

# Satisfied & Gratified

## I Am Enough



### Michael Paul

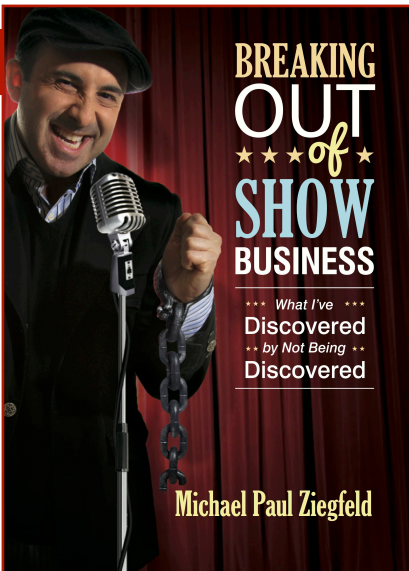
Guest Speaker

“After many years of success, my life had stalled personally and professionally. A four year depression and the untimely death of my father panicked me to jettison my life and dreams for change before it was too late.

On the eve of closing the doors to my old life, **Post Hill Publishing** asked me to write a book about being the most famous guy no one has ever heard of. Something changed within me after writing this book along with an unexpected phone call from my very Jewish mother.

This started me on the path to personal peace and new success. And this epiphany transcends age, gender and career demographic.”

Michael Paul



### Based on His Book

“The new book is a gem in storytelling that will finally win him that fame — as an author.” ~ **Robin Leach, Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous**

“Whether you like a humorous, behind-the-scenes glimpse into Hollywood, or a candid “you can’t make this stuff up” account of the industry, this book has it all! The quickest, funniest, non-fiction must read in a very long time.” ~ **Ryan Jay - US Weekly, Fox’s Morning Blend**

“If success, to you, looks like a challenging – even adventurous – life full of rich detail, laughter, and just enough adversity to keep things interesting, then Ziegfeld has earned himself the highest honors. And so has his story.” ~ **Wendy Nunnery - HuffPost**

Production Assistant, turned stage tech, turned puppeteer, turned host, turned comedian, turned writer, turned Director ... **Michael Paul Ziegfeld** was youngest intern hired at NBC after sneaking into the building. He then landed the job at CBS Radio because he was the only person to trudge through the biggest blizzard of the decade for the interview. Years went by with day jobs as a stage tech, to night jobs headlining comedy clubs. He was puppeteering for Jim Henson on a Tuesday and writing jokes for the Letterman show on a Wednesday.

Could he not find his niche or did he just love it all?

Where does that leave someone in the end?

When is it time to stop the climb? NOW.

## The Story

I was all ready to quit. My life had been stuck for some time. Work, money, creativity, love ... rarely do you ever have all of those at the same time. Usually you have at least two or three on that list. But for me, it had all stalled. I was stuck. My mother told me I was having my mid-life crisis (which mean't I'd be dead at 82, which was surprisingly soothing to know how long I would have to scrape along).

I was on my own pretty young. And for much of my thirty or so years in the world, I was incredibly, type-A proactive out of no other motivation but panic. Only during a mortality crossroads did I realize I had only learned how to survive, not how to live.

The depression was almost unbearable. I could barely get out of bed. Over four years I tried everything to find a way out. I was unsuccessful.

In 2013, my father was diagnosed with ALS and within a year, I was flying home to put him into assisted living. Along with my siblings, we moved him in, attempting to put on a happy face and make his single room amongst complete strangers look cozy. Photos, paintings, toiletries, bedding. And after a very difficult day, I walked out of the room, looking at a man who at 70, ended up alone, in a single room, with a paper name plate on the door, waiting to die.

This and other life issues sent me into a panic. My mortality was in the forefront more than ever before. Somewhere into my late 30's, I became subliminally concerned about how I was going to end up in the end. Single? Poor? Unaccomplished? I was so busy worrying about that, I could not be present in anything I was doing. My father's crippling demise sent it into overdrive.

I decided that this creative climbing of the ladder with all of it's rejections, hindrances and pitfalls were over. When I die, no one's gonna give a shit about any of it. It's taken up enough of my time. I'm half way through life and it's time for other things so I was going to buckle down, get a mainstream job, have money and a day to day schedule where I can meet new, quality, settled people to socialize with and date. At least that was the plan.

