



It began in 1983, when Sinbad embarked on his Poverty Tour, going from city to city on the Greyhound, from comedy club to comedy club, working for meals, changing out of hotel restrooms. I prayed, Please Lord, this is hard work. So if I'm not funny let me know right away.

The break was Star Search in the mid-eighties. Sinbad was never a winner, but good enough to get on the show seven times and become a finalist. That led to a TV movie and a role as Redd Foxx's son on The New Redd Foxx Show (If you don't do this right, Redd told Sinbad, we'll get a white boy to play the part.). The next break came from Bill Cosby.

Cosby became a fan. He cast Sinbad in A Different World which along with Sinbad's stint as host of It's Showtime at the Apollo, allowed him to eventually do the 1991 Share the Dream Tour of historically black colleges - a tour backed by Coca-Cola, United Airlines, and BET (Black Entertainment Television). That year, Sinbad's first one-hour HBO comedy special, Brain Damaged, became the second highest Comedy Hour ever. As executive producer and head writer Sinbad developed an outrageously funny variety show -- Sinbad & Friends All the Way Live...Almost. Sinbad continued to score with Necessary Roughness, his first feature film. Sinbad never tells jokes - I don't know any, he admits - but rather stalks the stage, telling real-life stories. He doesn't deliver payoff lines he slam-dunks them. His comedy is large, physical, impetuous. Psychologically, he jams us, poking holes in our lifestyles. His stories mirror our foibles. Sinbad is the explosive energy of the neighborhood, his phrasing is manic, musical and right on time. He doesn't write his material he relives it as he remembers it. Sinbad never curses - I want peopl...

Sinbad

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