



## Ingredients for a perfect comedy club!

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Use this checklist when you put on your own comedy show. And if you build a club from this list, I would like to be the first to work there, haha. Feel free to add your “musts” as well and let me know what they are. Send your updates to [schooloflaughs@gmail.com](mailto:schooloflaughs@gmail.com) and we will mention it in a future podcast or post. Thanks for listening!

**Floors:** Tile, wood or concrete helps the sound bounce and makes the room sound more alive.

**Ceilings:** Low. Don’t let the laughs drift up for thirty feet. Keep them in the room and where the comics can feed off of them!

**Stage:** No more than a foot off the ground unless absolutely necessary. Making the front three rows crane their necks to watch a show for ninety minutes never works.

Keep the stage bare except for a stool and the microphone / stand.

*Avoid* a busy backdrop sloppily painted and annoying to the customer.

**Microphone:** Keep it simple, have two wired Shure SM-58 microphones (no off switch) on stands at the comics disposal. Second stand should be off stage but ready in case of problems with the primary microphone.

*Avoid* wireless microphones at all costs. The constantly faltering batteries and signal interference creates nothing but a hiccup in the show.

**Lights:** Bright, white LED lights from the ceiling in the middle of the room creating a nice “wash” across the stage. Don’t put Par 38s on a rack directly above the comedian on the stage. This creates a blinding, hot mess of a space for performers.

**Seats:** Two seats to a table, up as close as you can get them to the stage. Don’t put a long aisle down the middle of the room it will divide the audience.

**Seating:** As guests arrive seat them in the front row and work your way back. I know the wait staff is divided into sections of the room, but when you don’t seat the front row you are building in an unnecessary, energy eating buffer for the comedian to work past.

**Show Room Set-Up:** In a best case scenario the showroom is it’s own area. The bar and kitchen should be separated by a wall and doors. Exits for the bathroom should be in the back of the room furthest from the stage. In a perfect world, the showroom would have a separate exit that allows for the customers to flow back into the bar area without them having to swim upstream past the guests waiting for the second show. In this area would be a table, good lighting and space for comedians to set up their merchandise.

**Parking:** Ideally, the club is located in a busy, high traffic area of town that has plenty of parking at night. A shopping center where most of the businesses close by eight o’clock p.m. is perfect as parking becomes abundant when needed most.

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