

This Working Mom Thinks Everything Is Funny — and Proves It

Helene Angley of West Windsor is an account executive by day and professional comic by night

It is so funny to watch all these people trying to find their love of their life on Match.Com, yet for us married people we want 'Re-Match.com.' Yes, my husband has some great qualities but can I get him to just pick up his shoes and not snore in my face all night long? And here's a true story. When I went over to meet my new neighbor, she said, 'It is such an honor to meet you,' which took me by surprise. And then she asked me, 'I don't understand...do you film here in New York or in Hollywood?' I said, 'I am not sure who you think I am' and she replied, 'You're Jane Lynch from Glee, right?'"

This is the banter of a working mom, Helene Angley, delivering stand up on stage. A working professional's nine-to-five life occasionally shows sharp contrast to the ways he or she expresses their passions elsewhere. Angley's particular passion is all about making people laugh. A West Windsor resident for 16 years, she spends her days as a district service account executive working for Waters Corporation, a supplier of laboratory software and instrumentation to the pharmaceutical industry. By night she enjoys a burgeoning career as a stand-up comic, including hosting a monthly show at Grovers Mill Coffee shop and co-teaching a weekly beginner's stand-up class at the West Windsor Arts Center with her friend and colleague, Lori Somer.

Angley's new life as a comic began with an improv class in 2004 at West Windsor-Plainsboro Community Education, taught by Rafi Reguer (who is profiled on page 27). From there, she auditioned for the national comedy contest Last Comic Standing in 2006, and got

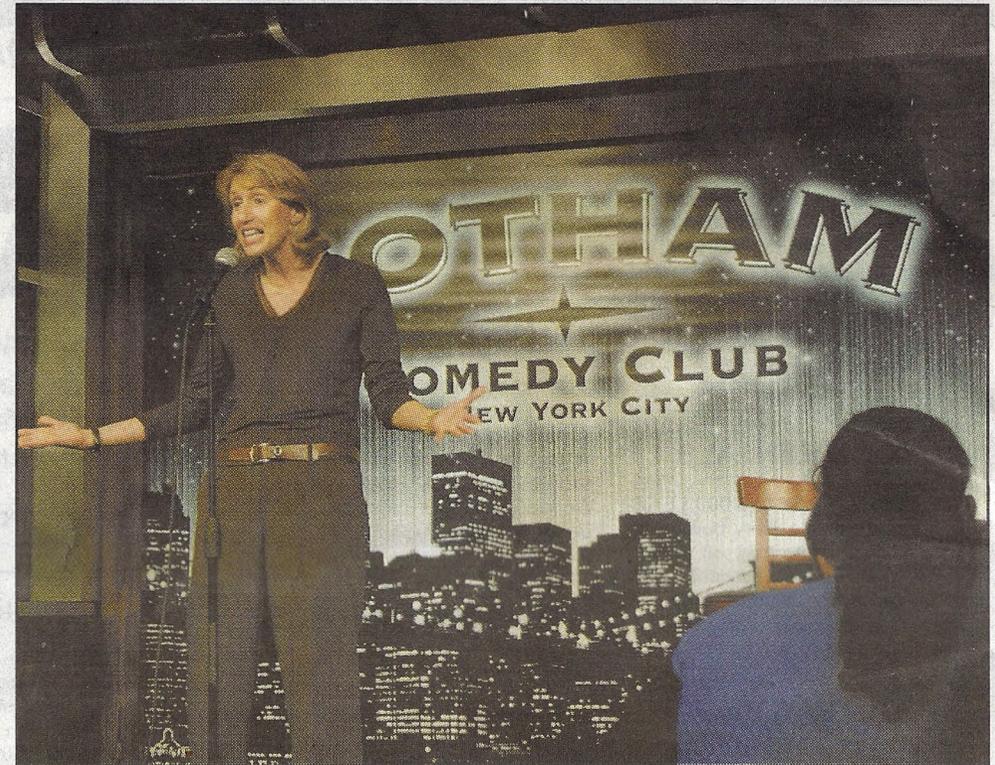
by Jonathan Elliott

a callback. "That lit the fire," Angley says. "I always wanted to do it, and I thought I'd give it a try." Since then she has performed in New York at Gotham Comedy Club, the Metropolitan Room, the Stonewall Inn, and the New York Comedy Club, and in New Jersey at Pat's Place in Nutley. Angley plays Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Preston, CT, on Friday and Saturday, March 18 and 19, and she will be back at Grovers Mill on Friday, March 25.

Angley's new pursuit is the fulfillment of a lifetime of keen observations and a quirky sense of humor. Angley recalls the first time she made someone else laugh. "I remember seeing Niagara Falls for the first time. I was nine. I was in an elevator with the general public on a tour. [The tour guides] were explaining how they could turn the falls off, and I said out loud, 'that's a pretty big switch.' It was such a little kid's joke, but suddenly everyone laughed. It was kind of a funny moment. I remember that feeling. It was a very funny moment to see my parents laugh."

That sense of accomplishment and energy continues to be a rallying force for Angley. "I remember my first show at Gotham City and making people laugh. That was an amazing feeling."

Angley grew up in the 1970s in Detroit and Los Angeles. In her standup routine, she says, with typical deadpan humor, "I like saying that I am from Detroit. It is important for people to understand that although it has



its intense moments, we produced the best, grooviest Motown music along with Madonna, myself, and Eminem." She said growing up in Detroit also helped her learn how to speak "jive" and bring that to the stage.

She studied at Long Beach State University and finished her bachelor's in forensic science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 1990. She met her husband, Tom, now a senior VP at Zurich Insurance Company in Manhattan, while she was working in the forensic department of the New York City Police Department. With her typical style of seeing the humorous side of any situation, she says they came to West Windsor 16 years ago because "I moved from LA to New York City and fell in love with a very funny guy, who liked this area and wanted to fight for parking spaces and extend his commuting time by one hour."

Very Funny: Angley has played comedy clubs in New York City like Gotham, above, as well as Grovers Mill Coffee in her hometown.

They have two children, Ryan, 16, who attends High School North, and Dana, 14, who attends Community Middle School.

In considering the initial courage necessary for stand-up, Angley says, "I felt like I'd written something funny that I thought that I could share. Everyone's in their own little world of preparing before they go on stage. I visualize key points, find a quiet spot, and try to remember the first line." Ultimately,

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