

## **Jeff Dunham**

Comedian and ventriloquist Jeff Dunham is one of the world's most inventive entertainers. After graduating from Baylor University, he moved to Los Angeles and soon became a sensation on the national comedy club circuit, as well as a frequent guest comic on *The Tonight Show*. Throughout the years, Dunham has had several record-breaking, self-produced comedy specials on Comedy Central including, *Arguing With Myself*, *Spark of Insanity*, *A Very Special Christmas Special*, *Controlled Chaos*, *Minding the Monsters*, and *All Over The Map*. In 2010, his limited series *The Jeff Dunham Show* was the highest rated premiere ever for Comedy Central, and later that year he published an autobiography entitled, *All By My Selves: Walter, Peanut, Achmed and Me*, which became a New York Times Best Seller. Dunham has also made many cameo appearances across television and film, from the Emmy Award-winning comedy series *30 Rock*, *Angie Tribeca*, and *Dinner For Schmucks*, starring Steve Carrell and Paul Rudd. Most recently, his NBC primetime comedy special *Jeff Dunham: Unhinged in Hollywood* debuted on NBC Primetime in the fall of 2015 and ranked as the time period's top non-sports program on the Big 4 in every key measure. Guinness World Records recently named Jeff Dunham as the world record holder for "Most Tickets Sold for a Stand-up Comedy Tour," and he continues selling out arenas across the country for his *Perfectly Unbalanced* tour. He just returned from Ireland, where he shot his latest stand-up special, which will debut on Netflix in September.

# 2013 HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME APPLICATION

## JEFF DUNHAM

### BIOGRAPHY

PLACE OF BIRTH: Dallas, Texas, USA

DATE OF BIRTH: April 18, 1962

Jeff Dunham has single-handedly revived the popularity of ventriloquism throughout the world, albeit with a *hand* skillfully bringing life to a troupe of hilarious, original characters. In a professional career spanning three decades, Dunham has gone from performing at schools and churches to selling out 10,000 seat arenas - becoming the top-grossing domestic and international comedy act in multiple years. *Time* magazine opined that Dunham was "perhaps the most popular comedian in the U.S." and *Forbes* magazine power-ranked him on its Celebrity 100 list for the past four consecutive years. Currently, Dunham's Q Score ranks him the most recognizable comedian and a dizzying #6 among ALL personalities.

But Dunham is a man, not a number, and his appeal is in his unique ability to connect with people of all demographics. Uniting audiences with laughter - Dunham reveals the truth - of our foibles and follies, prejudices and pride. American scholar Jean Houston once suggested that, "At the height of laughter, the universe is flung into a kaleidoscope of new possibilities." If Houston's words are true, Dunham has created an abundance of fresh opportunities to examine the human condition and all the mysteries of how we relate with one another.

Dunham's colorful sidekicks include: the old curmudgeon Walter, the spicy pepper José Jalapeño on a Stick, NASCAR-loving Bubba J, skeletal Achmed the Dead Terrorist, Achmed's nearly dead long-lost son AJ, Melvin the Super Hero Guy, amped-up screwball Peanut and Peanut's own ventriloquist dummy Little Jeff (a mini version of the ringmaster of this circus).

Born in Dallas, Texas, Dunham was adopted at three-months old by Howard and Joyce Dunham. He was introduced to ventriloquism at the age of 8, when they gave him a Mortimer Snerd dummy as a Christmas present. This gift sparked Dunham's lifelong passion for what was becoming a lost art. He spent his adolescence studying the ventriloquist masters who came before him, most notably Jimmy Nelson and Edgar Bergen.

After graduating from Baylor University, Dunham moved to Los Angeles and paid his dues on the comedy club circuit, refining and perfecting what would become his signature showmanship. Dunham's hard work paid off, when he became a frequent guest on "The Tonight Show" and appeared on many other television programs. His major star turn came in 2006 with his self-produced Comedy Central special "Arguing with Myself." The DVD quickly sold over a million copies and garnered him a legion of fans.

In 2009, he signed a multi-platform deal, including a sketch comedy show, with Comedy Central. "The Jeff Dunham Show" became the highest rated premiere in the network's history, drawing 5.3 million viewers.

In 2007, Dunham launched "The Spark of Insanity" tour, visiting 238 cities in the U.S., Canada, and Europe, becoming the highest grossing touring comedian in North America. His second tour, "The Identify Crisis" had him playing over 100 cities and selling out major venues in a half dozen cities – making him the highest grossing touring comedian in the world in 2010. Dunham is currently on his third tour, "Controlled Chaos," playing to packed houses across the globe.

Throughout his career, Dunham has made a commitment to helping those in need. Dunham donates a dollar of each concert ticket to local charities as he tours the country. Just last year, Dunham donated almost \$500,000 to worthy organizations. Over 70% of that money goes to food banks.

## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

100 Most Powerful Celebrities 2012 (*Forbes*) *Ranked as #2 stand-up Comedian*

100 Most Powerful Celebrities 2011 (*Forbes*)

100 Most Powerful Celebrities 2010 (*Forbes*)

100 Most Powerful Celebrities 2009 (*Forbes*)

Currently ranked as Top-Grossing Domestic Live Comedy Act 2012

Top-Grossing International Live Comedy Act 2010 (*Pollstar*)

Top-Grossing Domestic Live Comedy Act 2010 (*Pollstar*)

Top-Grossing International Live Comedy Act 2009 (*Pollstar*)

Top-Grossing Domestic Live Comedy Act 2009 (*Pollstar*)

Top-Grossing Domestic Live Comedy Act 2008 (*Pollstar*)

2012 First Quarter Q Scores:

Q Score: #1 Most Recognizable Comedian

Q Score: #4, Most Recognizable Male Personality

Q Score: #6, Most Recognizable of All Personalities

American Comedy Award “Funniest Male Comic” 1998

*(note: these awards have not been given out since 2001)*

“Most Popular Comic in the United States” *(Time)*

Over 7,000,000 DVDs sold

Autobiography “All By My Selves: Walter, Peter, Achmed and Me” a *New York Times* bestseller 2010

Voted Top Comic in Comedy Central’s “Stand-up Showdown” 2008

Only Person ever to win “Ventriloquist of the Year Award” twice

“Jeff Dunham’s A Very Special Christmas” – Most-watched telecast in Comedy Central’s history

“The Jeff Dunham Show” – Most-watched premiere in Comedy Central’s history

“Jeff Dunham: Controlled Chaos” – third most-watched telecast in the Comedy Central’s history

“Jeff Dunham: Birth of a Dummy” - Bio Channel’s most-watched broadcast of all time

## **SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE PRESENCE:**

7 Million Facebook Fans

#1 Comedian on MySpace

Over half a Billion video views on YouTube

Over 200,000 followers on Twitter

## **FILM:**

2013 Achmed Saves America  
2010 Dinner For Schmucks  
2007 Delta Farce

## **TELEVISION:**

2011 Jeff Dunham: Controlled Chaos  
2009 The Jeff Dunham Show  
2009 Sonny with a Chance  
2009 30 Rock  
2008 Jeff Dunham's A Very Special Christmas Special  
2007 Jeff Dunham: Spark of Insanity  
2006 Jeff Dunham: Arguing with Myself  
2005 Blue Collar TV  
2003 Comedy Central Presents

## **TOURS:**

September 2011-present **The Controlled Chaos Tour**  
A 100+ cities tour playing to 8,000-11,000 seat houses in eight countries

May 2010 – August 2011 **The Identity Crisis Tour**  
A \$45 million, 100+ cities tour, in over playing to 7,000-11,000 seat houses in over half a dozen countries

September 2007 – April 2010 **The Spark of Insanity Tour**  
A 374-show tour in 238 cities, including his inaugural European tour

## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY:**

Founder, **The Jeff Dunham Fund**

The Jeff Dunham Fund has contributed in excess of \$1.2 million since inception

\$1 from every Jeff Dunham Concert Ticket Sold Goes to Charities

Last year alone, \$500,000 was donated to charities

71% of contributions go to local Food Banks

The Jeff Dunham Fund also donates to The Red Cross, The Salvation Army, The Hollywood Entertainment Museum, Haiti Relief Fund, Japan Earthquake Fund, Save the Children and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

## **POTENTIAL GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE FOR A CEREMONY:**

Jay Leno, Bill Engvall, Octavia Spencer, Jay Roach, George Barris

**ADDENDUM to 2013 Walk of Fame Nomination for  
JEFF DUNHAM  
(for 2014 Consideration)**

Additional Highlights:

- Jeff's current "Disorderly Conduct Tour" is playing to 400,000 seats in 8,000-11,000 seat houses across the country. Nearly 100,000 tickets were sold on the first day.
- Jeff's touring run has been unprecedented, travelling the globe practically non-stop for the past 6 years and stopping in some markets multiple times. He is up for a Guinness World Record for longest comedy tour ever.
- *Minding the Monsters*, Jeff's monster/horror themed stand-up special reached record breaking numbers for its premiere on Comedy Central on October 7, 2012 debuting to 5 million viewers (7.5 m for the night), making it the most watched special of the year for Comedy Central. It was #1 with males 18-34 and #2 with males 18-24.
- *Minding the Monsters* DVD release on October 9, 2012 was the #1 comedy DVD on Amazon.com and exceeded platinum sales status within 6 days. It is currently triple platinum.
- With the broadcasts of *Minding the Monsters*, *Controlled Chaos*, and *A Very Special Christmas Special*, Jeff has three of the top 5 most-viewed programs on Comedy Central.
- *Achmed Saves America*, Jeff's animated feature starring Achmed will be released on December 17 via broadcast and DVD.

Updated Social Media and Online Presence:

- 7.6 Million Facebook Fans
- Over 700 million video views on YouTube
- 350,000 Twitter Followers
- 350,000 YouTube Subscribers

Potential Celebrities in attendance for his ceremony:

- Bruce Jenner & Adam Carolla (plus the previously listed: Jay Leno, Bill Engvall, Octavia Spencer, Jay Roach & George Barris)