
Why I'm voting for...Jon Stewart & The Cast of the Daily Show

By **ANDREW NOYES**

When a presidential election comes down to the less than inspiring choice between the lesser of two evils—the dimwitted war-monger or the waffling glad-hander—you know you've got a problem. It's similar to the sort of predicament one would encounter if forced to choose between a root canal and a colonic.

Thank goodness that this campaign season presents the American electorate with a third attractive, more appealing, and decidedly apolitical option. When I go to the polls on Nov. 2, I'll be writing-in the nation's most celebrated faux newsmen Jon Stewart and his bombastic brood of pseudo-correspondents on Comedy Central's Daily Show.

"Not feasible in the current state of Democracy," you say. Right you are, but please just go along with my ruse.



photos by NORMA JEAN ROY

Not only is Stewart one of America's most revered social and comedic voices, the New Jersey native and his team have a stellar track record covering the race for the White House.

They canvassed the campaigns from square one – from the Iowa Caucus to the primaries to the party's nominating conventions in Boston and New York City over the summer. In fact, from my experience wandering the streets of the Big Apple, The Daily Show billboards outnumbered Bush or Kerry signage four-to-one. How's that for a dominant presence on the political stage?

The presidential race is old hat for Stewart and company, too. Four years ago, The Daily Show talent was poised to pave the way to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue as the torch bearers of Comedy Central's "Indecision 2000" election coverage.

Such persistence has paid off in spades for the motley crew. They just grabbed two Emmys for the second year in a row.

Ask yourself: When was the last time George W. Bush won two Emmys? How fantastic would it be to have a commander in chief capable of garnering accolades from the Academy of Television and Arts Sciences? Surely we'd be the envy of the Western hemisphere.

Need another reason to vote for The Daily Show? Stewart's posse trumps Bush or Kerry's any day. Forget Condi, Rummy and their militia of dark suits and sensible shoes. Disregard Kerry's Clinton era table scraps.

We'd be smart to fill our presidential cabinet with the madcap Samantha Bee, a skilled TV commercial actress and sketch comedy veteran; Stephen Colbert, a comedy writer steeped in training from Chicago's "Second City" improv troupe; career stand-up comedian Ed Helms; and the admittedly mediocre Rob Corddry (who for all intents and purposes could be this administration's most amorphous presence—a la Ann Veneman or Alphonso Jackson, the secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development, respectively).

The Daily Show also possesses a secret weapon: quick-witted Lewis Black, the Karl Rove of this company. And I would be remiss to mention that Daily Show alumnus Mo Rocca was hired on by CNN over the summer. Yes, that's right, the most magnificent (legitimate) 24-hour cable news channel of them all used the spectacled satirist as a roving reporter for Larry King Live throughout the Democratic National Convention in Boston.

Now how's that for yielding political power?

Just like any would-be presidential campaign team, the Daily Show crew knows what's important: strength, knowledge, resolve and most importantly, cheap shots at the other candidates.

Stewart on Vice President Dick Cheney: "Cheney lives in the center of the Earth. I'm not saying he's developed a death ray, but he's working on it."

Stewart on California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger: "For the 1.3 million Americans who have sunken to poverty this year, Arnold's message to you is simply 'suck it up faggot, walk it off, you can do it.'"

Stewart on scripting rhetoric of candidates: "I think it should be a nonpartisan Democrat or Republican—everybody should be questioned on these stupid and pardon my French [expletive] talking points...and we should be able to have a normal conversation."



Stewart on post-Cold War homeland security: "Back then people didn't have the tools to respond to a vague threat propagated by the government, now we have duct tape and colored charts."

His gang was equally as merciless when the Democrats stormed Boston in July.

Stewart on the last great Democratic president: "Oh my God, FDR's alive. I can't believe FDR's alive. They cured polio—how did they do it? He's alive!"

Colbert on John Kerry: "[He] couldn't inspire an ice cube to melt in the small of Halle Berry's back."

Black on the on the Democrats' playbook: "Lie still, don't say anything and let other people walk all over you."

The Daily Show squad has proven time and time again that the political process is complicated and often incomprehensible—but almost always funny.

In Stewart's own words, the show is "the most trusted name in fake news" and they'd surely be the most trusted folks in the fake White House.

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