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# Jay & Eytan

## So Busy So Tired



By **Vish Khanna** ([/writers/vish\\_khanna](#))

Published Aug 02, 2018

8

If the sketch comedy record is a little uncommon in an age when new standup specials are released every few hours of every single day of every single month, Jay Wells L'Ecuyer & Eytan Millstone have put the work in to make *So Busy So Tired* a gold standard of the form.

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The popular and prolific Toronto pair have been living in New York for the past five years, and their online and real-life audiences are growing. As such, there's a certain swagger here; they confidently lampoon Canadian "Heritage Moments" like hockey fights and health care, but also go in to satirize all manner of universal experiences.

Imagine a Yelp restaurant review being scrutinized for context by a suspicious judge and jury, or a radio station so desperate for content, they dispatch a couple of DJs to broadcast and comment on a fireworks display. What if we could be straight up with technology like Google Maps, and tell it to smarten up and stop interrupting our favourite songs? Jay & Eytan ponder such things and gently attack them, executing comedic premises like exacting scientists.

The standout bit here is "Millennial Bros," which feels loosely connected to "Meeting Up With Your Friends," only because both examine a moment in time, while also highlighting how we all shift a little as we age. The latter is a short riff highlighting how we might not really appreciate the serenity and joy of our 20s until our 30s, when life comes at you fast (it also feeds into the album's title). "Millennial Bros" is the longest sketch here and the duo's commitment to the idea — where two douche-y sounding dudes somehow exhibit the utmost wokeness — makes it a brilliant listen.

*So Busy So Tired* is contemporary and cool but also feels timelessly relatable. Jay & Eytan sound like they're in a coming-of-age zone, both professionally in their craft and personally, and that gives their stocktaking of human behaviour and the current socio-political landscape a rather hilarious kind of urgency. **(Comedy Records (<http://comedyrecords.ca>))**

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# >>> Comics Jay & Eytan send up millennial manhood with cajones

The Canadian-born, Brooklyn-based sketch duo take on the digital universe with total confidence

BY **GLENN SUMI** JULY 27, 2016 6:05 PM





**JAY & EYTAN: ALL GROWED UP** (Comedy Records). [comedyrecords.ca](http://comedyrecords.ca). Rating: **NNNN**

Local lads Jay & Eytan, aka Jay Wells L'Ecuyer and Eytan Millstone, achieved viral videodom a few years ago for their endearing yet obnoxious Catholic boys' school rapper wannabe alter egos Rick and Chuck. The two have since moved to Brooklyn and, as the title of their excellent new sketch album makes clear, they're All Grown Up. Thankfully, their comedy has kept its edge.

The duo are especially good at sending up the new digital universe. A sketch called Uber Pool is a hilarious two-and-a-half minute bit about an app that gets you a taxi ride and possibly gets you laid by pairing you up with strangers. In Instagram, an artist reconsiders opening a social media account when douchy bros tell her how to make her pics into sexy selfies to gain followers. And the album's clever closer shows what happens when your GPS computer voice gives you attitude.

The writing and production values are sharp throughout. In You Wanna Take This Outside? two guys argue at a party and decide to fight outdoors. What follows - an elevator ride, small talk about their kids,



bonding over a hot teacher - is brilliantly unexpected, with each sound effect and banal statement ringing true.

Sex is a big theme on the album, from the sketch about a guy who gets turned on during a laser hair removal session to one in which a hillbilly requests some Planet Earth sex tapes from David Attenborough. A one-minute sketch about a man who's into being infantilized shouldn't work but does.

These - and an absurd bit about a guy obsessed with the tag to the song Happy Birthday - more than make up for the less successful tracks about radio magicians, UFC contestants and obscure movie scenes.

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# Jay & Eytan Find Out What Happens When You Bring Two Man Sketch Performance to Stand Up Clubs

Published by Interrobang Staff at August 3, 2018

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Our next Comedy Records Showcase happens Monday (August 6) at New York Comedy Club! As always the lineup will feature a mix of Toronto and New York comedians and this month's show will also serve as a release party for the latest album from the [Brooklyn-based sketch duo, Jay & Eytan](#).

Originally from Toronto, Jason L'Ecuyer and Eytan Millstone relocated to New York in 2013. Since moving to the Big Apple the pair have taken a unique approach to their live sketch work and focused on performing on stand-up shows throughout the city.

Interrobang recently spoke with Jay & Eytan about their choice of focusing on stand up rooms as opposed to traditional sketch comedy venues and the benefits and challenges of crossing over genres.

## The Interrobang: What inspired your decision to start performing at stand-up shows?

Jay & Eytan: Over the years we've performed on all types of shows (stand up, sketch, improv, outdoor music festivals, hip hop events) we just found that we love and prefer the atmosphere at a stand up show. We like bringing a small element of sketch to the rooms as a way to stand out and switch it up a bit for the crowd.

