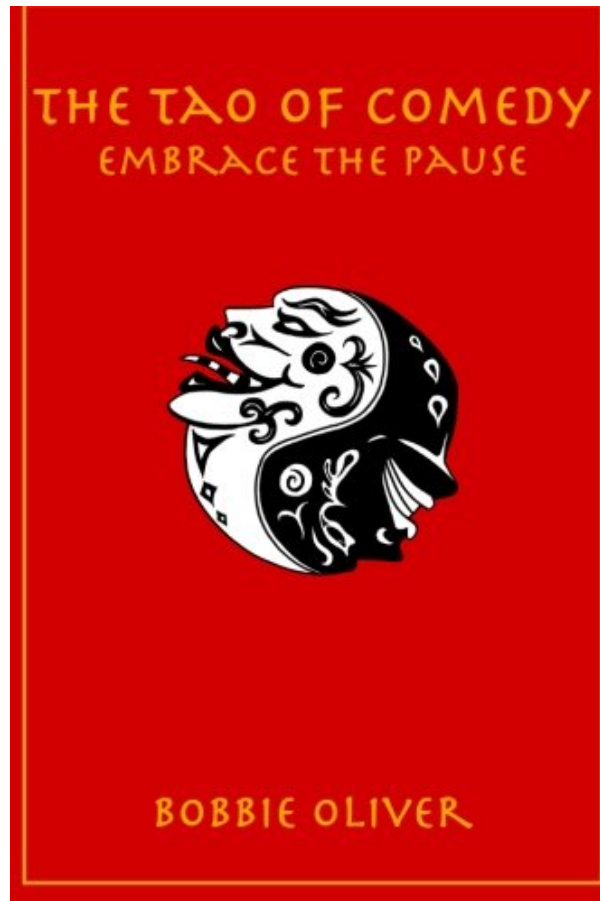
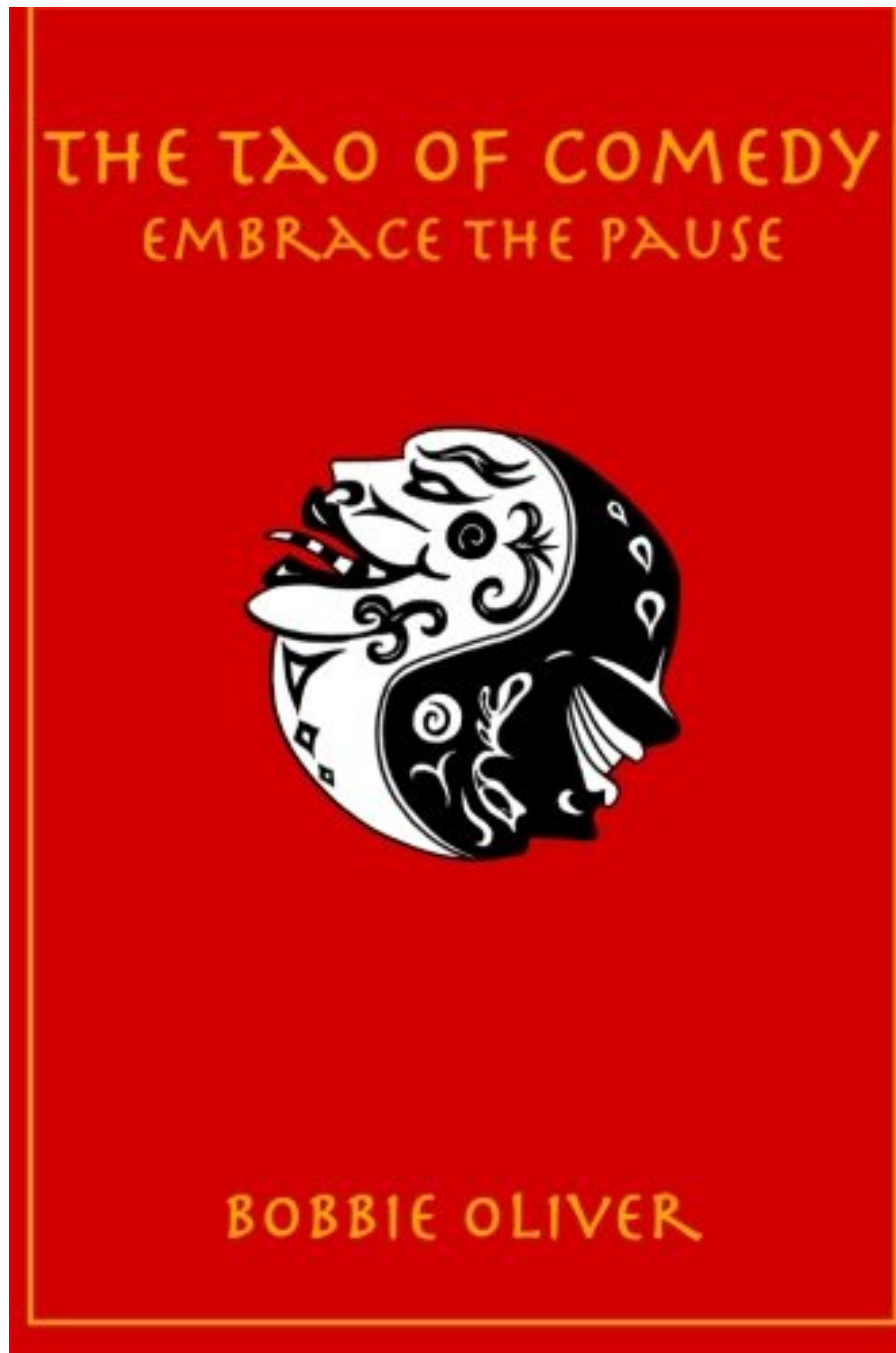


