

BIOGRAPHY: JOEL CHASNOFF

Joel Chasnoff has performed his unique brand of humor in eight countries, including the Montreal Comedy Festival, a U.S.O. Comedy Tour of Japan and Korea entertaining American Marines, and nine performances for Birthright Israel in Jerusalem. On tour, he's been the warm-up act for both Jon Stewart and Lewis Black of *The Daily Show*.

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, Joel decided to relax a bit by serving in a combat unit of the Israeli Army. As a tank gunner in the Armored Corps, Joel spent many a chilly night not sleeping in his tank as he and his platoon mates lay in ambush against Hezbollah in South Lebanon.

Joel's memoir about his year in the Israeli Army, entitled *The 188th Crybaby Brigade: A Skinny Jewish Kid from Chicago Fights Hezbollah*, was published by Simon and Schuster in February 2010. Joel's writing has also appeared in *The Idiot's Guide to Jokes* and the 25th Anniversary Edition of *The Big Book of Jewish Humor*.

A portion of all proceeds from Joel's book and stand-up performances is donated to Joel's charitable foundation, Project Elijah.

He comes to us tonight from New York.