



Mack Dryden's

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INTRODUCTION FOR MACK DRYDEN

For “Laugh to the Top”

(Feel free to improvise if you want, but please do NOT mention my suggestion that you *pause for a laugh* because it usually kills the laugh. I’d also prefer that you not mention the fact that I wrote this intro because it kills a joke I might do. Maher is pronounced “Marr.” Thanks, MD).

Our speaker (this morning/afternoon/evening) has an unusual list of accomplishments to say the least. He’s appeared in several feature films and numerous TV shows, including the *Late Show with David Letterman* and *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno. He was born and raised in Mississippi, and—before becoming an entertainer—was an award-winning journalist and a black belt karate champion. Over the years, he has managed to survive a terrifying stay in an African prison, two deadly diseases, and one near-fatal marriage (*pause for a laugh*). As a humorist, he was hand-picked by Bill Marr for the writing staff of *Politically Incorrect*, and he is the only living comedian who has been kicked in the backside repeatedly by karate champion Chuck Norris (*pause for a laugh*). He’s here to entertain us and to share with us some of the tools he’s used to achieve his many goals. Please welcome Mack Dryden.

GUEST ROOM PREFERENCE

Since my wife doesn't let me smoke my pipe within 200 miles of our house, I prefer a smoking room. If smoking rooms aren't available, no worries. It's better for me to abstain or go outside, anyway. Since I've left stuff in hotel drawers in 36 states, I prefer two beds so I can spread my stuff in full view on one of them.

TECHNICAL PREFERENCES:

I make no *demands* on a client, so everything below should be prefaced with "if possible." But to maximize the experience for me and the audience, the following is ideal if I am performing my motivational speech (different set-ups when I'm Emceeing or doing Standup):

- A hands-free, lavalier-type clip-on microphone.
- An LCD projector and screen. I have my own MacBook Pro laptop and remote unit, but am happy to use another one if a remote clicker is available. I would like to play a short video clip in my Keynote presentation and therefore need an audio cable. The screen should be positioned in such a way that 1) I don't block it, 2) nearby lights don't wash it out, and 3) everyone can see it without having to turn their heads away from me.
- I'd also like a confidence monitor, which can simply be my laptop placed in front of the stage.
- A stage at least 12 feet wide and eight feet deep, higher than the audience (amphitheaters excepted, of course), lit brighter than the audience and positioned so I can be seen and heard by everyone.
- If a lectern (podium) is onstage when I speak, **please place it to the side, and at least 3 feet from the front edge of the stage** so I can comfortably walk downstage (in front) of it. I walk from one side of the stage to the other so I can connect with everyone in the audience, so anything that would prevent that should be avoided.
- I'd like to have a standard, skirted rectangular table (about 6'x2') on one side of the stage (unless it's an amphitheater set-up and everyone could see me if I lay on the stage).
- The room clear of any other activities during my presentation, e.g., dinner service, open bar or tradeshow booths, palm readers, caricaturists (yes—it has all happened), etc.
- A sound-check and chat with the A/V person before my presentation.

Also: Please arrange for the following guest-room items to be delivered to the stage by housekeeping, and hidden so audience members can't see them. (I'm going to thank the hotel for the free shampoo and other lovely room gifts). I'd like to have a blow-dryer, a coffee maker complete with pot, and a FULL-SIZED ironing board (no iron necessary, but no compact boards, please), all unwrapped so we don't have to deal with packaging. If there's no coffee maker, a clock radio or a small lamp will do.

If you have agreed in the contract to allow me to sell my book and DVD after my presentation, please arrange for a skirted table and chair to be set up in the back of the room or wherever it's appropriate. My onstage "commercial" lasts exactly ten seconds. I look forward to having a great time with your group.

Program blurb for “Laugh to the Top”:

Mack Dryden is a writer/comedian/actor who has appeared on *The Tonight Show* with both Johnny and Jay, acted in such shows as *The Guardian* and *JAG*, and is a former staff writer for ABC’s *Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher*. He has survived everything from the sharks of showbiz to a stay in an African prison—and lived to tell inspiring, motivating and hilarious stories about it all in "*Laugh to the Top: A Hilarious Guide to Achieving Your Goals.*"