

Myq Takes the Mic



Alum's fight to be the last comic standing ends in final round

LAST SUMMER COMEDIAN Myq Kaplan faced the biggest audience of his career: 5 million viewers tuned in to see which of the 10 finalists on NBC's hit reality comedy competition *Last Comic Standing* would survive.

"Not knowing what would happen was nerve-wracking," says Kaplan (GRS'09). "My performance got a great response, but it's easy to second-guess yourself." His stress gave way to elation when he found out he'd been voted on to the next round. Three weeks later, Kaplan was eliminated in the final round.

Kaplan describes his comedy as "cerebral and wordy." He often draws on his own life for inspiration. References to his vegan diet, his liberal political views, and his thoughts

on religion pop up frequently in his monologues. And sometimes, the joke is just a random thought: "When I die, I want to have my remains scattered over a beautiful park. I don't want to be cremated, though."

As a BU graduate student, Kaplan studied linguistics, an interest that complemented his passion for writing and performing comedy.

"They spring from the same well: a love for language, communication, semantics, and humor," he says. Wordplay permeates his jokes ("Many rap albums contain a warning on their covers: 'May include explicit lyrics.' If I ever write a rap album, I'll have a warning for implicit lyrics. My lyrics are going to be like: 'You know what I'm going to do. Use your imagination.'") and even his adopted moniker. Inspired by



Myq Kaplan (GRS'09) and other finalists from *Last Comic Standing* are touring the nation through February.

ROBIN BERGHAUS

WEBEXTRA
Comedian Myq Kaplan performs a set and discusses what it's like to write and perform comedy at bu.edu/bostonia.

pop star Prince and his various name permutations, Kaplan changed the spelling of his name from "Mike" to "Myk" and finally to "Myq."

During his eight years at BU, Kaplan worked as a senior resident assistant. The security of free room and board allowed him to hone his art. In 2008, he moved to New York to become a full-time comedian.

Kaplan paid his dues opening for other comedians under "bringer crowd" conditions, where comedians guarantee to bring 10 to 15 paying friends who also promise to buy drinks. Since then, he's commanded laughs at famous venues such as Caroline's on Broadway, headlined a special on *Comedy Central Presents*, and even appeared on *The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien*.

But arguably the most important gig of Kaplan's career was his role as a finalist on season seven of *Last Comic Standing*.

Newfound fame has also meant more recognition by fans. Walking through Park Slope in Brooklyn recently, Kaplan heard someone in a garbage truck yell out, "Is that Myq from *Last Comic Standing*?" Kaplan acknowledged, and the worker cheered, "Good sh—!"

Kaplan admits it feels weird to be saluted by strangers, but he enjoys the support; it's a welcome development for a man who once only dreamed of having an audience.

ROBIN BERGHAUS

The Conditioner

Glenn Harris helps varsity athletes become all that they can be

THE THIRD FLOOR of 300 Babcock Street is a cacophony of clanking metal, echoing voices and grunts, and speakers throbbing with rap music. In the 12,000-square-foot gym and weight room, members of the men's varsity hoops squad are short-sprinting under the watchful gaze of BU's strength and conditioning head coach Glenn Harris.

"He's got the shoes, he's got the shoes," Harris shouts



Glenn Harris works with Rachel Collins (CAS'11), a member of the Terrier lacrosse team.

CHITOSE SUZUKI

as guard Matt Griffin (SMG'12) sprints 10 yards, stops on a dime, and sprints back.

NCAA regulations prevent varsity student-athletes from contact with their head coaches during much of the off-season, but Harris, who is not a team coach, and his staff are on hand year-round to keep players in top shape.

The fitness guru, who has run BU's strength and conditioning program since 1997, helps de-