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About the Author

Bobbie Oliver is a 25-year veteran stand-up comic, writer, producer and comedy coach living in Los Angeles. Owner of Tao Comedy Studio, Bobbie has taught comedy to hundreds of comedians in Los Angeles. She has appeared on ABC, TNN, Style, Comedy TV, Sirius XM Radio and was called one of "the best comics in America" by the New York Post. Bobbie has performed in comedy clubs, colleges and hell gigs all over America. For more info, visit www.bobbieoliver.net.

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There are a lot of stand-up comedy books out there. This book is like none of them. It is about the Art of Comedy, the Zen of Comedy, the Tao of Comedy. It is comedy from the soul instead of the head. It is about Ego-less comedy. Don't Act. Be. You don't do standup comedy; it does you.

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Most helpful customer reviews

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

The best book on stand up for ANY experience level

By H. Michels

This book is a turning point in the history of comedy as an art form. Whether you're a professional or a newcomer, Bobbie Oliver's is the definitive book on stand up comedy. Rather than teaching new comics rigid joke formulas and inauthentic personas, Bobbie teaches the tools any emerging comedian would need to develop their own style and material. For veteran comics, this book offers a philosophical approach to comedy that helps put you in the right state of mind to find and develop new material or get through writer's block and various stresses. You'll be stunned at how she's managed to boil down and articulate some of the little tricks and nuances of stand up you've gained through years of experience into such a concise methodology. I was skeptical of some of the eastern philosophy and meditation stuff but Bobbie applies it to comedy in a way that's challenging and really has helped put me in the mindset to write and perform. For my fellow female comics, this book addresses the added challenges of being a woman in comedy in a very real way- Bobbie's coming from a place of experience and respect.

When Bobbie addresses the social politics in comedy and in society in general as they relate to comedy, she does so in a way that acknowledges the complexity of certain social issues. Bobbie never panders or acts as though certain subjects should be 'off limits.' Rather than appeal for censorship, she appeals to the comedian: Will you mine the same old stereotypes and hack jokes comics have been telling for years, or will you take a serious look at our prejudices and come up with something new and funny?

Almost every art form- painting, poetry, music, etc., has had its own techniques to help artists improve and build upon their own work and the medium as a whole. Now, thanks to Bobbie Oliver, so does comedy.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Simply the best, if you're a comic artist with integrity and authenticity, this is your book!

By John Lee Grogan Jr.

Bobbie Oliver quotes comedian Garry Shandling as saying - It's like taking a Buddhist temple bell, an authentic, two-thousand-year-old bell, ringing it and going, "Can you tell me why that rings so purely?" Because it's the real thing.

This aptly describes her own book; it rings deep and true because it is based in the reality of learned truth, compassion, the way, in hard experience all anchored in authenticity, integrity and artistry.

I would have to say that for me personally, this is the best overall book on comedy I've ever read. This book touches upon aspects of comedy you don't often ever hear discussed such as spirit, integrity, philosophy, ethics, and authenticity. This is a book written by an artist for those who consider comedy an art as I do, and I love how she delves into the tension between commerce and artistic expression. I enjoy that she treats her readers with respect, she's honest and forthright but also considerate and clear. She explains WHY you need to do things, she just doesn't tell you what to do.

I've been doing comedy over three years now, just now getting paid doing showcases and this book gave me guidance, hope, inspiration, useable techniques and overall strategy. It spoke to me in a voice I understood and was willing to trust and articulated things that rang true to my own personal experience. Her example embodies the comedian, teacher and person I would like to grow into being more like.

This book gives me confidence that I've been going about it the right way, that finding your voice and persona is really all about being true to yourself. On page one of the preface, Bobbie opens with, "Your comedy, your art, is an invitation to your Self. I have chosen to follow comedy as a spiritual path. What religion and I? I am comic." Amen sister!

I also loved this passage from page two, "I also put forth this book as an answer to the people who have brought comedy down to the level of bullying. There is an ever-growing tangent of comics who use their position to be mean for the sake of being mean...I choose a nobler profession than Bully. I choose Social Philosopher. I choose Advocate for those without a microphone. I choose Artist and Seeker." I feel like Bobbie is also an advocate for us who like her possess integrity, authenticity, have something to say and not just something to sell. She speaks for me and to me.

The biggest surprise and what she emphasizes the most, is the pause. The effective use of silence and pauses. I'm really getting how melodic and musical comedy can be, always knew that but to have it explicitly expressed and analyzed is an eye opener and real advantage. Slow down, enjoy the now.

Just a real gem and joy of a book! I've never been to a comedy workshop before, but I can't imagine there would be anyone else I would even consider going to after reading her book!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Comedy Master

By Mike Bagack

Bobby Oliver is not only a comedian, she is a comedy teacher. Her true calling in life is to teach comedy. She has taught thousands of students the art of comedy. I started with a blank sheet of paper. I would never have thought in a million years I would be able to stand up on stage with out passing out from fear.

Everything in this book is exactly what Bobby taught me about comedy. If I can do it, so can you. Inside this book is her life with comedy and every secret she knows to make you a comedian.

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