

## Walter Latham

Business mogul, Walter Latham is often referred to as "The King of Comedy," as he has made an indelible imprint in the evolution, creation and impact of urban comedy throughout the world. He is credited with launching the careers of several award-winning actors and comedians including, Tyler Perry, Chris Tucker, Steve Harvey, Mo'Nique, Cedric "The Entertainer," and the late Bernie Mac.

The "Original Kings of Comedy" Tour, which he created and produced, starring Steve Harvey, Cedric "The Entertainer," D.L. Hughley and the late, Bernie Mac, took urban comedy to another level as it sold out in all major arenas throughout the United States including, Madison Square Garden, the MCI Center in Washington, D.C. and The Phillips Arena (standing room only) in Atlanta, Georgia. "The Original Kings of Comedy" Tour, out-sold all of the Pop and R&B concerts during the same time, and was one of the largest grossing tours in US history. Latham also created and produced "The Queens of Comedy," starring Academy-Award winner, Mo'Nique, and "The Latin Kings of Comedy," starring George Lopez.

He was Executive Producer of the Award-winning "*The Original Kings of Comedy*" movie, directed by Spike Lee, produced by MTV Films, and distributed by Paramount Pictures. "*The Original Kings of Comedy*" movie was the first urban comedy tour film to top box offices throughout the US. The movie grossed over \$38 million and is considered a comedic classic. The accompanying soundtrack was released on Universal Records and received a Grammy nomination for "*Best Spoken Comedy Album*." Latham also Executive Produced "*P. Diddy Presents the Bad Boys of Comedy*," and produced "*Shaken Not Stirred*," five one-hour, highly rated "toasts" of some of the biggest names in pop culture.

To date, Latham's productions have grossed over \$200 million worldwide.

In 2012, Latham partnered with YouTube on an urban comedy channel. The channel brings urban comedy to digital programming, 24/7, a historic milestone for urban comedy. It features content from Latham's past productions featuring Bernie Mac, Tyler Perry, Mo'Nique and others as well as new content from Michael Blackson, Broken Equipment Productions and Tara "Miss P" Powell.

One of the original programs featured on his YouTube channel is "*Comedy After Dark*," which was shot in an intimate VIP setting in Miami, Florida. An uncensored version of the show was also featured on *Comedy Central* and is currently available on Latham's branded *Hulu* channel, *Walter Latham Comedy*. This was yet another milestone for Latham. The *Hulu* channel features clips from his classics as well as the "*Comedy After Dark*" Special and a mock reality show, "*Beauty & the Beast*" starring comedian, Michael Blackson.

Despite his tremendous success in entertainment, Latham is most proud of his children and his nonprofit organization, the Walter Latham Foundation. "I hate to sound trite," says Latham, "but none of my accomplishments mean as much to me as my children and foundation." He continues, "To make a significant impact in turning lives around, and to help young people get ahead by providing the resources for them to do so, is what I see as my mission. When I see the faces of those whose lives I have touched, nothing else really matters to me. I sincerely want to make available to them resources I didn't have. My success allows me to do this; and I am grateful."

*The Walter Latham Foundation* provides scholarships and events for underserved youth.

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*To book Walter Latham for speaking engagements, send your request via email to [info@walterlatham.com](mailto:info@walterlatham.com).*