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## Welcome Back show starts the year with laughter

Opening acts poke fun at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), personal ads and L.A.'s "911" system.

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*Media Credit: Henry Hsu | Daily Trojan*

Make them laugh. Jamie Kennedy lived up to his nickname of "the master of disguise" by impersonating a number of people. Students said that they thought Kennedy was great because he was not too over-the-top.

Television personality Jamie Kennedy headlined the USC Program Board's Welcome Back Comedy Show Sunday night, playing to a McCarthy Quad audience of about 800 students.

Kennedy, best known for his WB comedy show "The Jamie Kennedy Experiment" and movie roles in "Malibu's Most Wanted" and "Son of the Mask," was joined by his Experiment co-star, comedian Al Berman.

USC student and comedian [Brice] Keltner, a regular at The Ice House comedy club and a member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority, warmed up the crowd with some homegrown jokes.

She covered the incoming freshmen, New Residential College ("It doesn't smell new!"), very spirited Trojan bookstore-goers and the common sightings of mini-skirts with Ugg boots. Keltner also gave a comedic nod to [www.thefacebook.com](http://www.thefacebook.com), likening it to a "proof that I have friends and will stalk more of them-book."

Berman drew some groans of dismay for his opening joke about "the Bar-Be-Queer," a reference to the LGBT Assembly's welcome week barbecue earlier that day, but had the crowd laughing about Vons grocery stores and personal ads. Berman poked fun at Los Angeles' flawed "911" emergency system, suggesting a touchtone menu with specialized "on-hold" music - even belting out a rendition of the Beatles' "Help."

Wearing a large black T-shirt, black shorts and sneakers, he mentioned that black is supposed to make a person look thinner, a reference to his large size. He also noted that carrots actually have more sugar than ice cream.

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"I'm not eating carrots unless there's Haagen Dazs," he said.

Kennedy took the stage to applause and cheers, holding up a promotional poster for his Sunday performance and dubbing himself "poster boy for the Bar-Be-Queer." He gave a monologue covering college-friendly fare, including actor Ashton Kutcher's television show "Punk'd," reality shows "The Bachelor" and "Joe Millionaire" and his white rapper character B-Rad, from "Malibu's Most Wanted."

"B-Rad is a character based on all the white kids that think they're from the ghetto, but don't have a ghetto to call their own ... so they use the mall," he said.

Living up to his cognomen of "the master of disguise," Kennedy showed off his vocal comedic talent by impersonating a wide variety of people. He poked fun at talk-show host Dr. Phil, Houston Rockets center Dikembe Mutombo ("Cookie Monster on steroids"), actor Eddie Murphy, Harry Potter, Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne and flight attendants from Japan Airlines and Air Mexicana.

In response to a heckler grumbling about his Air Mexicana impression, Kennedy said, "Listen, I'm not making fun of Mexicans. I'm making fun of white people. We're stupid. Just go with it."

He asked the crowd if they had ever read the "smoke pot, get paid" classified ads in the Los Angeles Times, noting that it would be difficult to slack off at that particular job. But, the opportunities for job advancement would be endless.

"Johnson, I'm moving you to PCP," he said.

Kennedy, raised as a Catholic, also recounted his experiences as an altar boy when he was young. He said his job was to hold the tray underneath the churchgoers receiving communion, to catch the Body of Christ and keep it from falling to the floor. "That's a lot of pressure!" he said.

Many students said they enjoyed his performance.

"I thought he was great - really good," said Jessica Diamond, a junior majoring in cinema critical studies.

"In all honesty, I never watched any of his shows, so I wasn't really sure what to expect," said Jackie Tsui, a junior majoring in business administration. "He was funny, but not quite as over-the-top as the TV commercials portrayed him."