



This Kooky Comic Is No Joke

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Here's why you tend to believe 6-foot-tall, blonde comic Harriet Halloway is going to be as famous as she envisions. She's easy on the eyes. She uses her physicality in her act. She holds back nothing -- truth, truth, truth. There's some zany and kooky going on, but it shouldn't be mistaken for air-headed. Not by a long shot.

The woman has presence, period.

During a short bit at the famed Gotham [Comedy Club](#) in New York City recently, she was a standout among a terrific and courageous group of entertainers.

"French guys so like what I'm selling here," she said, motioning to her whole body. "Big girl, lots of cleavage and a frown."

That drew a big laugh, as much of her dating material does. But as is so often the case in these times of Web sites, blogs and social media, there are many ways to get a dose of Halloway. The more you delve into her various modes of expression, a very real picture emerges.

"Like I slept with a guy from Finland the other day," she writes on her blog. "He never called me again, guess he was finished." Sex is out there. Cornball is out there. The tagline on the blog tells the reader what she's in for: Harriet Halloway is a comic based in NYC. She is hungry.

Hungry for love, hungry for fame, hungry for ribs. That sums up this woman so well. Why wouldn't her stuff have wide appeal if she's going to be scathingly honest about her desire for love, attention and food? You can just hear her fans' thoughts as they read or watch her act – "Me, too, Harriet. Me, too. Bring us more."

"The funniest place you can be is in a struggle," Halloway said in our recent interview.

Some keen wisdom for a woman in her 20s, but she's no ordinary woman in her 20s. She says she was always in a rush to grow up, felt like she had "shackles" on her and – with prime access because she was raised in New York City -- was working in the burlesque scene since age 15. A self-described "wild child" whose work has run the gamut from bartender to go-go girl, she was fired from her job managing a bar last December and has vowed to never work in a bar again.

Now it's all about Harriet, front and center. On stage. On [film](#). On her blog. On Twitter.

"Barely," she said when I asked if she's making a living. "There are good months and bad months. It fluctuates completely."

Still, she is confident getting fired was the best thing that could have happened. Kind of in the way many of my life coaching clients come to realize losing their jobs sometimes is just the push they need to make something better happen. In Halloway's case, there is a plan.

"I want to make television history," she said. "I want to change TV in some way. I am a great funny lady and there's no reason why everyone else shouldn't know it. I love entertaining people. I'm miserable when I don't do it. It's my Prozac."

Halloway is classically trained, has studied Shakespeare and continues to study acting. Heavily influenced by [comedic](#) giants Lucille Ball and Carol Burnett, she knew from the first moment she went on stage to emcee a burlesque show that this was something special.

"I was a burlesque dancer," she said. "Probably the only one the club owner told to get dressed because I was funny."

Six years ago marked the first time she did standup with her own material and she knew that was what she was supposed to be doing.

"It's the ultimate form of communicating," she said. "You get something really tangible from an audience. They're either laughing or not. It's like a tennis match."

Still, Halloway's love of scripts and translating someone else's words makes film another enjoyable form of expression. She plays a supporting lead role in an in-production independent film called *The Louisiana Conversation*.

"It's a horror [movie](#), a vampire movie," she said. "It's scary and disturbing. It's also a love story about women who are in love with women. It's about New York, how scary the city can be, how scary love can be. When you think of a horror movie, you think cheesy, big-busted blonde running through the woods."

"I'm the big-busted blonde," she added with a laugh. "But it wasn't cheesy. It's beautiful. I'm excited about it."

Halloway is also excited about Tweet-ing because "it's just like whatever ridiculous thing is going on in my mind" and – even though she hates the writing process -- blogging because she gets so much thoughtful feedback. There is a content warning on her blog, mostly because of that whole truth habit she has.

Her recent quest to lose weight and share the journey with her readers came with frank full-body photos of her showing her problem areas while wearing a bikini. There is mascara running down her face. It's not pretty. What girl does that?

"I'm a believer that what makes you dark makes you light," Halloway said. "I'm very excessive. I eat big, I drink big, I work hard, I play hard and I'm good in the sack."

I don't think she was joking.

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