



Carl Hurley walked away from a tenured professorship in education at Eastern Kentucky University in 1982 to “expand his classroom” – to entertain and subtly teach others about looking for the humor in life. He quips that when he told the administration that he was leaving to become a full-time speaker and comedian, they laughed out loud. He had figured that his plan was already fool-proof!

Since 1982 Carl has been a featured entertainer and platform personality on stages and at conventions worldwide. He is as comfortable under the proscenium of a historic theatre as he is at the lip of a convention center’s stage, or on a stool at Dublin’s famous Laughter Lounge. He has collected along the way myriad honors and

awards, including earning the Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation and induction into the National Speakers Association’s Speaker Hall of Fame (CPAE). He recently received an honorary doctorate from his alma mater Eastern Kentucky University, and became one of the first inductees into the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame.

Carl’s popularity has been fueled by a career-long vision to collect and share his comedic insight into human nature on audio and video recordings - he has 15 comedy recordings to date, and is one of the most frequently aired comedians on the Sirius/XM Satellite Networks. Gospel legend and producer Bill Gaither has featured Carl on his widely distributed video series, and invited Carl to be a featured guest at the Kennedy Center for the HOMECOMING series. His television credits include numerous public television features for KY Educational Television (Possum On The Half-Shell and Lessons in Laughter) and was a regular guest on the Nashville Now program with Ralph Emery.

Thousands of audiences across the nation have heard his hilarious slant on life. In the past 15 years, Carl and his business partner Michael McKinney have produced the popular Carl Hurley Comedy Show featuring Jeanne Robertson, and the Cavalcade of Comedy for Motorcoach Travelers – the only comedy/music event of its kind for that market. Carl has affectionately been called “The Elvis of motorcoach comedy” by Designations magazine (American Bus Association).

Carl is a favorite at festivals and on the stages of performing arts venues across the nation. From his “home stage” at Renfro Valley (KY) Entertainment Center to Athens (GA) Classic Center, the Dixie Carter PAC (TN) and even appearances at the Grand Ole Opry, Carl is an audience favorite, providing wholesome humor for all ages. He is currently touring his new show “Cornbread & Caviar”.

Theater Bookings

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