

## Comedian Adds Humor to Sensitive Topics

The Daily Campus  
University of Connecticut  
Written by Tara Joyce

If you believe that laughing is the best medicine, the place to be last night was Alysia Wood's comedy performance in the Student Union Theater.

The show began promptly at 7 p.m., where the comedian was introduced by the SUBOG Comedy Chair Miguel Almodovar.

"Wood was selected because what we look for is more than just funny, we look for comic diversity," Almodovar said. "So far we have had black, white, Indian and women comedians perform this semester giving people a broader range and breaking stereotypes."

He gave great praise to Wood, acknowledging many of her achievements, including being a finalist in California's contest for Funniest Females, and welcomed the comedian to the stage with enthusiasm.

Wood began the night poking fun at the theater's poor lighting, which she said immediately distracted her because of her Attention Deficit Disorder. Other sensitive topics discussed throughout the night included anger management, sex, breakups and parent-daughter relationships.

"These jokes," Wood said, "come from my life. Pain is where many of my jokes stem from. I truly believe you laugh the hardest when you are going through a hard time. It's a lot easier to turn something negative or serious into a joke and make a bad experience funny."

Adding humor to these sensitive topics is exactly what Wood did, and it was clear that her young audience could relate to much of what she said. Wood induced an exceptional roar of laughter over the corrupt sex education she received by her parents. She informed the audience that her sex education was based on books on books such as "Where did I Come from?" which she re-titled "Why I Will Never Go Into My Parent's Room Again," and other books such as "What Is Happening To Me," a book on puberty, and "Why Does it Burn When I Pee?" a book on sexually transmitted diseases.

Essential to the success of any comedian, Wood turned any awkward moment into a joke, maintaining a laid-back, relaxed environment. She established a relationship with her audience, tuning into their likes and dislikes, and was attentive to the crowd's personal preferences.

"It was a very intimate setting," said Sofia Stromberg, a 3rd-semester psychology major.

Because of the intimate setting Stromberg described, Wood encouraged the audience to get actively involved. This involvement included audience shout-outs and commentary, which Wood used as fuel to expand her material.

"I love college students because they get the jokes," Wood said. "Unlike drunks in a bar, they listen to what you are really saying."

Wood concluded the night with her own beliefs about the inability of guy friends to relate to females during a breakup and her love-hate relationship with "ABC's Extreme Makeover Home Edition." Both jokes, containing racy humor, ended the night with smiles and applause.

"She's the best female comedian I've heard in a while." said Nick Phillips, a 3rd-semester exploratory major.

Wood was equally excited about the night.

"I loved tonight's crowd." she said. "I had a lot of fun. It was my first time at UConn, but I would love to come back."

---