

SANK TRACES HIS TOP FIVE
GAY COMEDY INFLUENCES

5. Ann B. Davis, Brady Butch

Sam the Butcher, my ass. It was Carol who heated up Alice's meatloaf. Remember when Davis also played Alice's cousin, Emma, a diesel-dyke S/M top who put the Bradys through grueling calisthenics at 6am? I've been afraid of lesbians ever since.



4. Danny Pintauro, Who's the Homo?

Who's the Boss? premiered when I was 13. It was very reassuring to know that somewhere out there was a kid more obviously gay than I was. Plus, Tony Danza was hot.



3. Matthew Perry, Fey Friend

Yes, Chandler was technically straight. But the clothes, the hair, the drag queen father, the self-loathing...could he be any gay? To Perry's credit, he made it all funny.



2. Ellen DeGeneres, Top Dyke

Forget her heroism in coming out. Forget even that hers is the only morning chat-fest worth watching. She is, quite simply, the most gifted stand-up of her generation.

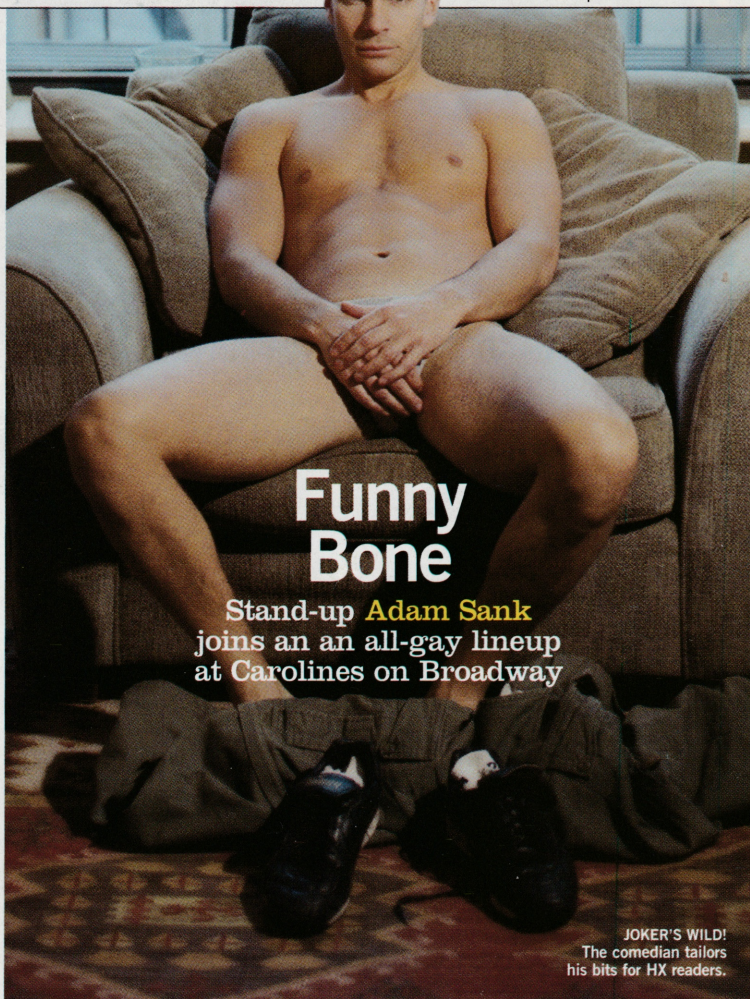


1. Paul Lynde, Center S'Queer

Lynde brought the purest of gay sensibilities to a national audience; first as Uncle Arthur on *Bewitched*, then on *Hollywood Squares*. My all-time favorite *Squares* answer was when Peter Marshall asked, "Paul, can you get an elephant drunk?" "Yes," Lynde snickered, "but it still won't go up to your apartment."

"A former boyfriend and I went to gay couples therapy, which is a lot like straight couples therapy—except there's a disco ball."

It's a funny joke, one that out comedian Adam Sank can rely on: "Straight people love it," says the stand-up, who knows how to adapt his act for gay audiences (hence the gratuitous shot above). Sank will join Keith Price, Deke Haylor, Brian Balthazar, Tim York, Adam Lehman, Mina Hartong, Bruce White, Michael Brill and headliner Julie Goldman on January 18 for an evening of homo hilarity titled *Gay on Broadway*, a night of stand-up at Carolines comedy club produced by Tracy Esposito.



Funny Bone

Stand-up Adam Sank joins an all-gay lineup at Carolines on Broadway

JOKER'S WILD!
The comedian tailors his bits for HX readers.

If you don't hit the comedy circuit regularly, but this hunk looks familiar, you might have seen him at Hell's Kitchen hot spot Barrage, where he worked as a waiter. Sank was also a successful TV news producer at Fox and ABC before shucking it all for stand-up.

Sank's act usually consists of autobiographical bits culled from, for example, living in an all-Chinese graduate school dormitory and coming out to his parents (they're from Summit, New Jersey). A skilled mimic, Sank avoids typical gay fodder and instead skewers his family, particularly his mother, who, similar to Margaret Cho's mom, now relishes the attention. Another popular routine, in which Sank riffs on the 1010 WINS coverage of the 2003 blackout, earned him first place at New York Comedy Club's New Talent Contest.

He's also collaborating on a book by *Esquire* magazine, titled *Things a Man Should Never Do Past the Age of 30*. "I had to keep reminding myself it was for straight men," he says,

noting that previous installments for a similar column in the magazine included such gems as, "Don't use cardboard boxes as furniture" and "Don't get your pet stoned."

"Straight audiences are much easier than gay ones," Sank notes. "Every gay man is a comic after two cocktails."

Yet not many queens stake out the comedy circuit. Aside from well-known funny men Jim David or Bob Smith—and now Ant and Mod—most of our community's laugh riots arrive in drag. "Stand-up tends to be dominated by straight men," Sank acknowledges. "I think it's not that the opportunity isn't there [for gays]. But as a discipline—an artform—comedy isn't particularly gay, like theater or dance."

Gay on Broadway, 7pm, Tue, Jan 18, at Carolines on Broadway, 1626 Broadway (50th St), \$15 w/ two-drink minimum, carolines.com, 212-757-4100, reservations a must. Visit AdamSank.com and read his regularly updated blog on comedysoapbox.com/blogs.cfm.