



# SCOTT ISSUES

BY BARRY DOUGHERTY

Of all the Scotts in the world, two spring to mind: the absorbent paper towel and the comedian. Friar Steven Scott combines the best of both—adeptly soaking up his environment for use as fodder in his unique routines. His observations of everyday life are revealed via characterizations that run the gamut from celebrities to household appliances.

"I was always making noises and sounds and doing people's voices," says Scott, who explains that his act is not at all Rich Little-esque, "I try to make it three dimensional. If I say, 'Hey, I went here and a helicopter flew by'... [the sound of a helicopter suddenly emanates from his lips] ...it just gives it another dimension."

But the savvy young comedian is well aware of the pitfalls when it comes to garnering laughs. "Comedy Clubs don't like variety kind of acts, they like straight stand-up," so he has learned to tailor his skills. "For me to go onstage and not do any of that stuff would be going against who I really am. If I'm going to do an impression for example, I don't say, 'Could you imagine Al Pacino working in a grocery store?' I will talk about how I met him or how girls love it and always ask me to do voices, so I'm talking about it but from my perspective. I can get away with doing the voice but the material is about me and my experiences. That's the trick and how I learned to balance it," notes Scott.

"It does make you stand out," he acknowledges, recognizing that it's not funny trying to get work in comedy. But for Scott it beats his first job interest, "I wanted to be a garbage man. But that was when I was three years old and I thought it was cool to stand on the back of the truck. My mother was like, 'If you want to be a garbage man, own the truck!'"



Friar Steven Scott

What Scott owns now is the stage. He has never looked back on his career choice in which he has appeared in the top comedy venues from Atlantic City to the Las Vegas Strip. He has opened for such performers as Donna Summer, Melissa Manchester, Abbot Alan King, David Brenner, and Friar Tom Jones. He has strutted his wacky stuff on cruise ships. He has even branched out into films, appearing in small roles in *Eraser*, *Independence Day* and *Cop Land*.

Scott was destined to be a Friar if only through his genes, being the son of veteran newsman and longtime Friar, Marvin Scott. "To give you the idea of my mind-set, when I was seven or eight years old the Tournament of Roses parade was on

and Frank Sinatra was the Grand Marshall and my mother said, 'Steven, come quick. Do you know who he is?' And I said, 'Yea, yea, he's the boss of the Friars.' Not Frank Sinatra, the legend," laughs Scott of his cavalier relationship with showbiz.

As a Member, and more importantly, as a comedian, his rite of passage has included a stint at the Club's Roast of Dean Freddie Roman. "A huge honor because I know what the Roasts are to the Friars Club and what the Friars Club is to me. Roasting is a completely different style of comedy, so I threw myself into the fire. I knew it was a challenge and that's why I did it because I wanted to meet it," says Scott. Not only was he a success at the event, but it also helped solidify his place in the Club. "When I first came here, it was like, 'Oh, this is Marvin's son.' Now I spend so much time here, it's like, 'Yeah, this is Steven's dad,'" laughs Scott. In case anyone is worried, Marvin was consulted and couldn't be prouder of their evolving Friarly roles.

So if you're a frenetic, fast-paced comedian with a whole host of characters and inanimate objects living within your vocal chords you will inevitably find your way to that venue where anything goes: television. "I'm working with Jamie Foxx and Tyra Banks on a sketch show that was supposed to be on in the fall, and now we're not sure what's going to happen with it," says Scott who has a positive attitude about this business he has chosen. "I know this is what I'm supposed to be doing. And to be in front of the camera is not enough for me either. Ultimately, it's those guys—Eddie Murphy, Robin Williams, Billy Crystal—whose careers I'd like to emulate. They've taken their stand-up, turned it into TV and to movies and that's ultimately what I want to do." Hey, he's already reached the Roast level which around here is pretty damn high. Pretty soon we'll be adding Steven to another level of Scottisms—great Scott!