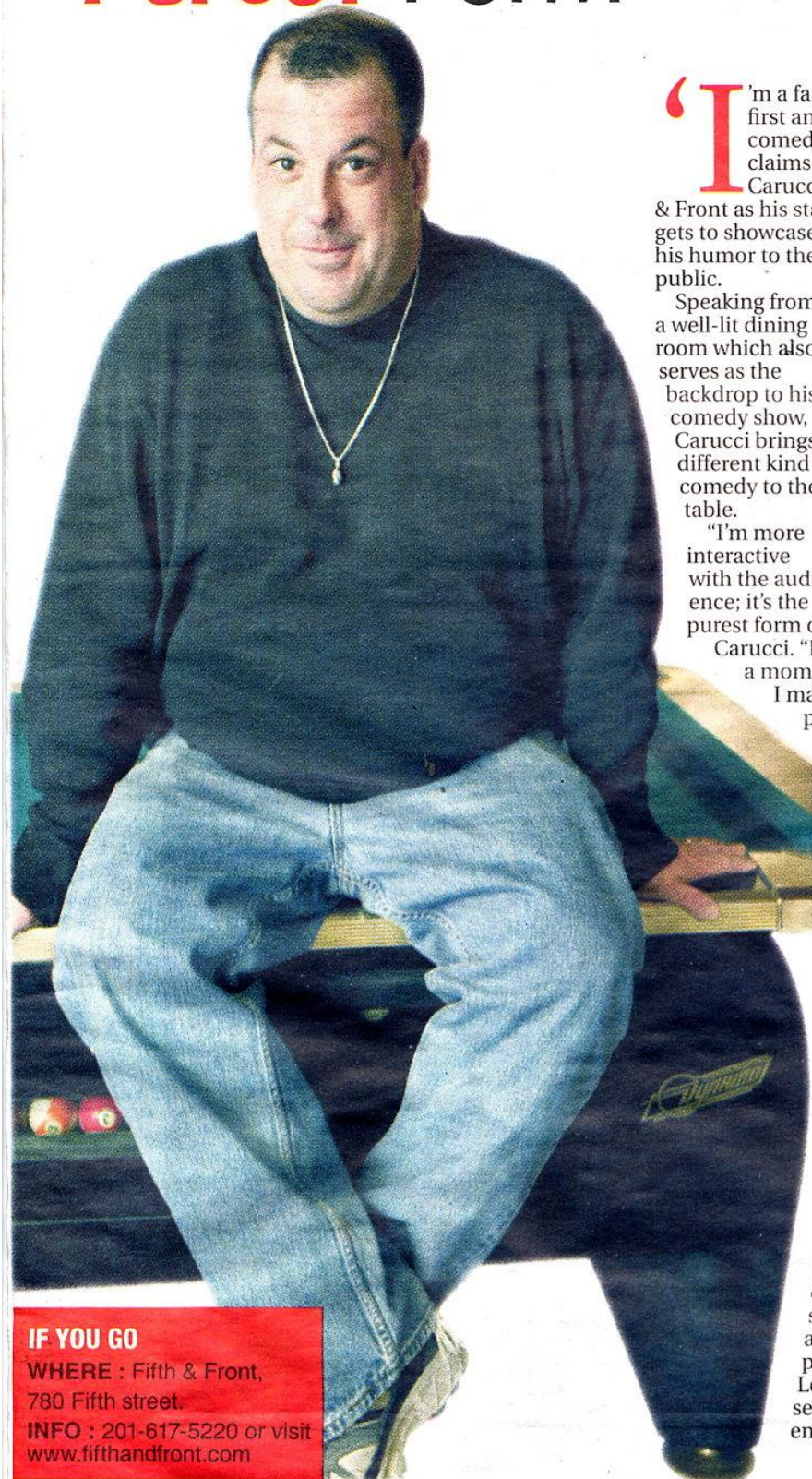


people | rich carucci

'IT'S THE PUREST FORM OF COMEDY'

By EDWIN CASTANO
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER



I'm a fan of comedy first and addicted to comedy second," proclaims comedian Rich Carucci. With the Fifth & Front as his stage, Carucci gets to showcase his humor to the public.

Speaking from a well-lit dining room which also serves as the backdrop to his comedy show, Carucci brings a different kind of comedy to the table.

"I'm more interactive with the audience; it's the purest form of comedy," says Carucci. "It's about sharing a moment with them. I make fun with the people."

With influ-

ences such as Richard Pryor, Redd Fox and Rodney Dangerfield, it's not difficult to see that Carucci is someone who takes his comedy act seriously.

"Rich gets a feel for the room, and he will try to customize the show for the audience," says promoter Joe Loesner. "No two sets are identical. I enjoy comics who

always come up with new stuff. I'm impressed by comedians who bring new ideas."

The two men knew each other prior to working together, but after two years they have developed more than just a business relationship.

"You will learn or burn in Jersey. If you make it in Jersey, you can make it anywhere."

"It's more like a friendship," says Loesner.

With Carucci as a partner, they want to make the Fifth & Front a Wednesday night hotspot for new and experienced comedians.

Loesner explains how challenging it is to become an established

comedian.

"It's a process, you have to start somewhere. The better you get, the more you learn. Jersey is a tough audience," Loesner says.

"It's the 'it' factor. Personality, stage presence — you know somebody has that special thing."

"You will learn or burn in Jersey," Carucci

says. "If you make it in Jersey, you can make it anywhere."

Carucci, who works as a 911 dispatcher, understands that having a comedy show in Secaucus can be helpful towards any comedian's career.

"It's a small community. Comedians come together and networking is a big part," Carucci says.

"Develop strong points, stay in the game, meet many people," Loesner advises. "This is a great way for people to make connections."

Besides looking into bringing established comedians and also introducing new performers, Loesner adds that "it's an intimate setting, a quality show, and it's right here in Secaucus."

COMEDIAN RICH CARUCCI hangs out at Fifth & Front in Secaucus.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN JOURNAL PHOTO

IF YOU GO

WHERE : Fifth & Front,
780 Fifth street.

INFO : 201-617-5220 or visit
www.fifthandfront.com