



For Sean Kent Laughter is Part of The Cure

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After spending 48 out of 52 weeks spewing satirical, self-loathing and pointedly political humor in his stand-up act, **Sean Kent** had to anticipate laryngitis. But he's back on tour and improving.

"I sounded like a crack addict two weeks ago," quips the Texas native who's had two go-rounds on NBC's "Last Comic Standing," punched up jokes on CBS sitcom "Yes, Dear" and appeared on the syndicated radio program "The Bob & Tom Show."

It's figurative when **Kent** says "I'm dying here." Five years ago, that idea was frighteningly possible. The Hodgkin's disease **Kent** had battled in 2002 returned so aggressively that he developed a chest-port infection, lost 40 pounds and needed abdominal surgery.

"It definitely affected my capacity to love people, to understand people. It made me more sympathetic," says **Kent**, months shy of the five years of remission commonly considered a cure for most. "It puts 20 years of maturity into you before you should have it, you know."

Well, not that much maturity. At least not when it comes to a sexually adventurous story he claims to have told an elderly woman sitting next to him in chemotherapy.

Feeling like he has a lot to accomplish before he dies, the 33-year-old **Kent** doesn't mind a severely strained voice. As he says, he can't die because he's got to be in Vegas in August.

"It's definitely the sword of Damocles, the Grim Reaper's footsteps," says **Kent**, who discussed his experience with more than 5,000 people at the 29th annual City of Hope Bone Marrow Transplant Reunion in 2005. "But you get up every day and say, 'I have to do something.'"

Kent honed his talent for "(hacking) people off" at a Baptist private high school in Texas. After two years in college, he left for Los Angeles. There, in 2004, **Kent** hosted "The Free Speech Show," a politically themed program on the otherwise all-sports KMPC-AM 1540.

He's "more inspired by Noam Chomsky than Bill Cosby," so **Kent's** comic comments on this new election year are a given.

"If you're not responding to what's going on in terms of the erosion of civil rights and the middle class, as well as the corporate fascism that we're faced with on a daily basis, then you're not really alive as an artist," **Kent** says before launching into a series of jokes about George W. Bush. "I remember when (Bush) said we were going to return to the lunar surface. I'm sitting there in my apartment smoking medicinal marijuana thinking, 'Oh my God, we're going to attack the moon!'"

"Telling those jokes three to four years ago might have gotten me booed off the stage at times, but now I can joke about how Bush is a moron in Wichita and people will be, like, 'Hell, yeah!' It's just such an overwhelming attitude at this point. I don't know if that means everyone in the audience will vote for Obama or McCain. They're just tired of the last seven years."

Kent also is working on an hour of all-new material for his second full-length CD release. (XM Radio hailed Kent's CD debut, "Sex, Drugs and Politics," as "an instant classic.") "I'm actually old enough to talk about 'these kids today,' and I think they have ADD because of technology," Kent says. "One of the things that freaks me out is their addiction to text messaging. Occasionally, I'll text a message to someone, but they'll have entire conversations that way on the phone. 'Excuse me, it's a phone. You can talk into it.' We're moving in a backwards direction to where phones will have Morse code and smoke signals."

STATS

Sean Kent

* When

7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday

* Where

Donnie B's Funny Bone of Springfield, 2937 West White Oaks Drive

* Tickets

\$13 or \$15 for VIP seating; available after 3 p.m. today and Friday at the venue or by calling 391-5653. Those ordering by phone should leave first and last name, number attending, credit card type, number, name on card and expiration date.