

THE STAR
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SIDEBAR - WORDS of ADVICE

By Karin Grennan
Staff Writer

"Don't practice jokes on your friends, saying "Is this funny?" It destroys the surprise that would make an audience laugh."

---Barb North, Woodland Hills comedian and teacher

"Memorize every setup and punch line in your act and link them together in your mind, so one joke always leads you to another and you can concentrate on your comedic character. The final set of jokes, or "hunk," is the most important to know. If you lose your place, you can always jump to the end, what North calls "pulling the rip cord."

---Steve North, Woodland Hills comedian and teacher

"Take comedy classes. Coaches can teach you to begin and end a routine, set up jokes and help you pull funny experiences from your life. They also can help you get jobs. 'You're a business. You must invest in yourself.'"

---Chris Pippins, Northridge comedian