Over several months I tried changes through countless physical and spiritual avenues, when I contacted a career coach and resume builder. Did my 30 years of work have any merit in the civilian world? I was not a college graduate. And my career of many hats, what I felt was trying every fruit on the tree for a full life of experiences, seemed unhelpful. The years of feeling a lack of legitimacy to my accomplishments didn't help.

I was assured there was a cornucopia of legitimacy to my skillset. I stopped "faking it to make it" years ago and never knew it. We pin-pointed marketing and production management. But after a year of interviews finding out job hours, salaries, time off, and the morons you would have to deal with and all the corporate limitations, it finally occurred to me. My complaints and concerns about work are the same as every other job, just in a different wrapping! So I finally decided that I'd take the bag of rocks I already had instead of the others.

One day my mother called. And as a Jewish mother who is known to say things and are rarely helpful to a son, she asked me what I was doing today. I told her I was having my morning cup of coffee on the couch

looking out through my tall windows at the sunrise on the Hollywood Hills. Then I'm having lunch with my friend a friend.

She said, "You know, all of your worrying and clawing up the mountain, isn't important. Because life kicks you in the ass on a regular basis. In between, you have a nice cup of coffee, a good view and lunch with a friend. And I swear Michael, that's all there is."

I hung up shocked. Usually when an older person says something like that, one shrugs because we know this in theory, but as a vibrant, busy person that still has to survive, this generally has no effect. But this time, it hit me.

"Oh my God. Is that all there is?"

At first I thought it was depressing! Then I realized, it really lets you off the hook from all this self-induced stress.

It jettisoned the "one foot in - one foot out" mindset so many have in relationships and jobs. ***"How much longer can I keep doing this?"*** is a mind-fuck and upset to your brain and heart and gut. But once you are all in, that goes away and brings peace.

Yes - sometimes when your creative work pays your bills, it can poison the well. You start creating content for the public or for the paycheck or for the acceptance or validating of others, as opposed to creating and tinkering on a passion project that gets your juices flowing, and hear this, without the expectancy of a result. That is huge.

Here's the other big one ....

I stopped having judgement on where I was or was not at in my life professionally or personally. Whether it be performing on network television or in RV parks. Whether I am in my forties, married or single.

Don't get me wrong. Jewish, comic and thirty years of muscle memory behavior is hard to wipe out, but I keep it at bay a lot better now.

And now, my passion projects have allowed me to have less frustration, sometimes actually liking the day-job gigs of "where I'm at" and keeping it fresher. They have also opened up more of the kind of things I want to do next.

In the last few years, I have taught at NYU, UCLA, PACE, SAG-AFTRA Master Class and the Eugene O'Neil Conference. I am now doing coverage writing (which means script punch-ups of characters, bits and jokes) for shows and artists. I am directing theater, TV and cabarets. And I am directing high profile events and award shows. All of which I love. Of course, I wouldn't mind a literary agent. I'd also love it to become full time to get off the road and do the comedy act when I want.

I hope, as this part of my life grows, it will continue to open the door wider to financial and personal dimensions as well.

Time for coffee, the view and lunch with the friend. See ya.



# MICHAEL PAUL

The Bits, the Stand-Up, the Ventriloquism and a slick Improviser has audiences on a roller coaster ride of quick-witted banter and off-the-cuff comedic tirades trademarking the veteran, along with his ventriloquist creations of **"The International Bird of Prey," "The Worlds' Oldest Gymnast"** and his **Emotional Support Therapy Roach**.

He's a heavy hitter as a sure-fire, home run act, charming the pants off each audience while taking them right to the edge, having critics tout him as *"Fast paced, contemporary and smooth!"*



Philly native, Michael Paul has toured with such names as **James Brown, Lisa Lampanelli, Wynonna, Joan Rivers** and **Don Rickles** to become a headliner in over 40 countries along with television credits on **The Tonight Show** and **Saturday Night Live**, a film career including **27 Dresses** opposite Katherine Heigl, **The Ventriloquist** with **Kevin Spacey**, and **The Ten** co-starring with Winona Ryder and Paul Rudd. Michael has written for **David Letterman, Bill Maher, USA Today, Huffington Post** and his all-star book *"Breaking Out of Show Business: What I Discovered by Not Being Discovered"* (by Post Hill Publishing) found at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

**COMEDIAN VENTRILOQUIST IMPROVISER**



# America's got Talent

*"That was so much fun. I  
was laughing hysterically. Brilliant."*

**Julianne Hough**

*"Did that just really happen?  
That - was - hilarious.  
Fantastic."*

**Simon Cowell**



America's Got Talent

June 12 at 3:00 PM · 🌐

Ventriloquism meets comedy in a way only [Michael Paul Live](#) could deliver.

