



Funniest  
HOUSEWIVES  
OF ORANGE COUNTY

The Funniest Housewives of Orange County are a sizzling comedic sensation whose styles are hilarious, diverse and witty! Women and men alike love the show so get ready to get down and have fun with these fabulously funny femme fatales who *DO IT STANDING UP!*

They have been seen on The Tonight Show, Oprah, Last Comic Standing, Craig Ferguson, Letterman, Comedy Central, Comics Unleashed, The View, Live at Gotham, Comic View, Dr. Phil as well as the winners of Nick at Nite's Funniest Mom in America, California's Funniest Female, Girls Behaving Badly, Orange County's Funniest Person, and Improv's Orange County Comedy Competition. Regularly performing at the Improv, Comedy Store, Hermosa Beach Comedy and Magic Club, Catch a rising star and many, many more!

In addition to performing at comedy venues, the "Housewives" provide a really fun and effective way to support and raise money and awareness to your group or charity. The best part is... everything is handled, (i.e. finding the room, catering, entertainment, stage, sound and lighting) . In place are all the production components necessary, including a marketing and art graphic department which allows us immediate access to create and develop all promotional materials, i.e. press releases, flyers, and show tickets. *FHOC Sponsors include: Margaritaville, Blue Ice Vodka, Mirassou Winery, Condom Revolution, Touch of Romance. New Contours.com, and Shape-Up Day Spa.*

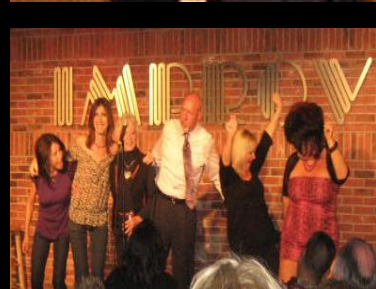
#### SOME OF THE PAST SHOWS THEY'VE RAISED MONEY FOR:

- The Susan Samuelli Center for Integrative Medicine
- Woman Helping Woman
- The Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation
- The Orange County Fire Authority
- City of Mission Viejo
- The Rotary Club of Orange
- The Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation
- Michelle's Place
- CHOC – Children's Hospital
- Hope Road

For more information about the show, please click on:

[www.funniesthousewives.com](http://www.funniesthousewives.com)

For booking and/or details about creating an event tailored to your needs, please call Cindy Burns @ (714) 309-6450 or email: [burnscomedy@aol.com](mailto:burnscomedy@aol.com)



# These Fabulously Funny Femme Fatales Do It Standing Up!



**Anti-Aging - Cindy Burns** is a 25 year old trapped in the body of a 55 year old. Trying to maintain a positive attitude you get the feeling she could snap at any time!



**Trailer Trash Housewife - Vicki Barbolak** Proudly she finally closed escrow... at the DMV!



**Rejected Housewife - Frances Dilorinzo** says "I'm so excited! My YouTube video has been up for one year... And I've already had 26 hits!"



**Dysfunctional Housewife - Julie Kidd** a single mom with three children who is too busy to cook. When she calls her kids to dinner, they run to the car!



**Rocket Scientist Housewife - Shayla Rivera** went from NASA to comedy. Now her mother wants her tuition money back... Houston we have a problem!



**Over-Sexed Housewife - Lola Gillebaard** who at age seventy-something buys a pregnancy test on stressful days just so she can tell herself "at least I'm not pregnant!"



**Past Life Housewife - Karen Rontowski** was a housewife in a past life and a comedienne as well. She performed in The Funniest Housewives of the Titanic and for The Donner Party....SHE calls herself the good luck charm!



**Inappropriate Housewife - Kira Soltanovich** says her husband is Irish Catholic and she's Jewish. She agreed that after they got married, she'd convert... to Alcoholism!



**Post Menopausal Housewife - Mrs. Hughes** says "Husbands are like brassieres... Sometimes you want to get rid of them, but you need the support".



**The Lazy Housewife - Stephanie Blum** admits we'll be lucky if she has the energy to get off the couch and be at the show!



