

**KEVIN SMITH:
THE “EVERY MAN” STORY TELLER**



Kevin Smith has my dream job. He gets to ramble for hours about movies and his life and gets paid for it. When I do it, people usually look at their phone, roll their eyes, and fake interest. Anyone that knows me would agree that I am a psychotic interrupter. If I have shit to say, I will cut your ass off. Not to be mean. I just grew up in a “seen not heard” environment. There are 4 people I could sit in a room, keep my fucking mouth shut. Quentin Tarantino, Rob Zombie, John Carpenter, and Kevin Smith. I would be locked into their opinions and stories, and just watch the sun go down...and then come up again.

When I was introduced to Kevin Smith, I was a few months into working at Tower Records/Video. Stumbled across “Clerks” and became a fan right out of the gate. Most groundbreaking film makers come across with a “genius” image. Usually brought on by the fans. Kevin Smith is not a genius. He is us. Like Stand up comedians...they comment on every day life, society, and the obnoxious flaws we have to socially tolerate from other people. They say what we would love to say, and say what we are thinking. That’s Kevin Smith. Kevin is also the master of obscure movie references. I fucking love movie references. Nothing more depressing then when you drop a movie quote or scene, and no one gets it.

Kevin did it first. Seth, Rob, Eli, etc. all came later.

Love his movies. His movies are small, sincere, crude, filthy, and from the heart. He’s not gunning for an Academy Award, or critical praise. He makes films that he would want to see, and obviously a lot of other people as well. As side splitting funny he is, I’m gonna roll with “Red State” as my favorite. He’s made it clear that he’s funny and loves him some 80’s and comic book movies. “Red State” shows me his Grindhouse side. Shit man...he wrote some killer parts for Leo, Parks and Goodman. That’s my world. I grew up on the video nasties, and the “sleazy” films. He took his talent for dialogue and threw it in a darker world. Killer move.



Now let's get into his Q and A. What started out as Q and A gradually evolves into rambling story telling. First "Evening" he's popping off answers left and right. By part 2, his stories get longer. By the time he gets to "Too Fat for 40" he has a 3 hour answer for one question. "Silent But Deadly?" Not one fucking question...and I fucking love it. What I loved the most about the first 3, was his sincere reaction to some really odd questions by some really odd people. But it's his stories that carries the show. I mean shit...how many times do we have to hear a fan offer to give him head? No matter how much he trails off and back peddles, he keeps me tuned in. I'm dropping the phone, rocking some popcorn, and listening to every word he has to say. By the way...you have to check out the commentary on "Roadhouse." Him and Scott had me dying. Favorite moments: "Fuck you blind man!"..."Is that a Kung fu shirt?"

Would these qualify as "Stand up?" Maybe. He's telling stories, keeping the audience laughing, and has a gift for delivery. He tells stories the way we tell stories. He has the fans that he has, because he invites us into his world. Shares insanely intimate stories. The kind of shit that I would share when I'm drunk, wake up the next morning and go "what the fuck did I say?!"

We don't just see him as an awesome film maker. We see him as a good friend. It's rare that we feel that we know our favorite film makers as a friend. Usually we just love they're body of work. The only time we hear anything personal is if it's a divorce, or an out of control drug addiction. We got to experience his daughter Harley grow up through his stories. From getting a dog when she was little, to tracking her drive up to a Target. Plain and simple. He shares his life with us. We know him, his wife, his close friends, and the people he's worked with. He's important to movies, and will over time

be remembered as a valuable part of movie history. He has an honest voice, no filter, no MPAA, PC approach to his art "Yes Kevin...it's art." He gave us thought provoking, heart felt movies, while giving us the 90's Cheech and Chong / Bill and Ted (which every decade should have.)

Kevin... love the movies, love your stories. Happy as hell that you're alive, well and healthy. You look great, and you still kick major ass.



Thanks for the morbid movie memories...
G.R.E.E.N.B.A.N.K.