



A career in entertainment was not a “legitimate” pursuit for a middle class kid born in the Bronx, even though his father, Ben, was a good livingroom comedian, and his mother, Frieda, was a show business fan. So, Robert Klein graduated from Dewitt Clinton High School and entered Alfred University as a pre-med student. At Alfred he joined the college’s acting company and graduated in 1962 with a B.A. in Political Science and History. But the acting bug hit hard, and Robert’s drama professor convinced Ben Klein that his son should pursue an acting career. Yale Drama School beckoned, and Klein was on his way. He finished a year at Yale, followed by summer stock. In March of 1965, he auditioned for the famous Chicago Second City, became a member of the troupe, and there he spent the single most important year of his career. Klein returned to New York as a seasoned member of Second City and was seen by producer Mike Nichols and chosen for a role in his Broadway musical, Apple Tree. He began working on stand-up comedy material at the original “Improvisation” club. Soon after that, Klein was cast in two more Broadway shows, Morning, Noon and Night, and New Faces of 1968. In 1970, he starred in Comedy Tonight, the CBS summer replacement for Glen Campbell’s show. Klein and the show were highly acclaimed, and it was becoming very clear that Robert Klein was here to stay.

In 1973, Klein released his first album, Child of the Fifties, and ingenious collection of material which brought Klein to a vast audience and won him a Grammy Award nomination for Best Comedy Album of the Year. Two more albums followed, including Mind Over Matter, also nominated for a Grammy, and New Teeth. Let’s Not Make Love was released in 1990 on Rhino Records. Because of popular demand, Rhino re-...

Robert Klein

Speech Topics

- ☐ Humor
- ☐ Comedian
- ☐ Celebrity

