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## Call Answered: Brad Zimmerman: My Son The Waiter, A Jewish Tragedy at Bucks County Playhouse

Monday, March 6, 2017 at 9:50PM



Brad Zimmerman I first heard about Brad Zimmerman's show *My Son The Waiter, A Jewish Tragedy* when it had it's New York run here in 2014, but never got to see it. I'm so grateful for second chances because when I called, Brad answered. *My Son The Waiter, A Jewish Tragedy* is the hilarious and inspiring story about the grit & passion it takes to "make it" as an artist & the sweet rewards that come from never giving up! If you ever longed for something, if you ever desired it with all your heart, if you were willing to wait tables for 29 years to pursue your dream then *My Son The Waiter* will give meaning to your life!

*My Son The Waiter, A Jewish Tragedy* will be heading to **Bucks County Playhouse** from **March 23-April 9**. [Click here for tickets!](#)

For more on *My Son The Waiter, A Jewish Tragedy* be sure to visit <http://www.mysonthewaiter.com> and follow the show on **Facebook** and **Instagram!**

For more on Bucks County Playhouse visit <http://bcptheater.org> and follow them on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **Instagram!**



1. **This spring you are bringing your one-man show *My Son The Waiter, A Jewish Tragedy* to Bucks County Playhouse. What made now the right time to go back on tour with this show?** I began the tour in 2014 in Phoenix. I think that with a few exceptions the show has really resonated both artistically and financially all over the country. The experience of doing it in a theatre rich area of the country one hour and 30 minutes from where I live is sublime. There is really no wrong time to do a tour of a show like this that is real, authentic and very very funny...it has a message that if you are willing to pay a price, and believe me, I have, that life can be extremely rewarding and meaningful. That is how I now feel about my life so I'm sharing that knowledge with audiences all over the country. And its universal...not just for Jews..but for anyone who wants to find purpose or desires to lead a rich life.

2. **What are you looking forward to most about performing it at Bucks County Playhouse?** I love the area of Bucks County...I grew up in New Jersey so Bucks County is just across the river. It is rich in both culture and the town is so artsy and beautiful and the theatre is legendary. I know I'll be taken care of by the wonderful people who really know what I need...that makes me feel in really good hands..wow!!! And I love the Northeast more than anything. I have so many people who I know in Jersey and Philadelphia who want to see it, some of whom I went to camp with in the Poconos so it should be a sublime experience...all I need is a Starbucks, a gym and a nice Jewish lady who enjoys loaning money.



Brad Zimmerman in "My Son The Waiter, A Jewish Tragedy"  
3. ***My Son The Waiter, A Jewish Tragedy* is your hilarious and inspiring story about the grit and passion required to 'make it' as an artist and the sweet rewards that come from never giving up on your dream. When did you realize you had a story that could be told in a show format?** In 2005 I was approached by a friend who said he would produce a one person show should I ever have the desire. So I began work on the show in 2005. Its been an evolution...I didnt know right away that my story would resonate for so many people...I think my growth as an artist combined with my realization along this journey that my life was devoted to mastering a craft made me over the years feel like the story could resonate for so many people who have not found themselves...have not found what they were meant to do. That is the hardest thing in life, to find what you were born to do...if you have a little determination and are willing to really commit to getting the most out of your ability, the rewards can be truly remarkable and I'm not talking about financially. I'm talking about success on a much deeper level...which is the best kind of success...so I think it wasnt until a year ago, after working on the show for a decade or more, that I became aware

in part due to the audiences response that I had a show that really inspired people and made them think and in some cases to reassess their own lives (break).



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**4. In creating this show, what did you learn about yourself that you didn't realize living through it?** The answer to this question is somewhat similar to question three. I learned that practice does make perfect...I never improved in sports and I was a truly great athlete, but I never improved because I never practiced...I took up acting and I wasn't nearly as gifted at acting as I was at hitting a baseball...but the challenge of trying to get great obviously had meaning for me...as my therapist once said to me. "You have only been inspired by the best. You have never been inspired by competence." Truer words were never spoken. I also learned that I love connecting...that is everything in art...really making the attempt to connect with the audience...to really talk TO THEM...I also learned that each human being is possessed of genius...in so many ways...we just have to be willing to pay the price to tap into it...(paycheck)

**5. You spent 29 years waiting tables while pursuing your dream of becoming an actor. How many times during those 29 years did you consider giving up? What kept you going each time?** What ultimately kept me going more than anything was that underneath the self doubt and the lack of confidence and the fear of failure which served to literally paralyze me for many years, I had a small little voice that told me, "YOU HAVE SOMETHING." At the time, my feeling was the something I had, was in the comedic arena so I think I needed to stick with it to find out if I was right...and I was...yeah me!!!



