

# COMEDY MOMENTS

## **My Top 5 Comedians & why I chose them.**

A big Mine Field ' me. Sorting 5 is difficult. As a child I quickly found being funny a good defence against the school bullies, as being the fat kid I was a prime target.

So as a child I was drawn to the more slapstick side of comedy , Laurel & Hardy, Will Hay , Norman Wisdom ,the Marx Brothers & George Formby among my favourites. Out of these I would still add one of these to my top 5, but not for the reason I originally liked him. This would be Groucho Marx, not for his slapstick ,but for his quick, cutting wit. I must recommend a scene from the film A Day At The Races ,put into u tube 'tootsie frootsie' ,still so funny.

Through the sixties, seventies and eighties is there are obvious choices including Morcombe & Wise, The Ronnies, les Dawson ,Freddie Starr, Spike Milligan ,I could go on. But at this time I would always look forward to see who was top of the bill on Sunday Night at the London Palladium. Only to be disappointed if it was Jack Benny. However as I have got older & my idea about what is funny has changed & I am now going to put him in my top 5. Despite at this time I can remember crying with laughter when I first saw Les Dawson play piano out of tune. Also at this time I went to see Max Wall in his one man shows & he was my hero.

Another Comedian, who was before my time & that I have liked since I was a teenager As I found an Old 78' at a jumble sale is Max Miller. From the audio of his concerts you get a feel of a confident man who had the audience in his pocket. Sadly there is no real footage of his live performances other than the audio. If you go on u tube there is what appears to be a live performance, but it is a clip from a film he did called 'hoots mon'. Nothing like the real magic. A number of years ago I had a friend who at that time was in his eighties & when he found out I had the audio he couldn't wait for me to bring them round for him to have a listen. He couldn't control the laughter at the memory of when he used to take his wife to the Finsbury Park Empire to see his hero. He said when they arrived the queue would go all the way round the theatre. The laughter would start before Miller came on stage. His intro tune 'Mary from the dairy' was enough .

Now I am hitting the problem of the 4 th & 5th.

Then there is early radio Round the horn, Jimmy Clitheroe, ITMA, The Navy Lark, The Goons and my favourite Tony Hancock.

Through the 90s onward I have enjoyed Eddie Izzard, Jo Brand, Paul Merton.

And more recent favs of mine the controversial Ricky Gervaise, his side kick Karl Pilkinton , Noel Fielding & the German comedian Henning Wehn .

But for my other two, 4th & 5th ,I am going to dig another from the past, Rob Wilton. & the other go for more of a film character than overall comedian, I am going to pick Mike Myers (As Austin Powers). The reason I cannot leave him out is no matter how many times I watch him it always brings a smile. This was a film I couldn't make head nor tail of at first & then the humour hits you. Big pee take of 60 films ,James Bond movies in particular.

So here is my re cap & hope others are interested enough to give me theirs.

- 1...Groucho Marx(the sharp caustic wit)
- 2...Jack Benny(the dry humour & clever looks to camera)
- 3....max Miller(total command of an audience)
- 4....Rob Wilton(crafted performances ,clever hand to face & ridiculous scenarios)

I am glad to say quite a few people did reply to this piece & although I am leaving my original thoughts as above I see a few names I had not considered. One of Sams , Phil Silvers for one. Great choice. Ronnie Barker a comic & character acting genius. The character Fletcher in Porridge is not Ron Barker ,he's my Dad.