

THE *Hollywood* REPORTER®

a Nielsen Business Media publication 78th year Wednesday, November 14, 2007 \$2.99



Hot Bits

What shtick not to miss
at this year's Comedy Festival

The three-year-old Comedy Festival presents a star-studded and diverse four-day lineup of some 50 standup, sketch and alternative comedy acts. Here are four events that are sure to be near the top of the 2007 fest's buzzmeter:

Jerry Seinfeld at 2005's
The Comedy Festival



Jerry Seinfeld

(Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m., the Coliseum, with opening act Mario Joyner)
No matter how many movies he makes, Seinfeld will always go back to doing what he loves best: doing his observational shtick in standup. He's been at it for more than 30 years, and nobody does it better. He's the top ticket at this festival and will remain so whenever he chooses to perform.

Eddie Izzard

(Saturday at 10 p.m., Augustus Showroom)
Izzard isn't a frequent live performer, so when he takes the stage, it's something of an event. The co-star of FX's series "The Riches" combines stream of consciousness and improv elements with a Monty Python-like sensibility to make for a hugely entertaining and uniquely theatrical comedy act.

The Lucky 21

(Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m., Thursday at 10 p.m., Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 9:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., the Emperor's Ballroom)
This event springs from an ambitious talent search to determine the 21 best standup comedians in the country via a nationwide comedy club competition and fan poll. Those fortunate comics will each get their shot onstage in Vegas in an event arranged and backed by Comcast's video-sharing Web site Ziddio.com.

Hot Tamales Live!

(Saturday at 11:59 p.m., Palace Ballroom)
The ladies take over in this show-closing event hosted by Eva Longoria Parker of ABC's "Desperate Housewives" fame, along with Kiki Melendez. Considering the midnight time slot, the outrageousness is expected to flow in a showcase that includes standup, sketches, music and dance from a largely unknown collection of comics.

— Ray Richmond