

CLAIRE BERGER

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SUMMARY

Claire Berger is a highly resourceful and innovative entrepreneur, with long-term experience in media and entertainment, and author of *FUNNY WORKS! 52 Ways to Have More Fun @ Work*. For over a decade, she has created and built small businesses that develop and deliver custom programs, services and strategies for a diverse national clientele, including major corporations, academic institutions and hospitality companies. In addition to her corporate work, Claire has enjoyed a distinguished 25-year career as a critically acclaimed stand-up comedian, motivational speaker and TV host, where her brand of conversational, compassionate humor has endeared her to audiences of all ages and cultures. Claire's core strengths include:

- New business development across industries and economic climates
- Thriving in high-pressure work environments
- Building creative and strategic partnerships
- Inside knowledge of entertainment industry spanning two decades
- Adaptive and collaborative work style across functional teams
- Recruiting and managing creative teams to achieve program goals

ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERIENCE

FunnyWorks, Inc., www.funnyworks.com

1999 - Present

Founder and President

Built consulting firm that uses productive humor to develop and deliver customized programs, including motivational speeches, special events and interactive presentations, for diverse corporate clientele. Handle all sales, marketing and publicity. Media placements include features in *Spirit* and *American Way*, the in-flight magazines of Southwest Airlines and American Airlines. Collaborate with writers/actors/producers on projects.

- Retooled HR manual and training sessions for new hires at prominent Los Angeles hotels to improve communication skills.

- Developed team-building event in form of spy-themed spoof that featured lively missions involving classified info, trench-coated secret agents and humorous intelligence tests for Aon Risk Services national sales conference.
- Entertained 1500 atmosphere extras—dressed in 1962 period costumes and seated in outdoor football stadium—for 10 hours without microphone while one scene/one page was shot for *Forrest Gump*.
- Created “Settlement of the Century” exercise for annual weekend retreat of prominent matrimonial lawyers. Teams competed in arguing the savviest, silliest settlements within context of fictional celebrity divorce cases.
- Scripted and hosted live, interactive “Roast and Toast” newscast tribute to retiring real estate executive performed by friends and family. Playful, fast-paced news spoof showcased customized material and comical stories based on personal anecdotes.
- Created team-building event in the form of scavenger hunt/trivia contest along Las Vegas strip for annual sales meeting of heating and air conditioning manufacturer.

The Culinary Stage, www.theculinarystage.com

2009 - Present

Founder and Owner

Operate culinary services firm that provides event planning, personal catering and food styling for food companies, academic institutions, non-profits and individuals. Manage all sales and marketing. As stylist, provide script analysis and handle shopping, food prep and plating for:

- General Mills’ “Nutritional Minutes,” 65 video webisodes encompassing more than 200 culinary shots.
- Chef’s Finest’s new product line rollout of 20 recipes introduced on video webisodes.
- Venice Bakery’s new gluten free pizza crust recipes for company web site.

Dream Dorm Do-Over, <http://www.dreamdormdoover.com>

2002 - 2010

Producer/Host

Created interactive event where in-need students at more than 20 college campuses across the U.S. competed to win total dorm room makeover.

ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Warm-Up Television Comedian

1987 - 2009

Entertained audiences with improvisational, interactive comedy at filmings of more than 65 television series at all major studios. Complete show listing available upon request.

Comedian

1983 - 2005

Solo stand-up career, touring clubs, college campuses and cruise lines nationally and internationally.

HGTV Host, "Fantasy Open House"

1999 - 2001

First comedian to host HGTV series. "Fantasy Open House" took viewers inside more than 200 estates of business tycoons and entertainment moguls, including Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne's Beverly Hills compound and producer Joel Silver's historic Frank Lloyd Wright Hollywood Hills home. Appeared in more than 75 episodes that were shot across U.S. and aired domestically and internationally.

The Second City, Chicago, Illinois

1982 – 1984

Trained as improvisational comedian and actress with nation's premier improv troupe. Wrote sketches and performed nationwide as ensemble cast member.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY EXPERIENCE

Community Organizer and Fundraiser

Claire is a tireless volunteer for numerous non-profit groups. Recent projects include:

- Raised \$50,000+ for creation of **The Tonight Show Children's Playground at Johnny Carson Park in Burbank, California.**
- Created "**Shoes/USA4Africa,**" a grassroots effort that collected more than **1,500 pairs of new and gently used shoes** through viral email campaign. Hand-delivered shoes to villages across Benin, West Africa.
- Marathon walker recognized as a "**top fundraiser**" for **Leukemia Team-in-Training** over seven national and international marathons.
- Coordinator, **Sunday Meals @ The Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC)**, Santa Monica, CA. Prepare and serve sack lunches to 200+ homeless clients.

EDUCATION

Illinois State University, Normal, IL. B.S. in Public and Fine Arts Performance, 1977.