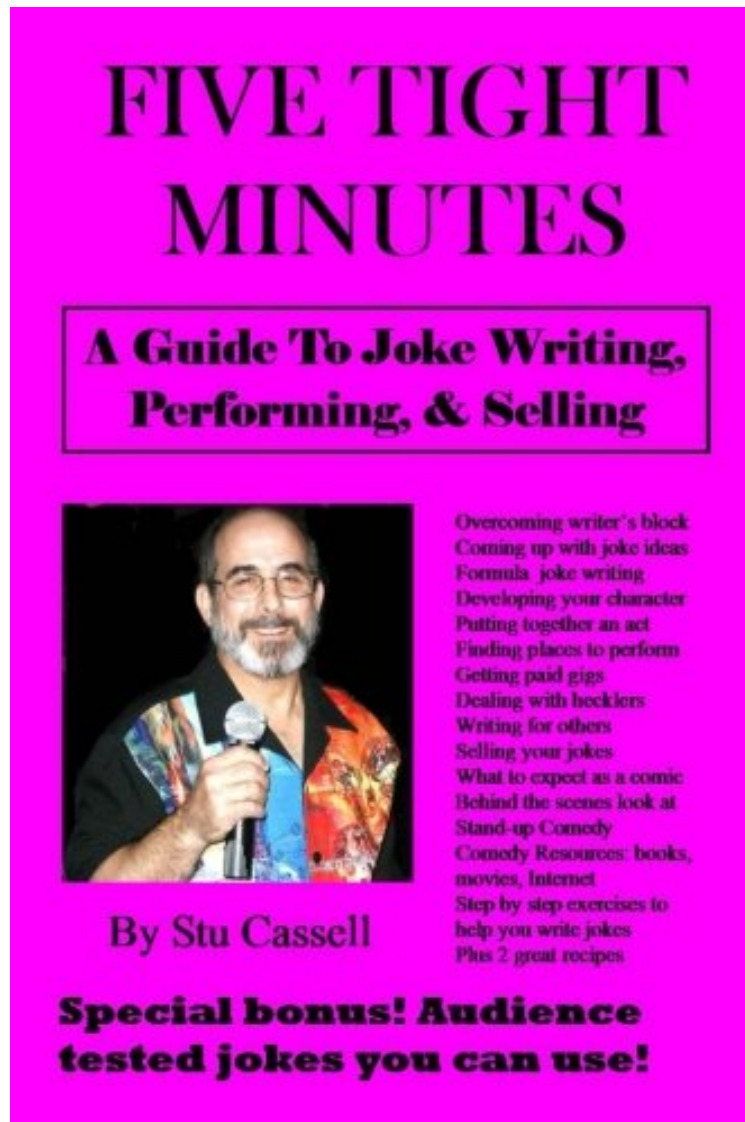


## 5 Tight Minutes: A Guide to Joke Writing, Performing, Selling

*Stu Cassell*

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**Stu Cassell : 5 Tight Minutes: A Guide to Joke Writing, Performing, Selling** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 5 Tight Minutes: A Guide to Joke Writing, Performing, Selling:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing Book On Stand-up ComedyBy Chris GregoryIf you're looking to seriously pursue stand-up comedy, there is no better book on the market today. The author, Stu Cassell, is a veteran of the comedy club circuit and uses the book to educate about every aspect of the comedy business. He teaches about comedy, joke writing, developing a stage persona, stage presence, and the various venues for performing. There

is no stone left unturned in the comedy realm. The book features exercises for writing jokes and developing an act like no other. That is probably what most separates this book from the competition. If you have been making people laugh for years and want to turn pro, or have been recently bitten by the comedy bug and want to give it a try, this book will prove to be an invaluable reference. This book will no doubt become a standard in the industry. PS. I love turkey alfredo! (huh?) Christopher Pollard Author Don't Blame God For Religion Outskirts Press 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great guide to writing comedy, a must read! By Cliff Yates I've been performing stand up for over 30 years, and always write my own material. This book is definitely a must read for anyone who needs a guide into writing comedy material. It's not only helpful to those just starting their comedy career, but also to those of us who have been in the business a while, and need a jump start on creating more material. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Excellent how to comedy guide. Also an understanding of joke writing, delivery and handling adverse situations.

5 Tight Minutes is a easy to follow how to guide covering joke writing, performing, and selling as well as the basics of formatting an act. It provides easy to follow exercises and is the only such book on the market that deals with how to overcome writer's block. In addition, there are many bonus features in the book such as dealing with hecklers. 55 of the best heckler put down lines are included. But wait, that's not all - there's also a recently added section with audience tested jokes from the author's own act. Anyone purchasing the book has permission to use any or all of the material in it. Last but not least, there are two delicious recipes for turkey alfredo and a chicken soup recipe you can sing! Pinch me Martha - it doesn't get any better than this.

About the Author Stu Cassell was born in St. Louis, Missouri and raised in a traditional Jewish household; something which has always made him wonder since his family is Italian! His family moved to Detroit, and as a member of the National Guard, Stu got into trouble trying to bring home a war bride during the riots of 1967. He began his comedy writing career as a free-lance writer at the age of 21 when he sold one-liners to greeting card companies. The first joke he sold was: Front: "Your lips say no, but your eyes say YES" Inside: "How about putting the rest of your body to a vote?" A few years later he saw an ad for an open-mike night at a local bar and decided to try stand-up comedy. The first time he got on stage he spotted an attractive woman in the audience, and being single, after his set he approached her and used a Woody Allen line on her: "You're beautiful, would you like to take me home and hurt me?" The woman smiled and said, "Why wait?" and then she kicked him in the shin. The next week he used that in his act. Within 3 months he was getting paid work in Detroit, and within a year bookings out of town. He has since appeared in over 300 nightclubs and colleges in the U.S. and Canada, and opened for Jim Carey, Gary Shandling, and Bob Saget. But his real claim to fame occurred after he moved to Los Angeles. He was living down the street from George Lopez in Mission Hills, and George helped him move a couch. With fellow comic Bill Thomas, he founded the Detroit Comedy Society, and when he moved to Los Angeles, The L.A. Comedy Repertoire. His articles have appeared in the Detroit Free Press, and more recently he wrote a weekly column for Highlands Today in Avon Park, Florida. Today he currently resides with wife Mary Rose and dog Jack in St. Louis, MO. While living in L.A. he taught "5 Tight Minutes", a comedy writing, performing, and selling class at the Learning Network and Learning Tree. At the same time, he sold jokes to Joan Rivers and Rodney Dangerfield, who featured some of Stu's material on his "Rappin Rodney" album. "Five Tight Minutes" is based on 20 years experience as a professional comedy writer, performer, and teacher. It refers to what all club owners ask of new comics, "Give me 5 tight minutes", meaning, giving me a set with nothing but big laughs. It's what all comics aspire to, and continually add to until 5 become 10, 10 becomes 20, etc. etc. etc.