Brad Zimmerman in "My Son The Waiter, A Jewish Tragedy"

**6. During the run of this show, when did you realize you had something that would allow you to quit waiting? Then, what did that moment feel like?** I was waiting tables until 2007...had to return five years later because I could not afford a haircut...three months later my ex-manager got me a three-week run of the show in Coral Springs, Florida and the show was extended four months. My producers Dana Matthow and Philip Roy flew down and after seeing the show offered to buy the touring rights to my show...I'm not certain but one of them wanted to buy the show and one of them didn't...so they asked me to cast the deciding vote. Haha...they gave me an advance and I have had a savings account ever since...yeah!!!

**7. You been working on *My Son The Waiter, A Jewish Tragedy* since 2005. How do you keep the show fresh?** Keeping the show fresh is the hardest thing I have ever done next to killing a deer...only because I keep missing...my mind wanders many times and the key is that the audience can't know that. For instance I could be talking about my father and at the same time thinking about what flavor ice cream to get that night...but if I wander I have to remind myself to connect...that is the key. When you have done a show as much as much as I have it's natural to have the mind wander.



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**8. What has been some memorable "missed moments" during the runs of the show?** Missed moments : When you expect a loud laugh and you get silence...that is a moment that can really test your composure. I have to adlib something...I try to say something that might get a laugh, like "they didn't get that in Alabama either."

**9. As a comedian, you got to open for two of my all time favorite comics: Joan Rivers and George Carlin. How did you get to be their opening acts? What did you learn from working with them? What is one funny story about your interaction with each comedian you can share with us?** Opening for Joan and George was an honor...both were the most professional of professionals...*Rolling Stone Magazine* just came out with the list of top 10 comedians of all time and they were both in top 10. I think George was 2. So to say that I worked with both of them, wow. By the way, I was number 2,000,346,900,111.

**10. Since you were a waiter for 29 years, did you wait on any celebrities? If so, who? What are your top five favorite things to order when you go out to eat or drink?** Celebrities I waited on: Julia Roberts, Drew Barrymore, Julianne Moore, Glenn Close, Chris Noth, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Dustin Hoffman, Ron Howard.

Five favorite things to order when I go out: a great steak, veal parmesian, warm apple crisp with vanilla ice cream, bagel and nova, carrots!!!!!!!!!!



Brad Zimmerman

### **More on Brad:**

Brad Zimmerman is a very unique and original voice in the world of comedy. Watch a few minutes of his comedy and you will know you have never seen anything like Brad. He works all over the country, doing theatres, comedy clubs, casino's, country clubs, comedy festivals, JCC's. I mean, you name it, he's done it. He has worked with many well known comedians and entertainers such as Brad Garrett, Dennis Miller, Susie Essman, Julio Inglesias, and was Joan Rivers' opening act of choice for over seven years. In fact Joan had said "I've had three great

opening acts in my lifetime: Billy Crystal, Garry Shandling, and Brad Zimmerman." In the year 2006, Brad had the great honor of opening for George Carlin, and that relationship lasted until George passed away in 2008. The first time Brad opened for George, at the Paramount Theatre, just outside Chicago, right after finishing his act, George approached Brad backstage, and said, as only George could have said, "f\*\*kin great!"

Brad combines years of acting training and standup, which is evident in Brad's true pride and joy; his one man show. It is called MY SON THE WAITER, A JEWISH TRAGEDY, and he has been working on it since 2005. In this part standup/part theatrical piece Brad tells a story of one man's lengthy, and we do mean lengthy struggle to make it as an actor in New York. His send-ups on his childhood, his family, his misbegotten love life, and his career are as warm and poignant as they are hysterical. He has done the show all over the country. In addition to this show, Brad has done work in both television and film, most notably playing Johnny Sack's lawyer in one of the best television shows of all time: THE SOPRANOS.