**Confused Housewife - Jen Murphy** says "I just got married for the sex... I never really wanted a house!"



**Testosterone** provided by the funniest husband and host of the show, **Vince Harper**. He's been married for 28 years and says their sex life is magic... It's totally disappeared!

Published: Oct. 27, 2011 Updated: Oct. 31, 2011 7:04 a.m.

## Oprah, Dr. Phil fuel O.C. sisters' comedy

Cindy Burns and Julie Kidd turn their comedy, and their love of comedians, into "Funniest Housewives of Orange County."

[MORE PHOTOS »](#)

Comedians and stepsisters Julie Kidd, left, the *Dysfunctional Housewife*, and Cindy Burns, the *Delusional Housewife*, share a laugh. The two are part of the comedy show, "The Funniest Housewives of Orange County."

LEONARD ORTIZ, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

By LORI BASHEDA / THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

The '80s had just ended.

So when Cindy Burns ran into her stepsister Julie Kidd at a Pick Up Stix restaurant – and saw that she was wearing overnight perm rods in her hair and leg warmers – she wasn't all that surprised.

But she was surprised to see a baby on Julie's hip and another tot by her side.

The two hadn't talked in five years, since their parents' ugly divorce.

Julie asked Cindy what she was up to.

Comedy, Cindy said.

"And it was like an 'Avatar' moment," Cindy recalls.

The two had never really been that close. Julie was the blond cheerleader. Cindy was the quiet hippie girl. Their parents didn't marry until the girls were preteens.

But now here was Julie, talking a mile a minute about how it was her lifelong dream to become a comedian too!

But she never knew how!

And could Cindy please help her?

Cindy said she had only been doing stand-up less than a year herself, but sure.

They never could have guessed what adventures awaited them: From Dr. Phil's





tongue lashing to Oprah Winfrey's couch and three glorious minutes on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

"From that chance meeting, we've been hooked at the hip," Julie says.

...

Less than a month after the Pick Up Stix stepsister summit, Julie was signed up for her first comedy workshop.

She was 31 at the time. Cindy was 36.

"We went into the trenches together," Cindy says, wearing bad perms and biker shorts.

Dive bars. Coffeehouses. Someone's living room. A Pizza Hut.

"The hell gigs," Julie calls them. "People look at you like 'Why are you even bothering me?'"

*When do we get paid?* Julie asked one employer.

*When you're good,* he replied.

One time Julie built a makeshift stage at a Lamppost Pizza so she could tap dance during her monologue. The plywood busted and she fell through it.

That got her some laughs.

"It was just hell because you're not funny in the beginning," Cindy says. "You have moments of being funny."

But it's no different than it is for a rookie on the team.

"It's a burning desire; where you just dig, dig, dig."

They began writing material together over dinner at each other's houses.

And they started getting laughs.

Only, it wasn't always the kind of laughs you'd want.

...

One night in 2003, Oprah Winfrey announced she was doing a Hollywood Hook-ups show. Viewers could write in, telling her about their Hollywood hook-up fantasy. The winner would get to live it.

Julie wrote in saying it was her dream to get a break in comedy. She got a call from Oprah's producers saying she was in the running. Julie phoned her sister (*Oh my God, Oprah called!*) and urged her to write in too.

Cindy blew it off. (*It's silly; it's a shot in the dark.*)



But as the midnight deadline drew nigh, Julie convinced her stepsister to go home, sit her butt down and bang something out on the computer. Cindy hammered out six sentences, hit the send button minutes after midnight and went to bed.

"I'm at the age now where it's now or never," her note read in part. "I CHOOSE NOW!!! My fear is not to die, it's to die not fulfilling my dream to be a successful comedian."

The next morning, Cindy got a call from Oprah's producers.

"Ha, ha," she told the caller, thinking it was Julie playing a prank. "This is not even funny."

Eventually the producers convinced her they weren't joking.

A few weeks later they showed up at Cindy's house in Irvine to tell her she had won. She was going to live her Hollywood Hook-up dream: a stand-up act on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

"Are you kidding me?" Julie thought when she heard the news. Of course she was happy for her sister, but she also felt briefly like choking her.

