

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Mock Stars

Indie Comedy and the Dangerously Funny

John Wenzel



Cutting edge stand-up comedy is NOT dead. It just might be some place you hadn't thought to look.

Mock Stars presents an insider's view of the evolution of indie comedy.

Denver, CO (9/9/2008)—Comedians have lately been touring with indie rockers, releasing comedy CDs on music labels, performing in dive bars and at music festivals. But at one point, stand-up comedy was defined purely by the traditional comedy club. This format presented a host of problems and limitations to the comedians who wanted more creative control and room to experiment. These were the comedians who ultimately took cues from the alt-comedy revolution of the '90s and forged the indie comedy scene.

In his new book, *Mock Stars*, entertainment writer John Wenzel defines indie comedy and outlines its evolution and the major players.

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FULCRUM PUBLISHING,
explores cultures and subcultures
through nonfiction books.

Mock Stars covers:

- The pairing of comedy and music
- The definition of indie comedy
- In-depth interviews with contemporary comedic greats, including David Cross, Patton Oswalt, Brian Posehn, Maria Bamford, Neil Hamburger, and others
- Candid thoughts from musicians and comedy writers, including Aimee Mann, Fred Armisen, Bob Mould, Andrew Earles, Tom Scharpling, Aziz Ansari, and more
- The best alternative comedy tours, venues, and troupes
- Groundbreaking sketch comedy acts

“Comics really love music and musicians, and they all probably want to be rock stars. And when musicians are sick of music, they always go to the one thing that they can't do.”

—Aimee Mann, musician

“Eighty percent of the audiences that come to see me at rock venues would not have gone to see me at comedy clubs. It just makes sense because there's so much overlap between underground music and comedy.”

—David Cross, comedian



John Wenzel grew up in Dayton, Ohio, where he spent far too much time being obsessed with Guided By Voices. He has written for websites and magazines such as *Rockpile*, *Shredding Paper*, and *Aversion.com*, and from 1997 to 2005 coedited and published *Sponic* fanzine. He currently writes about music, comedy, and new media for *The Denver Post* and lives in Denver's Capitol Hill neighborhood.

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For more information on *Mock Stars*, please visit www.speckpress.com.

Author photo by Nina Barry.