

Lajoie REVIEW (working title)  
By: Anna Turner

There are three reasons I chose to bring my Mom to see comedian Jon Lajoie perform at The Athenaeum on March 31.

1. She's old. Compared to the rest of Lajoie's fratastic crowd in ironic plaid shirts and backward baseball caps, my Mom is Moses.
2. She's a feminist. A true Susan B. Anthony, my Mom burned bras like nobody's business, proving that women can set things on fire just as well as men.
3. It would be hilarious to see her women's rights' hearing aids pummeled by the crass, blunt and sexist jokes of the shaggy-haired Lajoie.

Lajoie's (pronounced La-zhwa, not La-Joy. Yep, it's way gayer than you thought) onstage manner is immature, selfish, misogynistic and, just in case you hadn't guessed, he is a complete ass hole.

His outrageous persona is supported by offensive song lyrics, dick jokes and internet videos like "Not Giving A F%\$#" and "The Bastard Break Up." The satirical ruse draws in a wide audience, from the beefed up muscle heads that think Lajoie actually believes women are only good for cooking, cleaning and laundry, to feminist groups that understand his heinous jokes are shedding a new light on social issues. "My brand of comedy attracts a wide spectrum of people," Lajoie says. "You have the douchebags that take everything at face value, but then you also have the people that see my work as an original and interesting approach to things like sexism." Sexist jokes were not the crème-de-la-crème of Lajoie's set. Through his seventy minutes onstage, Lajoie was sure to touch on mentally handicapped, homosexuals, racism, infidelity and he even worked in a Catholic priest sexual harassment bit. When asked if there was any topic he would not rip on, he gave an unlikely answer. "I try to stay away from religion," Lajoie said. "I touch on it a little bit, but my parents are Pentecostal and very religious, so out of respect to them, I try not to hit religion."

It's hard to believe the creator of Pedophile Beards and Rapist Glasses comes from a Pentecostal home, but it's true. What's even harder to believe is that Lajoie's parents support his work, and always have. "My parents are really awesome to support me.," Lajoie said. "They understand the different layers in the things that I do — they understand it's a joke."

Lajoie's parents were the Montreal native's first audience in his early viral video days. The homemade, self-edited videos were originally just sketches, but once Lajoie started incorporating music, the number of views skyrocketed.

His musical comedy is Lajoie's trademark and makes up about 60% of his live show. His dynamic set includes video, stand-up, music and an informational presentation on how to create successful online videos (giving fool-proof advice like, "if someone has something you want, stab them and it's yours").

Though structured and well-delivered, Lajoie maintains a conversational and approachable façade onstage. This worked to his advantage in the Athenaeum as it helped make the cavernous space more intimate, creating the feeling of a smaller underground comedy club.

Lajoie's stand-up chunk was a satire of stand-up comedy in general. "I hate stand up comedians. All they do is get onstage and bitch about things that piss them off. That pisses me off."

Pissed off or not, Lajoie delivered a solid show — his first live show in three months — complete with classic Lajoie asides, such as “I already have a lot of STD’s, thank you,” and “I’m super stoned right now.”

Accompanied by his acoustic guitar, he serenaded the audience with crowd favorites from “High As F%\$#” to never-before-heard compositions, like the one about dropping ecstasy with his Mom. He also compiled his favorite songs from his childhood and set them to vintage acoustic chords and riffs, giving new soul to the Wu-Tang Clan.

Lajoie also included a song from “The League,” a comedy on FX in which Lajoie plays slacker pothead Taco. The song, called “The Birthday Song,” is about how you really came to be on this earth — your parents drank too much and forgot the necessary protection — and Taco sang it to his young niece Ellie at her birthday party.

The Athenaeum was filled with Taco fanatics, as “The Birthday Song” brought out a lot of cell phones recording videos and a venue-wide drunken sing-along.

Lajoie finished on a high note with “Show Me Your Genitals,” bringing to a close the longest comedy show of my Mom’s life. She just shook her head, sighed, and said, “That was funny ... can I go get chicken salad at Bob Evans now?”

“No, Mom. It isn’t 4 a.m. yet. Bob Evans isn’t open.”



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