Julie was always trying to get on whatever TV show she could.

"She was on 'Wipeout!' "Cindy says of Julie. "I mean, who wants to be on 'Wipeout?' She almost died on 'Wipeout.' "

"Oprah," though, was the Holy Grail of TV invites, and Julie wanted it bad. Now her sister was going to be on "Oprah."

One name popped into Julie's mind: Dr. Phil. She went to his website and saw that he was asking viewers to write in if they had spent all their money on their dream.

Bingo.

She had just spent \$5,000, all of her savings in fact, making a Tap-N-Burn tap-dancing fitness video.

She got a call from his producers.

Dr. Phil's no Oprah, she thought, but this would be fun.

Or not.

...

*Coming up on Dr. Phil, the tap dancing mom!*

By the time the episode was edited, Julie, a single mom raising three kids in an apartment in Anaheim, came across as a nut who tortured her kids with tap dance lessons.

"I look like a fool," Julie says.

At one point Dr. Phil asked for a show of hands of audience members who would buy a tap dance video if they wanted to get into shape. Three hands crept up. The rest of the audience laughed their heads off.

It took her about two months to get over the trauma. And then they reran the episode.

In the meantime, her sister was getting stopped on the street: *Were you that girl on Oprah?*



After Cindy's stint on "The Tonight Show," which aired three months before her sister's Dr. Phil smack down, Cindy was flown to Chicago to tell the queen of daytime TV how Jay Leno was a dream come true. (*Oprah hooks Cindy up with Jay Leno!*)

But Cindy brought her sister along every step of the way: phoning her from the limo on the way to "The Tonight Show," from the Green Room when Dolly Parton walked past, lying on the dining room table in her suite Oprah was paying for in Chicago.

Julie didn't want to choke her anymore.

Apparently, the women at "The View" didn't get the Dr. Phil memo, because in 2006 [Barbara Walters featured Julie's Tap-N-Burn video in a show about fun fitness videos](#), getting cheers from the audience.

Actually this was Julie's second stint on "The View." In 1999, she was a finalist in the show's Funniest Mom contest and flew to New York to be interviewed by Joy Behar on the show.

It wasn't until 2008, though, that the sisters turned their attention from getting onto other people's shows, and started thinking about doing a show of their own.

It happened the night that Cindy was a finalist in the California Funniest Female contest.

Nearly 500 had entered. Eight were left. They were all backstage waiting to go on, when she was overwhelmed with a wave of love for her fellow comics.

"I thought, 'It doesn't even matter who wins.' There was a certain energy. A non-ego. No boys club. It was magic."

An idea popped into her mind to start a show that would showcase the funniest women she knew.

"Real Housewives of Orange County" was on fire. And "Desperate Housewives" was still going strong. There needed to be a "Funniest Housewives of Orange County."

She began calling her favorite comics to build the show, likening her obsession to Richard Dreyfuss building the alien landing strip in his living room in "Close Encounters."

"I've been married 37 years; I was more committed to this show," Cindy says.

In the end, she had eight regulars and six headliners. Their first show was at the Irvine Improv in 2009. It sold out. And it continues to sell out "every 28 days" at places like the Coach House with crowds of up to 500.

"They come out in packs, like animals," Cindy says of their fans.

The show is character based, so there's someone for everyone: The Hippie Housewife (who was just on "Late Show With David Letterman"). The Trailer Trash Housewife (who won Nick at Nite's Funniest Mom in America). And the Oversexed Housewife, 84-year-old [Lola Gillebaard, a Laguna Beach grandma who just won the California's Funniest Female contest](#). She jokes that when she gets depressed she just takes a pregnancy test so she can at least be happy she's not pregnant.

Cindy is the Anti-Aging Housewife. And Julie, playing on her Dr. Phil disaster, is the Dysfunctional Housewife, introduced as the mom who wouldn't take Dr. Phil's advice to save her children from the horrors of too much tap dancing.

