

If there's a joke, there's a way

Orland Park resident pursues comedic profession

CLARE LANE, Assistant Editor

While Ramzy Sweis has been living in Orland Park since 1997, he only recently began pursuing his love for comedy through performing stand up over the last several years.

"I'm referred to as a comic's comic," Sweis said. "The reason why I got into comedy is because I don't think comedy should have a price. I knew I was the best and I knew I could be the best because I know what makes people laugh."

Since 2010, Sweis has been hitting stages across the southwest suburbs, Chicago's city limits, as well as faraway destinations like Puerto Rico.

"I live, breathe and sleep my jokes, and I've done two shows a month for the last couple of years," the comedian said. "Before a show I would make several copies of jokes and hang them up all over my office, in my car, or slide copies in my suitcase. I'd practice with whoever would listen."

Sweis became more known throughout the local comedic circuit through his "I never repeat a joke," sketch and mentality. Although he said he hasn't quite established a large following, he keeps performing and posting videos to his YouTube channel, Facebook fan page and www.funnyordie.com.

For the most part, Sweis said his comedy is family friendly, and he never insults anyone else while on stage. Despite his wholesome material, he was sought out by representatives from funnyordie.com, which is owned



Orland resident and comedian Ramzy Sweis tells jokes on stage at a recent show. PHOTO SUBMITTED

by famed funny man Will Ferrell, to be considered for the site's homepage video.

"I did a show in front of 200 people and uploaded it on Funny or Die," he said. "I got emailed by them [saying] it was amazing work and I was nominated for the homepage consideration. Then they asked me if I could do a compilation video."

According to Sweis, he also recently made a Barack Obama compilation video, which boasts a somewhat local joke referencing Baraco's in Orland.

"There's a pizza place Barack Obama started," the joke starts, "Its called Baracos."

In reference to this specific joke, as well as most of his other material, Sweis said he tries to be respectful and not to press any buttons.

Despite this nice-enough approach, Sweis has still had to deal with tough critics, although he said it's what helps him grow stronger and more successful as a comedian.

"You have to take it with a grain of salt," he said. "I just know what's being delivered [and] I know it's going to be hilarious, and if I'm the only one that's laughing,

that's OK."

With one of Sweis's YouTube videos boasting more than 620,000 views, and his continued effort to quite literally never repeat a joke, he said he feels accepted not only by viewers, but by other comedians in the industry as well.

For Sweis, his comedic future seems bright and he is looking forward to continuing making jokes on stages where ever there is an opportunity.

"Eventually I want to get a TV contract, and hire comedians and have [them] come on my show," he said. "That's a lot more enjoyable for me, just to see other comedians."

Until that point, he recommends the art of joke telling to anyone willing to give it a go.

"I highly recommend for people to go out there and tell jokes because at the end of the day you are just there to make people happy," Sweis said. "It's a proven fact [that] if you make someone happy, you are going to be happy."

For more information about Sweis, visit www.Ramzysweis.com or [Facebook.com/RamzySweis](https://www.facebook.com/RamzySweis).