

"It's like the dream come true for comedians. Mitzi is like the god of comedy. I'd probably only been doing it for under a year when she asked me to be a regular, so I immediately was just writing as much as I could, and just kind of working real hard to get a 10-minute set. That was the first dream come true for me, and then it just kept going."

"Kept going" is something of an understatement. At the moment, Young has a bevy of film and television projects in the works, including a film based on a paraplegic friend from Beverly Hills, Michigan, and a sitcom called *Big Kids* — a project produced by Vince Vaughn.

With his own comedy career beginning to achieve an enviable momentum, Young decided to turn the tables of good fortune around and help out handfuls of other young comedians struggling to break through into the consciousness of the pop cultural mainstream. Hence came the Young American Comedy Tour, a cross-country collective of comedic voices that the tour's website describes as a "melting pot of America."

"We have black comedians, Indian comedians, Irish comedians, Jewish comedians," Young says. "The whole thing with the tour is that sometimes comedians are interchangeable. We keep it a melting pot. We want flavor, and we want different kinds of flavor." When asked about why this melting pot does not presently include any funny female voices, Young says that he's open to the idea, but hasn't yet seen many who he would consider asking to join the tour. "I thought about asking a couple female comedians, but right now, I don't know any of them that fit the bill. Eliza Schlesinger is a friend, and we might get her out on a couple of dates. I'm completely open to it, but she's going to have to roll in with the fellas.

Rolling with the fellas means fitting in with comedians, onboard for some dates, like Tony Rock — brother to Chris — and Bobby Lee, he of *MadTV* fame. True to its moniker, emphasis is placed on the "young" part of the tour, with comedy characters and material designed to speak to the Millennial generation through jokes about the video game industry, YouTube and Twitter. "Right now, I would say our demographic is literally 16 to 48," says Young. "It's a strong, wide range of comedians, but we definitely speak to the younger generation."

Landing at the Detroit City Theater on November 25, the Young American Comedy Tour represents something of a second homecoming for Young, who also opened up for Bob Saget at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on November 14. Young plans to make the tour's Detroit date a big comedy party for everyone. Alongside the jokes are opening go-go dancers and DJ Bam, a local turntable master who, in Young's opinion, hasn't enjoyed the level of commercial success that's due his considerable spinning skills.

The show, at its core, is about making Detroit smile. "For this show, I'm looking forward to just a blowout comedy bash. Let's have a fun night — let's breathe some comedy and joy into Detroit, a city that needs it so badly," he says with a hint of excitement. "Let's just throw caution to the wind and go bananas. Let's get Detroit smiling again. Let's stop talking about how bad it is, and start talking about how good it can be." | **RDW**

Young American Comedy Tour • 11/25 • City Theatre