## The Interrobang: What are the biggest differences between performing on a sketch show versus a stand up one?

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Jay & Eytan: We find that stand-up is more about a pure set up/punch-line joke and storytelling rather than setting the scene, character work and general theatre vibe that comes with sketch shows. They're both great in their own way but a sketch show feels more like a theatrical performance. A stand-up room has more of that, I'm gonna get trashed and laugh my ass off, vibe.

**The Interrobang: Have you noticed any similarities between stand up and sketch comedians?**

Jay & Eytan: Really good stand up and sketch comics are just oozing with talent but they prefer to ooze it out in different ways. A stand up uses real life experiences and observations and embellishes them to make really funny. A sketch comic uses that same experience but rebuilds it into a scene with a setting and characters. A stand up would say, "I was in a Canadian Mosh Pit the other day... Never heard the word "Sorry" so many times in my life." Whereas a sketch could feature loud metal music blaring as a group of men in flannel shirts bump into each other saying, "Sorry! Sorry! Sorry there bud!"

**The Interrobang: What's the biggest advantage of performing as a duo on a stand-up show?**

Jay & Eytan: The biggest advantage is when the host says they're gonna switch things up a bit and do some sketch because right away the audience thinks, ooh, this is new. They perk up a bit, especially after six or seven stand-ups in a row.

But that's not all the time though. There are definitely audiences that give the cool chick in high-school judgment face as if to say, ugh, this is different. We don't like different do we, Stacey? Being the ugly duckling on a show can definitely go both ways.

**The Interrobang: What are some of the challenges you've faced performing as a duo on a stand-up show?**

Jay & Eytan: Some stand-up stages are small and clearly not meant for sketch. They're built for one person and a microphone. For times like those we've practiced coming out on stage or having a plan like one of us moving the mic stand and setting up our set list while the other guy grabs the stool and puts our props on it. If we don't, it looks really clunky and clumsy and it's not a good way to get a crowd pumped up.

A lot of our sketches involve music cues and we hate annoying some person at a stand-up room by asking them to play them at a very specific moment. In a sketch room it's not an issue because they're all about the lighting and music cues, it's business as usual.

**The Interrobang: What's the reaction been like from stand up comedians when they've seen you guys on a show?**

Jay & Eytan: We've luckily never seen full out anger from a stand-up comic that's noticed us on a line-up but there have definitely been some eye rolls. The negative reactions are a minuscule percentage compared to the amount of support and mutual respect we've received though. Comics see how close to stand up we are but we just act out the joke rather than tell it. Sometimes when we're about to go on all the stand-ups come back in the room to see what we're gonna do and that's a huge honor. We always end up talking to stand-ups for hours about the differences and similarities between what they do and what we do. It's almost always very positive

**The Interrobang: What are your ultimate goals in comedy?**

Jay & Eytan: We think the ultimate goal is balance; the balance of a fulfilling career and a happy home life as we blossom in adulthood. Right now the live act is the main focus but we love filming as much as possible. We're trying to get better and better with each project.

**Our Comedy Records Showcase happens the first Monday of every month at New York Comedy Club at 7PM. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 at [NewYorkComedyClub.com](https://NewYorkComedyClub.com) with the promo code NAFTA.**

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Jay & Eytan's album, *So Busy So Tired* is **available August 10 through Comedy Records.**

## Exclusive: Comedy Team Jay And Eytan Give Advice To Aspiring Comedians

BY **KRISSIE MCMAKIN** – ON NOV 07, 2018 IN **LOL**



TheThings recently had the chance to talk to the breakout stars of the comedy duo, Jay Wells L'Ecuyer and Eytan Millstone for an **exclusive interview**. L'Ecuyer and Millstone are both professional sketch comedians as well as award-winning filmmakers who go by the comedy name "Jay & Eytan." The duo has recently released their second comedy album, ***So Busy So Tired*** after much success of their first album, ***All Growned Up***.

Making it as a comedian is not a simple feat but it can be done and Jay & Eytan are proof. They were kind enough to share some advice for some of our readers who might be aspiring comedians or thinking of stepping foot onto the scene. As advice-givers go, Jay & Eytan have the experience to back up their words of wisdom because they have performed at several (too many to name) comedy clubs across Canada and the U.S. We asked what





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**"Get on as many stages as possible in front of many strangers as you can," the comedian pair said. "Any comic starting out will hear the same thing over and over, it's like working out. The stage is your gym and every set you do is like doing curls. The only way to know if your material is working is to do it in a room full of strangers and see if they laugh."**

**They went to tell us that comedy is unique in terms of gaging success in a career field because it is a great equalizer. Jay & Eytan explained that if the material is funny, it will be**

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**"Also, comedy is the furthest thing from a get rich quick scheme," they added. "Get ready to fail and take some enjoyment in that."**