When they're not busy booking or doing shows, the sisters still meet every week to write material. Julie still fervently prays that they will not rerun her Dr. Phil episode. And Cindy still prays they will rerun her "Oprah" episode. Sometimes they talk about how horrible it would be if one of them lost the other.

"More than stepsisters," Julie says. "We are absolutely soul sisters."



### Benefiting Women Helping Women/Men2Work

Don't bother rushing to a botox session after seeing the Funniest Housewives of Orange County's, because you'll be laughing and crying at the same time. Guaranteed, between your laugh lines and their lines of laughter everything will iron out just fine.

The Funniest Housewives will deliver their respective comedy spiels for a great cause at 8 p.m. on Oct. 20 at the Improve Comedy Club in the Irvine Spectrum Center.

Highlighting "Four Fabulously Funny Femme Fatales" who have already made a name for themselves in stand-up comedy, the evening to benefit WHW/Men2Work, will feature Delusional Housewife Cindy Burns, Lazy Housewife Stephanie Blum, Hippie Housewife Karen Rontowski and widely acclaimed Mrs. Hughes whose alter ego takes on the Post Menopausal Housewife persona.

In real time, the women are gifted writers, moms, wives, TV personalities and winners of prominent industry showcases like "Last Comic Standing" and "Nick at Nights Funniest Mom in America."

Additionally, the Housewives perform regularly at such venues as the Comedy Store, Improv Comedy Club at the Irvine Spectrum Center, Hermosa Beach Comedy and Magic Club, and have been seen on the Oprah Winfrey Show, The Tonight Show, Comedy Central and more.

These creative ladies draw you into their world delivering signature one-liners that give wings to each show. Mrs. Hughes' tag says, "Husbands are like brassieres ... Sometimes you want to get rid of them, but you need the support." Or, Lazy Housewife will tell you she "pulled a neck muscle -- while yawning." And Hippie Housewife who still lives in the '60s says, "There is no time like the present to live in the past."

Creator and founder of FHOC Cindy Burns, who is introduced as a "25-year old trapped in a 55-year-old body," has been doing comedy for 20 years. She says the modus operandi of the show is to bring really strong, working professional comedians together who also love giving back to the community. The fact that the women can support themselves while making people laugh and raising money for worthy charities is a double-happy whammy.

"The magic is in the women who are authentic, and who all have a strong voices in comedy and are willing to celebrate it," Burns said while preparing for a recent Friday night show at Java Joe's in Yorba Linda. "We all have distinct personas who exaggerate. We are all story tellers."

WHW/Men2Work Executive Director Jeanne Flint, who met Cindy Burns at one of philanthropist Susan Somueli's fundraisers, said The Funniest Housewives of Orange County show is the coolest fundraiser they do all year. Last year the group was able to raise more than \$12,000 towards programs through the venue.

WHW began in 1993 with two professional women and survivors of domestic violence faced with the task of rebuilding their lives. The founders eventually created a program to help victims of domestic violence re-enter the workforce by empowering low-income individuals to attain employment success.

"What better to way to make friends than to laugh together," Flint said about the upcoming comedy event. "We're also raising funds and an awareness of our services and what else we do for the community."

In 2008 WHW began a new chapter in its history by launching Men2Work which serves low-income men with families who not only need help with job-acquisition skills, but acquiring appropriate business attire as well. WHW/Men2Work is currently serving more than 3,000 clients per year.

Tickets for the Funniest Housewives of Orange County is \$25. Doors open at 7 p.m. for dinner and preferred seating. Call 949.854.5455, and whatever you do, don't miss The Funniest Housewives in Orange County's Website at [www.funniesthousewives.com](http://www.funniesthousewives.com). It's hilarious.



