

## Kathy Buckley

Kathy was born with a hearing loss that went undetected until she was eight and led to believe she was mentally retarded. She was sexually abused, run over by a car, and stricken with cancer all before the age of thirty. Rather than being consumed by grief, Kathy sought the light of laughter. She went on to become a top female comedienne, an award-winning author of a one-woman show, a PBS special, and a book.

### Topics Include

- Disability Awareness
- Overcoming Adversity
- Self-Esteem Enhancement



## Biography

Riveting, truthful, and challenging are just some of the words that best describe Kathy Buckley, otherwise known as “America’s First Hearing-Impaired Comedienne.” Kathy Buckley is more than a popular comic, with her humor having a higher purpose. As quoted on the PBS television production, “Look Who’s Laughing,” “My comedy disarms people. I truly believe that the only disability out there is attitude. I love to make people laugh, but I love it even more if I can teach them something at the same time.”

Kathy began her career on a dare to enter a comedy competition to benefit a non-profit cause. Since that time, she has risen to become a veteran comedian who has been nominated three years in a row for an American Comedy Award. She continues to tour the country appearing at comedy clubs such as The Improv, Catch a Rising Star, the Ice House. She has guest starred and been featured on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Entertainment Tonight, VH-1’s Stand-up Spotlight, Live With Regis and Kathy Lee, Evening at the Improv, and Caroline’s Comedy Hour on A & E. She recently starred on her own HBO special, “Women of the Night,” and was the focus of the Emmy Award-winning documentary, “I Can Hear the Laughter.”

The rise to the top was not an easy one and that is what makes Kathy’s presentation all the more compelling. As a second-grader she was thought to be retarded. As a young woman enjoying the beach in Los Angeles, she was run-over by a jeep and was near death. Full recovery took five years. Just one year later, she was diagnosed with cancer. She now holds the title of two-time cancer survivor. Kathy’s performance — which reflects upon her life experiences — is funny yet riveting.

Kathy has also creatively transformed her message into a one-woman play. Her run of six weeks in Los Angeles was extend-

ed for four months and her three-month engagement off Broadway ran for four months to sell-out crowds in both cities. USA Today, Daily Variety, and The New York Times all gave her show a rousing review for its impact, humor, inspiration and delivery. Kathy Buckley recently authored an autobiography entitled, “If You Could Hear What I See,” and produced a one-woman television presentation on PBS of the same title. Her video of this presentation has become one of PBS’ most requested shows.

## Testimonials

“Kathy has you crying one moment, the next you’re laughing. She brings down the house!” – *Today Show, NBC*

“Your keynote speech left all our employees leaving knowing that we can overcome anything, and the best is yet to come. What a gift to give our company. Everyone is still talking about it. You made me look G-R-E-A-T!” – *Holly Teutemacher, Kellogg Foods*

“You are an inspiration.” – *Colin Powell, U.S. Secretary of State*

“You managed to change the lives of 5,000 women in 40 minutes ... You restored my faith ... You are incredible and the best motivational speaker I have ever heard ... What a story! ... You made me laugh, cry and celebrate life again ... You give communication life ... What a blessing ... I felt as though I was the only one in the room, and you were talking straight to my heart ... we thank you for an outstanding presentation.” – *participants of the Power of Women Conference*

“Kathy Buckley is audacious, funny, moving, and inspiring. If I didn’t already have a job, I would devote my life to kissing her feet.” – *David Hyde Pierce, actor*