Klein, Robert (1942-) Encyclopedia Article

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One of the leading lights of stand-up comedy in the 1970s was New York-born monologist Robert Klein. Although often compared to scatological trailblazer Lenny Bruce, Klein perfected a gentler, more observational form of humor in the same vein as his contemporaries David Brenner and Woody Allen. After making his initial splash as a stage actor, Klein became the darling of the comedy club circuit after the 1973 release of his album *Child of the Fifties.* A series of one-man shows followed, which he eventually parlayed into a successful second career as a character actor. In the 1990s, Klein focused almost exclusively on ensemble performance, appearing on stage to positive reviews opposite Jane Alexander in Wendy Wasserstein's *The Sisters Rosenzweig* (1992), and on film for his old friend Mike Nichols in *Primary Colors* (1998).

Further Reading:

Berger, Phil. "The Comedy Class of '73." *M.* August, 1992.

"Robert Klein, Still Big Mensch on Campus." *The Jewish Exponent.*

June 4, 1998.