*Funniest Housewives of Orange County cast shares a moment after a recent show at the Improve Comedy Club Irvine Spectrum Center with audience members from "The Real Housewives of Orange County" cast, Vicki Gunvalson (middle) and Jeana Keough, (third from right).*



*Corona del Mar resident Nancy Dahlfors is*



*Creator and founder Cindy Burns of the*



*Funniest Housewives of Orange County cast Julie Kidd, Cindy Burns, Lola Gilibeard,*

# Funniest HOUSEWIVES OF ORANGE COUNTY

These Fabulously Funny Femme Fatale's  
Do It Standing-Up

Vince Harper  
MOST AND  
FUNNIEST HUSBAND



Lazy Housewife  
Stephanie Blum

Delusional Housewife  
Cindy Burns

Past Menopausal  
Housewife  
Mrs. Hughes

Hippie Housewife  
Karen Rontowski

Want to laugh so hard you cry? Like bad husband jokes? Or just plan funny day to day jokes? Then come out on October 20th to the Irvine Improv at the Irvine Spectrum to see the Funniest Housewives of the OC. These fabulously funny females delight, with some of the funniest stand-up comedy around. These women are popular, besides performing and wowing the crowd at the Irvine Improv, they have been featured on Oprah, The Tonight Show, The Craig Ferguson Show, The View, Last Comic Standing, and Nick at Nite's Funniest Mom in America.

Your entertainers for the evening are:

Cindy Burns aka the Delusional Housewife- who claims to be a 25 year old trapped in the body of a 55 year old who confesses that she used to be the kind of girl that said "You can look but don't touch". Now she says "You can touch but don't look"

Stephanie Blum aka the Lazy Housewife- who says "I pulled a muscle in my neck...yawning

Karen Rontowski aka the Hippie Housewife- whose motto is, "there's no time like the present to live in the past".

Mrs. Hughes aka the Post Menopausal Housewife- "Husbands are like brasseries...Sometimes you want to get rid of them, but you need the support".

And your host Vince Harper the funniest husband aka Testosterone- Vince has been married for 28 years and says, "Their sex life is magic... It's totally disappeared!"

This is an evening you don't want to miss, grab your girlfriends, daughters, mothers, sisters, or guys who can handle the comedy and come out to the Irvine Improv on October 20th.

Ticket price is \$25 and can be purchased at [www.improv.com](http://www.improv.com) or by calling (949) 854-5455.

Address: 71 Fortune Drive, Irvine, CA 92618 at the Irvine Spectrum, free self parking or paid valet available.

This show will benefit Women Helping Women a local charity based in Costa Mesa that empowers low income individuals to attain economic self-sufficiency through employment success. To hear more about this cause check out the WHW website: <http://www.whw.org/>

I attended this show last year, and let me tell you, it is quite an event, very funny indeed!

\*Tag lines taken from Irvine Improv website about performers.



# She wants to tickle your funny bone

Comedian and single mother Julie Kidd will perform June 17 in Yorba Linda.

By JESSICA TERRELL  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

**YORBA LINDA** • Executive assistant by day and comedian by night, Orange County's Julie Kidd is a full-time funny mom.

The 50-year-old single mom of three is the author of "Momalogue: A Journey through a Single Mother's Hood."

She's been performing standup comedy since 1991, and has been featured on ABC's "The View."

Kidd can be seen in a free performance of "Funniest Housewives of Orange County," at 8 p.m. on June 17 at Java Joe's, 4975 Yorba Ranch Road, Yorba Linda. Reservations are recommended.

For information: 714-970-7988 or [funniesthousewives.com](http://funniesthousewives.com).

The "Funniest Housewives" are a group of women comics who perform on television, at community events and fundraisers.

We caught up with Julie to ask her some questions about where she finds her inspiration, and her upcoming Yorba Linda show.



COURTESY OF JULIE KIDD

**Julie Kidd, an edgy standup comic since 1991, will perform at Java Joe's in Yorba Linda.**

**Q. What's the funniest thing about Yorba Linda or Placencia?**

**A.** That the churches have wine and/or beer festivals. No wonder there are so many alcohol check points. ... They had a checkpoint in front of my house just last weekend! I'm beginning to take it personal.

