

they go better prepared and with more confidence ... different attitude, different outcome ... different life!"

Tom's energy, enthusiasm and love for life are infectious, and at times might almost be overwhelming if it were not for his charm and humour.

Tom's love of teaching is evident, as he explains "the day I stop enjoying this is the day I stop doing it".

It would also be true to say that Tom Todoroff's visit to Saudi would not have occurred had it not been for one man in particular. RGBB member, Peter Howarth-Lees who runs Smile Productions, a performing arts company in Riyadh, met with Todoroff by chance in Dubai and invited him to stage his very next workshop in the Kingdom. Howarth-Lees was also instrumental in facilitating the venture and setting it up and will now produce all of Todoroff's workshops around the world.

All who showed up to the Tom Todoroff Riyadh workshop no matter what their skills or age, from eleven to sixty, were welcomed and encouraged. Those who chose to perform, were given practical support and direction, and were taught by example. Many worked with partners and did scenes or monologues they had

chosen themselves from classic or modern plays.

A cornerstone of Todoroff's approach to coaching the actors was the '15 Guideposts' technique described in Michael Shurtleff's book "Audition", entrusted to Todoroff by his mentor Shurtleff. They are designed to stretch the actor and teaches the use of various concepts such as relationship, conflict, humour, role playing, mystery, space, events, importance, mischief and others. Also essential to any great actor is the art of relaxation, concentration and imagination teaches Todoroff. With that in mind all of his classes start with vocal and physical warm-ups not only to strengthen the vocal cords but as a means of unwinding the stress of the actors.

It speaks for itself that at the end of an all encompassing and insightful three days, most participants were so inspired by the success of the course that they signed up for the next installment by Todoroff. Which is due to take place at the end of October. As for me, I've already put down my deposit, just in case places are scarce.

To register for the October workshop or find out more about Tom's work, visit www.tomtodoroff.com or www.smileksa.com

The Comedy Store Comes to Riyadh!



It was an unprecedented evening in the history of Riyadh, a night of enjoyable Stand-Up Comedy - UK style. The event took place on Wed 7th May and was held in the large auditorium of the American School.

Put on by Riyadh's SMILE Productions, in association with the world famous London Comedy Store, the event drew a 350 strong crowd made up of a variety of nationalities, so great was the appeal for a night of no-holds barred humour.

The three comics, only that very night flown in

from the UK, were greeted by enthusiastic laughter and applause throughout their individual acts. By their own admissions, they were the first 'Black', 'Northern' and 'Jewish' comedians ever to grace a Saudi stage. Popular stand-up comic, Quincy who hosts his own live chat show back in England and is the Winner of the Black Entertainment Comedy award for 2005 went first. He was followed by 'funnyman' Otiz Cannelloni who

combined the illusion of magic and the logic of stand-up to produce a hybrid comic creation. Last but by no means least, came the 'icing on the cake', Jewish comedian extraordinaire Adam Bloom.

All in all, it was most definitely a fun and light-hearted evening's entertainment.

For anyone wanting further information concerning upcoming comedy events details are available at www.smileksa.com

