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# 'Crazy' is working out OK

## Comic goes from P&G to L.A.

BY JIM KNIPPENBERG | [JKNIPPENBERG@ENQUIRER.COM](mailto:JKNIPPENBERG@ENQUIRER.COM)

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Stand-up comic Rajiv Satyal has no regrets. Eleven months ago, he had a secure job in marketing at Procter & Gamble, a regular, semihefty paycheck, his family nearby, a sprawling network of friends and a comfortably renovated home in the West End for quiet days off.

Then he chucked it all and moved to Los Angeles to chase a dream. A veteran of the Cincinnati comedy club circuit since 2000, Satyal, 31, a 1994 graduate of Fairfield High School, was named Funniest Person in Cincinnati (semiprofessional division) in a citywide vote by Go Bananas patrons in 2005. That's when he started thinking of turning pro.

He left town in May 2006, worked a few months for a Los Angeles marketing firm and took the plunge in October. (He brings his act to the Dayton Funny Bone Sunday night.)



"I had a friend who said, 'Look, you can do one of two things - the traditional values of family, career, money and a house in the suburbs. Or do something crazy, like follow a dream.' I decided on crazy. I still plan on marrying and having a family some day, but the suburbs part is an open question."

After six months on the circuit full-time, Satyal is now considered a "feature" act,

which means he works in the middle. After the emcee does a 10 minute bit, he does 30 minutes before the headliner does an hour, he said on a recent trip home. Last week he opened for headliner Kevin Nealon in Los Angeles. Coming up there's a date with Emo Phillips, probably in October, and maybe one with Ray Romano (not firm), in between "feature" dates in Chicago, Atlanta and several smaller cities.

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### If you go

What: Former Cincinnati Rajiv Satyal, aka The Funny Indian

Where: Dayton Funny Bone, 88 Plum St. in The Greene. Exit 10 off I-675

When: 7:30 p.m. Sunday

Cost: \$10 plus a two-drink minimum

Information: 937-429-5233

There's more: To keep up with Satyal's comings, goings and musings, sign up for his newsletter at [www.funnyindian.com](http://www.funnyindian.com).

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All that while balancing class work with the Groundlings, an improv group that has launched the careers of Phil Hartman, Lisa Kudrow, Jon Lovitz and others. Satyal auditioned - this group doesn't let just *anyone* into class - and was accepted earlier this year.

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