

Marie Kondo threw me out.

New This Month:  
Al Franken's gift for me  
What comedians say before a show  
Fun facts about New Zealand  
Husband of the year  
Comedy clips  
What's wrong with my foot?  
My crazy adventures  
Tons of jokes and stories about New Zealand  
The most New York question you could ask in New Orleans

It's 2020 but I'm still writing "Year of the Impeachment" on my checks.

I signed up to drive for Uber. Not for the money- it seemed like the easiest way to get my friends with day jobs to stop asking me for rides to the airport.

Boeing's CEO was just fired. He said he's looking forward to spending more time with his family- but only the local ones, not the ones he'd have to fly to visit.

I didn't think you could carry a couch on a motorcycle. Then I went to Thailand.  
And there was a family sitting on it.

"I have to put on pants now and go to my show."  
-A common thing comedians say to themselves frequently around 7 or 8 PM.

Check out my website [www.BrainChampagne.com/shows](http://www.BrainChampagne.com/shows) - there's probably a show near you.  
And if not, well, let's talk about fixing that.

(also some great shows I'm not in, like our Fabulously Funny Females series- look here:  
[www.IvyStandup.com](http://www.IvyStandup.com) and here: [www.LibertyComedy.com](http://www.LibertyComedy.com); please look at both sites because we do shows under two different brand names with two different websites)

Sometimes learning a bit about a place before performing there can make a big difference. But the audience can get ahead of you. Here's a short clip of me performing at the Sydney Comedy Club in Australia: <https://youtu.be/aoiCMQurHOc>

My conversation with Al Franken on December 31st:  
Me: Senator, there was the Al Franken Decade. Then the next decade you gave to your son. A new decade starts in a few hours. May I have it?  
Al: No, because I have claimed the entire millennium.  
Me: Could you carve out one decade for me?  
Al: No.  
Me: Okay, may I have the next millennium?

Al: Sure, why not?

So there you have it- starting in the year 3000 I have my own millennium!

Do you want to see me but you live in Rochester or Rapid City or Reykjavík or somewhere else? I can fly! Ask me for details on bringing me to your local theatre, country club, corporate event, house of worship or charity fund-raising event.

Laughter is my business and I take it very seriously.

Flight instructor: What does four white lights to the left of the runway mean when you're landing?

Student: It means you've smoked too much weed.

Instructor: No, it's a Precision Approach Path Indicator. It means you're too high.

Student: That's what I said.

(me, standing near the docks in Wellington, NZ)

NZ Woman: It's windy today.

Me: This is normal for Wellington.

Her: No it's not.

Me: Wellington is the windiest capital in the world.

Her: Yes it is, and we're very proud of that.

Me: Then you're nuts.

Her: That we are.

Here's a short clip from my show in a small town in New Zealand. Note that it contains a bit of profanity (audience, not me). I don't do political comedy in the U.S. but I've learned that when I perform overseas- once they hear an American accent they want to know my political leanings. <https://youtu.be/GSIXVG17ERk>

My opening joke on new year's eve:

If you don't follow me on facebook and you're wondering why I'm limping, nine days ago I was bitten by a cobra in northern Thailand. And if you do follow me on facebook, shut up about my sprained ankle.

(turns out it's a broken tibia but I'll be okay- this is far from the worst thing that happens to people visiting Thailand)

Your local theatre doesn't have comedy? Just music and plays? That's the point- put me in touch with them and I'll work to change that. That's what I do.

Or they have my shows but they alternate with someone else's comedy shows? Do you like my shows better? Tell them!

A French guy just bought Tiffany's. The entire company.

So the rest of you husbands are just gonna have to try a little harder.

It's fun to see the same woman on different dating apps with different ages. I figure the real age is the spread between highest and lowest added to the highest.

In New Orleans I said the most New Yorky New Orleans thing possible:  
"How is the gator prepared?"  
(the answer, obviously, was "fried")

In New Zealand. The booker/my opening act is driving me around.

The first day he says we'll be picking up a hitchhiker- but it's okay, not on the street, she's from the internet. Sure, that makes it safer, I say sarcastically. He said don't worry, I do this all the time, there's a facebook page for people looking for rides. And she's legitimate because her facebook profile has been around for five years.

I say no, that's the facebook profile she stole from her last victim.

Turns out she's a 20 year old backpacker from Poland, visiting NZ and Japan.

We're heading back to Christchurch for our final show. After two days of not saying anything she speaks up: "My friend just texted me- all the bridges are closed."

Flooding across a river has closed every single bridge across it. The south half of the south island is cut off from the north half. And we're on the wrong side for tonight's show.

Plus I'm scheduled to fly to Australia the next day. Prepaid, non-refundable, business class ticket. No way to get to Australia from there affordably or timely and no scheduled flights to get to Chch in time for my flight.

We were in the flooded area two days ago so we know it's only getting worse. We're stuck and every hotel we called was booked because we're not the only ones stuck and it's the beginning of summer there.

I say I have an idea, pull over.

What are you doing?

I'm googling flight schools. Why? Because we don't need an airline, we just need a guy with a plane.

We find a guy with a Cessna 185 (six seat piston single). And he's bringing people from Chch to a tiny airport near us, they're presumably stuck like us but on the other side of the river. We go to the airport and wait.

He calls us back, it's too windy to take off. Maybe in a few hours. But I check the aviation weather and it's going to get worse.

We walk to a small building across the field. I ask to charter a flight to Christchurch. They say sorry, they're a flying club, they're not licensed for chartering

I ask if they do flight instruction. They do.

I say I'm an American pilot and I need to brush up on my skills and learn about flying in NZ, including landing at some of their larger airports, like Christchurch. He says that'll work.

But it's too windy for their small planes (4 seat piston single engines).

Wait, there's a guy coming in with a Seneca (a six seat twin engine). No room for us because it's booked but maybe he can do another trip.

He lands, we ask, sure, he'll drop them off, come back for us.

We flew in the wind and my opening act complained it wasn't bumpy enough.

The show must go on. And it did.

My opening act told the audience about our adventures. I said "I hope you all like this show because God herself tried to stop us from getting here."