*"You are so good  
and so funny  
at what you do,  
I love you!"*

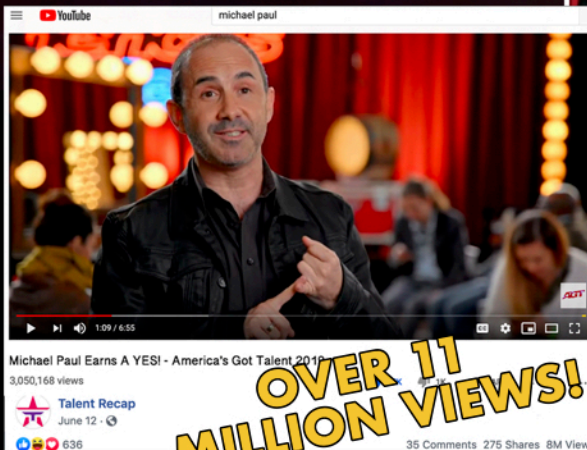
**Howie Mandell**

**People**

EXCLUSIVE

**America's Got Talent:  
See Simon Cowell's  
Hilarious Reaction to  
Ventriloquist  
Comedian's Audition**

Impressing [Simon Cowell](#) on [America's Got Talent](#) is no easy task, but a ventriloquist comedian may have found a way.



**Sue Hudson** I was in the hospital last night watching this. I was laughing so much my nurse came in to make sure I was ok.

*"This kind of act hasn't been my jam.  
But you made it my jelly, my jam, my apple  
butter. It was so good!"*

**Gabrielle Union**





# THE AWARD-WINNING VARIETY ACT



**"Slick and Charming!"**

**"He sends audience into an uproarious frenzy!"**

**- LORI BETH SUSSMAN, Jackpot Magazine**

**"I've never seen a ventriloquist that is funny without the puppets. He's a comedian, a showman."**

**- HARRY ANDERSON**

**"Warm, friendly, delightfully funny!"**

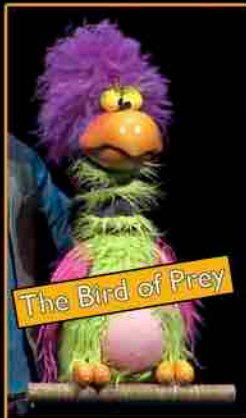
**- ROB GARRETT, NBC NEWS**

**"He's fantastic. I've given raves and blessing on him!"**

**- DUSTY BENNETT, DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS**

**"With his technical craftsmanship and clever script, he is the most impressive voice-thrower to hit the showroom stage in many years ... a spicy, winning performance!"**

**- CHUCK DARROW, The Post**



**The Bird of Prey**



**The World's Oldest Gymnast**

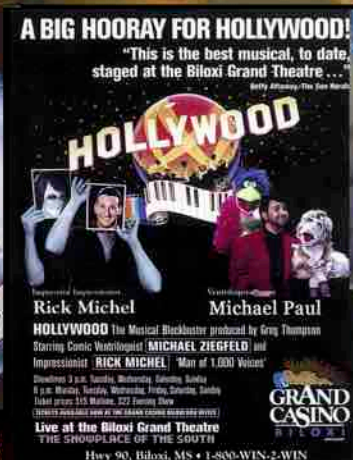


**Emotional Support Roach**





# @MichaelPaulLive



**CONTACT THROUGH LISTED REPRESENTATION**

**Or**

**KEVIN KELLEY**

**[info@MichaelPaulOnline.com](mailto:info@MichaelPaulOnline.com)**

**[www.MichaelPaulOnline.com](http://www.MichaelPaulOnline.com)**