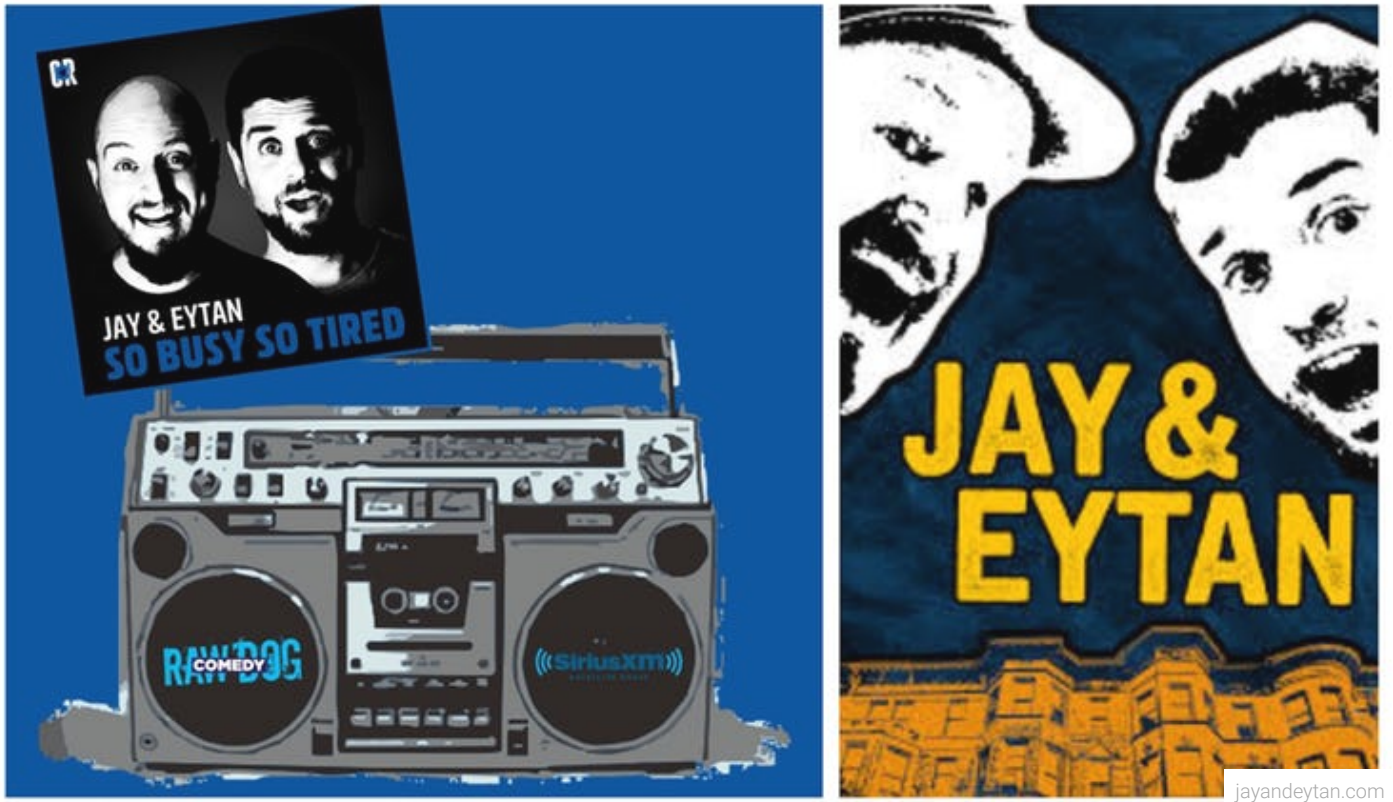
**We also wanted to know which comedy acts had inspired Jay & Eytan. Knowing who has influenced their love of comedy might encourage fans of similar acts to check them out.**

**"As 80's babies we definitely connected with Dave Chappelle and Seinfeld, Chris Rock and Eddie Murphy," Jay & Eytan told us. "There's *Always Sunny* and *Curb*, and Bill Burr is one of the funniest people alive."**

**The comedy team also listed their fellow comic peers who they say have made them laugh harder than anyone else such as Garrett Jamieson, Hunter Collins, Keith Pedro, Bryan O'Gorman, Bryn Pottie, Hannan Younis, Nikki Payne, Pat Burtscher, Arthur Simeon, Nick Reynoldson, Dylan Gott, and countless others.**

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As they mentioned in the interview, becoming a stand-up comedian is hard work and there is no guarantee for fame and success so those who do it for a living do it because they truly love it. One question we couldn't end the interview without asking was their favorite aspects of performing live stand-up?

"The greatest part of performing live comedy getting a group of strangers to all have the same reflex in their gut at the same time based on a joke that you have created," Jay & Eytan said. "And when that reflex causes to make a sound, and that sound collectively fills the room, there is no greater feeling."

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Besides their two comedy albums, **Jay & Eytan** have also experienced success on their **award-winning web series**, the Jay & Eytan Web Series, with hits like *Night Light* and *Meat Pie*. Their first comedy album hit the #1 spot on iTunes back in 2016 and their sophomore album is already headed in the same direction so be sure to give it a listen.

And to all of the aspiring comedians out there, break a leg!

**NEXT: EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW - COMEDY DUO JAY AND EYTAN TALK CONTENT AND COLLABORATION**



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