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Comedy's in his Bones

Ex-P&G employee looking for laughs at new location

By [John Kiesewetter](#) • jkiesewetter@enquirer.com • November 20, 2008

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Stand-up comic Rajiv Satyal has opened for former "Saturday Night Live" comedian Kevin Nealon many times, but Friday night's Funny Bone at Newport on the Levee show is special.



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They will be the first performers in the club's new location, the former Pacific Moon restaurant on the Riverwalk level, with an expanded bar and outside entrance.

"I'm excited to see the new room," says Satyal, 32, a graduate of Fairfield High School (1994) and the University of Cincinnati (2000). He dabbled in comedy during his six years for Procter & Gamble, before moving to Los Angeles in 2006 as the "funny Indian."

Satyal met Nealon in 2005 at the old club on the mezzanine level. They saw "Batman Begins" together and had dinner. Since moving to L.A., Nealon has asked Satyal to open for him often.

The former P&G assistant brand manager recently updated us on his career:

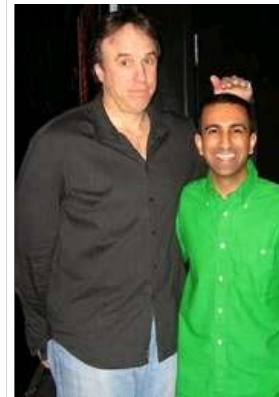
Funny business: I entered my first "Funniest Person in Cincinnati" contest in 1998 and won it as an amateur in 1999. I won it again in 2005 in the semipro/professional. It seems odd to say I've been doing this 10 years, because from 1998-02 I was on stage only a handful of times. I really started in 2002.

Off the road: For the past month, I've been staying in L.A. more, going to auditions. I had been on the road pretty constantly for two years. I'm looking for roles in sitcoms, films or commercials. I'm hoping something will pop.

Being Koy: When I worked with (comedian) Jo Koy at the Funny Bone in June, he told me he was naming a character on his new Comedy Central sketch show after me. I read for the show - and the part was named "Rajiv" - but I didn't get the part. I might get to be a guest star on the show.

Bushed: People are saying that Barack Obama finally proves anybody can be president. That's not true. George Bush proved anybody could be president. Barack Obama proves that a Harvard-trained visionary could be president.

Class act: I wasn't the class clown in Fairfield, I was elected class president my sophomore, junior and senior years. I played viola in the pit orchestra for musicals, and my senior year appeared in "Oklahoma." I was the only Indian farmer in "Oklahoma."



Zoom

Rajiv Satyal, a Fairfield High and UC grad known as "the funny Indian," opens for Kevin Nealon.

(Provided)

If you go

What: Funny Bone at Newport on the Levee reopening featuring comedians Kevin Nealon and Rajiv Satyal

When: 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Where: Riverwalk level, Newport on the Levee

Cost: \$27 at 859-957-2000, the club box office, or funnyboneonthelevee.com.

Information: www.kevinnealon.com, www.funnyindian.com

Nealon's niche

Comedian Kevin Nealon, who stars on Showtime's "Weeds" comedy, is best known for his 1986-95 stint on "Saturday Night Live."

Nealon played "Hans and Franz" with Dana Carvey and "The Subliminal Man" and anchored "Weekend Update."

His credits include "You Don't Mess With the Zohan," "The Wedding Singer," "Happy Gilmore," "Anger Management," "Get Smart," "Daddy Day Care" and "Roxanne."

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Branded: Two other comics have come from P&G. Greg Warren now headlines all over the country. Josh Sneed left P&G in 2001, and he's been on Comedy Central. I'm kind of following these guys' path.

Old 'Bone: It's sad to see the old Funny Bone room close. I opened Dave Chappelle's first show there when he came back from Africa after leaving Comedy Central in 2005. I worked with Bobcat Goldthwait there. I learned how to do improv and talk to the audience there. That old room holds a lot of memories for me.

In your voice

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