los Angeles. I think it's great he's doing the Tonight Show, and I think Dave will go as long as he wants -- could go as long as he wants. It's still, to me, the funniest show on the air. It's totally different than when I was there, but whenever I'm asked to compare ["The Late Show With David Letterman"] to other shows, you can't. You can't compare Leno or anything else to it. Dave is it. ... Conan brings his own audiences. But Dave is sort of old school. And there's a lot to be said for that. People still miss Johnny Carson, but I think Dave will go as long as he wants to."

Keith Huang is a regular contributor to [Gelf Magazine](#), where he plans to publish an in-depth article about the "Cabin Boy" and "Get a Life" event very soon. Also, if you create comedy, he really wants to interview you (keith@gelfmagazine.com).

Previously:

[Doorstopper with Demetri Martin](#)

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August 01, 2005

Exclusive SNL Sketch Writing Class For Women Set to Commence

We spotted an astounding opportunity out there for any females who've ever dreamt of writing for Saturday Night Live.

