



Carol Leifer

As a young girl growing up in Long Island, Leifer became enamored with the art of comedy and began doing stand-up as a theater student at Binghamton University, where she dated fellow comic Paul Reiser. As an emerging comic in the fruitful late 1970s, Leifer became a bit of a trailblazer as stand-up comedy was still relatively uncharted territory for women and male comics were not always accepting of their female counterparts.

Around that time, Leifer met another comic, Jerry Seinfeld, who happened to be the emcee that night and would prove to be an important person in her life. While doing a routine at the Comedy Strip, David Letterman unexpectedly showed up and caught one of her performances which led to 25 appearances by Leifer on "Late Night with David Letterman" (NBC, 1982-1993) and numerous other guest appearances on NBC's "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" (1962-1992), "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" (NBC, 1992- 2009), and other top-rated nighttime and daytime talk shows.

As a stand-up comedian, Leifer dished out clean jokes that consisted mainly of her observations of life's absurdities and relationship issues. Unlike lesser comedians who could not get past the usual comedic fare - such as making fun of their own looks or racial and gender stereotypes - Leifer was an original. She never belittled herself or the opposite sex.

While Leifer became known for her stand-up routines, she was also a writer of many hit shows including the long-running sketch comedy "Saturday Night Live," wrote and co-produced the late night fictional talk show "The Larry Sanders Show" (HBO, 1992-98), and created the short-lived "The Ellen Show" (CBS, 2001-02), starring Ellen DeGeneres as a former Internet executive trying to adjust to small-town living. She also wrote scripts for the award-winning comedy "Seinfeld," starring her real-life ex-boyfriend as a neurotic New York comic saddled with three equally if not more neurotic friends played by Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Michael Richards and Jason Alexander. Leifer inspired and created some of Elaine's funniest and most authentic moments such as the Barney's "skinny mirrors" skit, where she bought a dress on sale at Barney's because it looked great on in their mirrors but not wearing it anywhere else.

In 2007, Leifer went back behind-the-scenes as producer and writer of the comedy "Rules of Engagement" (CBS, 2007-), which followed the lives of two couples and their single friend as they dealt with marriage, dating and commitment issues. In 2009, Leifer released *When You Lie About Your Age, the Terrorists Win*, a collection of humorous essays about life after 40, and most importantly, the moment she discovered that she was gay and how her life changed for the better after coming to terms with her sexuality.

Leifer, who had previously been married to writer Ritch Shydner, came out when she was 40 years old and began a long-term relationship with real estate agent Lori Wolf, with whom she adopted a three-year-old son, Bruno, in 2006. In 2009, she humorously announced that she had gone vegan because she felt that as a Jewish lesbian, she was not part of a small enough minority.

In 2010, inspired by her fellow Jewish comedienne Joan River's season two win, Leifer joined the cast members of NBC's reality competition series, "Celebrity Apprentice," which featured well-known contestants competing in grueling business tasks around New York City to raise money for their favorite charities. Her latest bestselling book, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Crying* is part memoir, part guide book on getting ahead in the show-biz world and laugh out loud fun.

Speech Topics

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Crying

Based on her April 2014 bestseller, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Crying*, Carol Leifer discusses her extraordinary three-decade journey through show business, illuminating her many triumphs and some missteps along the way. In a presentation that is a perfect blend of comedy and mentorship, Leifer offers valuable lessons and shares her secrets for success with her witty and hilarious how-to guide for everyone: College graduates just breaking into the job market, women who find themselves frustrated by the "glass ceiling" and for anybody who wants a bigger and better career now. Using priceless insight, she provides audiences with tips and tricks for getting ahead, finding your way and opening locked doors.

Comedy Workshop with Carol Leifer

Have you dreamed of becoming a comedy writer, either as a hobby or a profession? Do you think your company, organization, or students could benefit from an infusion of humor in presentations and seminars?

Then four-time Emmy nominee and best-selling author Carol Leifer is perfect for your group! Book her now for her critically acclaimed writer's workshop.

You will learn:

- The basics of joke writing and personal essay writing from the woman who's written for Billy Crystal, Ellen DeGeneres, Chris Rock, Steve Martin, Alec Baldwin, and Whoopi Goldberg
- What makes a funny idea for an episode of a sitcom
- The behind-the-scenes stories of triumph and tragedy from the woman who's written for Seinfeld, Saturday Night Live, and Modern Family
- Never-before-shared secrets of breaking into the business
- The art of "pitching" your comedy ideas - in work and everyday life
- You'll even have the chance to get up on stage and read your joke or personal essay in front of Carol Leifer for on-the-spot encouragement and direction. By bringing simple exercises to her workshops, Leifer unleashes the funny power that lies in everyone!

When You Lie About Your Age, the Terrorists Win: Reflections on Looking in the Mirror

Coming Out: The Guts, the Glory, the Grief

How to Handle Everything with the Key Ingredient of Humor

Life, Work & Staying Sane: How Women Find Balance in Today's Chaos

Laughter Really Is the Best Medicine: How Humor Makes You Healthier, Reduces Stress & Helps You Be a Peak Performer