**Q. What's the inspiration behind "Funniest Housewives?"**

**A.** Cindy Burns, my step-sister, is the creator and producer of the "Funniest Housewives of Orange County." It's a way for funny women to earn a living and contribute back to our community. We do corporate functions, regular club performances and fundraising events. ... Thankfully, women can really relate to us. Even the men that come to our shows laugh just as hard.

**Q. What do you think your audience connects with the most?**

**A.** The connection is that it's real-life stuff, and through struggle I have found there to be jokes. The power of laughter is healing, and I feel blessed that I can make people laugh.

**Q. Where do you get your ideas from?**

**A.** I get my ideas from real life. A lot of times after my show, people will come up to me and ask, "Do you really have three black kids?" (Yes, I do.) ... "Were you really on Dr. Phil?" (Yes, I was.) "Did your date really show up in slippers?" (Yes, he did.) My style of comedy is honest, edgy and sarcastic. The key is, when you smile, you get away with a lot more. I try to keep it personal. When it's personal, I'm more passionate about what I'm saying.

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**

714-704-3719 or



Wednesday, August 20, 2008

# 'Housewives' play nice at the Irvine Improv

An all-female comedy troupe performs stand-up comedy for a packed audience that includes stars of the reality T.V. show.

**By CAMERON BIRD**  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER  
Comments 0 | Recommend 10

"You know you're in trouble when you're bombing in the green room," comedian Vince Harper jested on Tuesday night at the Irvine Improv.

Frances Dilorinzo let out a self-deprecating laugh. That impromptu one-liner she just delivered elicited only baby laughs from fellow Funniest Housewives of the O.C.

Prepping for their first show together, members of the all-female comedy troupe padded on makeup and chatted in a small, secluded room. Beyond the walls, an audience of homemakers, breadwinners, grandmas, grandpas and a few scattered sons coalesced.

Most of the ticket proceeds, which totaled about \$7,000, went to the Susan Samuelli Center for Integrative Medicine.

In the front row of the sold-out show sat stars from the Bravo TV show, "The Real Housewives of Orange County," with whom one of the Funniest Housewives shares a telegenic bond.

Dilorinzo, who was originally slated to appear on the reality series, redeemed her failed green-room joke with a stand-up act that several times poked fun at the Real Housewives.

And then, baby laughs evolved into big ones.

Asked whether the Funniest Housewives were generating laughter at her expense, Real Housewife Jeana Keough made an offer.



"I'd be glad to give them more material," she said.

After the show, the whole bunch of housewives gathered outside the theater for photo ops. A line of people waiting for a late-night show at the Improv formed next to the ladies.

Katherine Langley, who was staring at the women from the front of the line, suddenly realized who she was looking at.

"Oh, they're from the (TV) show!" she said, before qualifying her glee. "I think my mom would enjoy them."

## For moms and non-moms alike, here's a small sampling of Tuesday night's stand-up repartee:

- It's good to be at the Spectrum, "the only place in the country where you can valet your car to go to Target." – *Frances Dilorinzo*
- "When I have a stressful day I stop off at the pharmacy and buy one of those home pregnancy tests ... and I take it. No matter what, for the rest of the day, I can say, at least I'm not pregnant." – *Lola Gillebaard*
- "I got so excited when I heard about Big Brothers of America. I thought it was a dating service." – *Julie Kidd*
- "My dad played for the (Pittsburgh) Steelers." (Cheers from audience). "I only told you that so you know what the daughter of an NFL player looks like." – *Vicki Barbolak*
- With those brown vests and caps that we wore in the Girl Scouts, "We looked like little Jewish UPS drivers." – *Cindy Burns*

Contact the writer: [cbird@ocregister.com](mailto:cbird@ocregister.com) or 949-553-2915

**FINALE:** The Funniest Housewives of the O.C., left to right, Lola Gillebaard, Frances Dilorinzo, Vicki Barbolak, Julie Kidd and Cindy Burns give one last bow with special comedy host Vince Harper at the Irvine Improv, Tuesday night.

**KEN STEINHARDT,** THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

### What's next?

**October 7** at the Brea Improv, 120 South Brea Blvd.

**October 21** at the Irvine Improv, 71 Fortune Drive # 841





Friday, August 15, 2008

# Why so serious, O.C. housewives?

Five female comics savor reality-show superficiality and in the process, turn the mirror on themselves.

