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Chicano Impact on U.S. Comedy

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Chicanos and Their Impact in U.S. Comedy

By John W-C

Synopsis

- This presentation will give a brief history of Chicanos in comedy
- It will also spotlight some of the most famous and impactful Chicano comedians
- Racial stereotypes within comedy routines will be discussed
- Finally, I will analyze the impact these comedians have in U.S. culture

Early History of Chicano Comedy

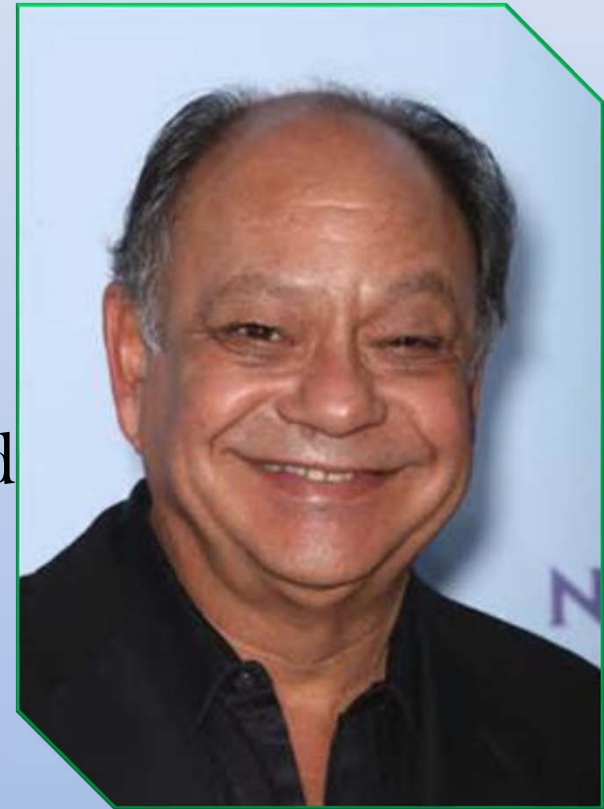
- Films originally portrayed Chicanos as thieves, bandits, savages, gangsters, or the helpless in need of Anglo assistance
- Because of discrimination, Chicanos didn't get the opportunity to exercise their comedy
- The first Chicano to break mainstream was "Cheech" Marin in his 1978 film, *Cheech and Chong: Up In Smoke*

Emergence of Chicanos in Comedy

- After Marin, other comedians began to earn recognition, either as stand-up comedians, or actors
- Paul Rodriguez emerged in the late 1980's as a sitcom star and host of the *Newlywed Game*
- George Lopez's popular T.V. sitcom on ABC
- Comedy Central began offering and televising stand-up specials to Chicano and Latino comedians
- Gabriel Iglesias gaining popularity in stand-up, as well as movies and television

Richard “Cheech” Marin

- Born in Los Angeles, CA
- Of Mexican decent
- *Cheech and Chong: Up In Smoke* (1978)
- Has appeared in many movies and is a well respected celebrity
- Famous for his stoner comedy as well as some Latino humor



George Lopez

- Born in Los Angeles
- Of Mexican decent
- Got his start on L.A. radio in the 1999
- George Lopez (2002-07)
Lopez Tonight (2009-11)
Saint George (2014-)
- Known for his racial and family humor
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejiGSmxQaQE>



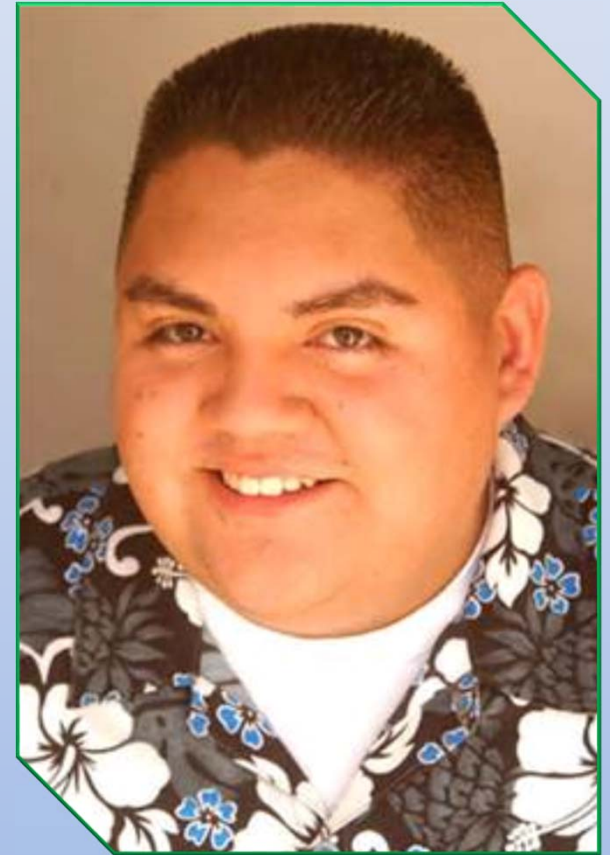
Carlos Mencia

- Born in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Raised in Los Angeles, CA
- Career started as stand-up comedian
- *Mind of Mencia*
(2006-08)
- Known for his crude racial and everyday life humor



Gabriel Iglesias

- Born in San Diego, CA
- Of Mexican descent
- Known for his Hawaiian shirts, sound effects, and storytelling
- Humor appeals to a wider audience
- Routine discusses obesity, race, as well as everyday life
- Appearances in movies and T.V.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owLoCNJodn8>



Issues Among Chicano Comedians

- Racism is addressed as a popular topic in routines
- Many comics make light of stereotypes, dispelling them in some cases, and encouraging them in others
- Some aspects of Chicano culture are brought about in a negative light

Impact and Effects

- Regardless of culture or race, humor is transcendent
- Can be used as a tool to inform and introduce in a more casual, friendly environment
- Overall, Chicanos earn recognition and respect.
- In some cases, there is a negative effect because of racism and stereotypes

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Thank You