By CAMERON BIRD

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Comments 11 | Recommend 17

Something funny floated by Cindy Burns while she was steeping in the bathtub.

"I just grabbed it," the Irvine interior decorator, business owner and comedian said of the thing – a great, big idea. "It was almost magical."

Realizing her "Aha!" could use an airing, Burns towed off and phoned fellow stand-up Vince Harper. The idea: bring together the sharpest mama comics in Southern California to collectively turn a mirror on the superficiality and self-consciousness of suburbia.

She liked it and he liked it, but it needed a name.

"How about 'Housewives with an Edge?'" she tentatively suggested.

Nah, too vague.

Harper returned with some on-the-nose wordplay that stuck.

"Funniest Housewives of the O.C.," he said, riffing on the title of the docu-melodramatic cable series, "The Real Housewives of Orange County."

Burns, along with four other ladies, will premiere their semi-satirical act Tuesday night at the Irvine Improv. Harper, who deals Lexuses during daylight, will host the show as the troupe's token bald dude.

Tickets are \$20.

UCI's Susan Samuelli Center for Integrative Medicine, for which Burns and comedian Lola Gillebaard serve as board members, will collect about 80 percent of the proceeds. The rest, Burns said, will be divvied up among the troupe to pay for gas and other minor expenses.

And how's this for a wrinkle? The comedians' heavily Botoxed reality-TV counterparts have arranged to sit front and center at the performance to watch and be watched. The ensuing hilarity (or non-hilarity) could find its way onto an episode of the small-screen show.

"We no longer have to tease them behind their backs," said comedian Frances Dilorinzo.

Let the roasting begin.

"Those really hysterical trophy wives are not the norm. Women are so sick of being bimboed out. Us, we're trying to elevate people's thinking," said Vicki Barbolak, a heavyweight comic who seems to always be wearing a tight leopard-print skirt.

In reality, maybe they're not so different.

Burns' stepsister Julie Kidd, also a Funny Housewife, said she needs instant validation to survive on stage. If the audience doesn't start laughing within 10 seconds of her first joke, it's psych-out time for the mother of three.

For Dilorinzo, the parallels are clear. The Rancho Santa Margarita comic was an original Real Housewife, but network suits forcibly removed her on the cutting-room floor.

"In a couple of shots you can see the back of my head and my shoulder," said Dilorinzo, who lives within walking distance from some of the mini- and mega-mansions of the show. "Reality is a scary thing in that it can be manipulated."

Breaking the pensive mood in the room, Dilorinzo then peered down at her chest and added, "I wasn't equipped for the show."

The funniest housewives are, in a way, *more* real than the ones on the show, Burns said. To excel in comedy, she said, you must emerge from your gated community, expose yourself and flaunt your flaws – figuratively, of course.

"You can't have an ego," said Burns, who added that getting old is one of her greatest fears.

Seventy-eight-year-old Lola Gillebaard, the troupe's oldest member, puts it in less Freudian terms.

"You can't take yourself too seriously in any place at any time," she said.

Barbolak, a single mom who was raised in Fountain Valley but has parked her adult life in a trailer in Vista, said even her pre-Boomer parents shouldered the sort of insecurity showcased on the Real Housewives.

Prime example: one time her poor family had to get their furniture from a Goodwill truck, but mom and dad didn't want the neighbors to know – to get the *right* impression. To cover their tracks, Barbolak and her sister deposited their own stuff into the bed of the truck.

Worked like magic! But, the comedians concurred, there has to be a third option for action in Orange County besides blending in and sticking out.



ROOM FULL OF LAUGHTER: (From left) Comedians Vicki Barbolak, Lola Gillebaard, Frances Dilorinzo, Cindy Burns, Julie Kidd, and Vince Harper are photographed during a meeting at Dilorinzo's home in Rancho Santa Margarita.

CHRISTINA HOUSE, FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER