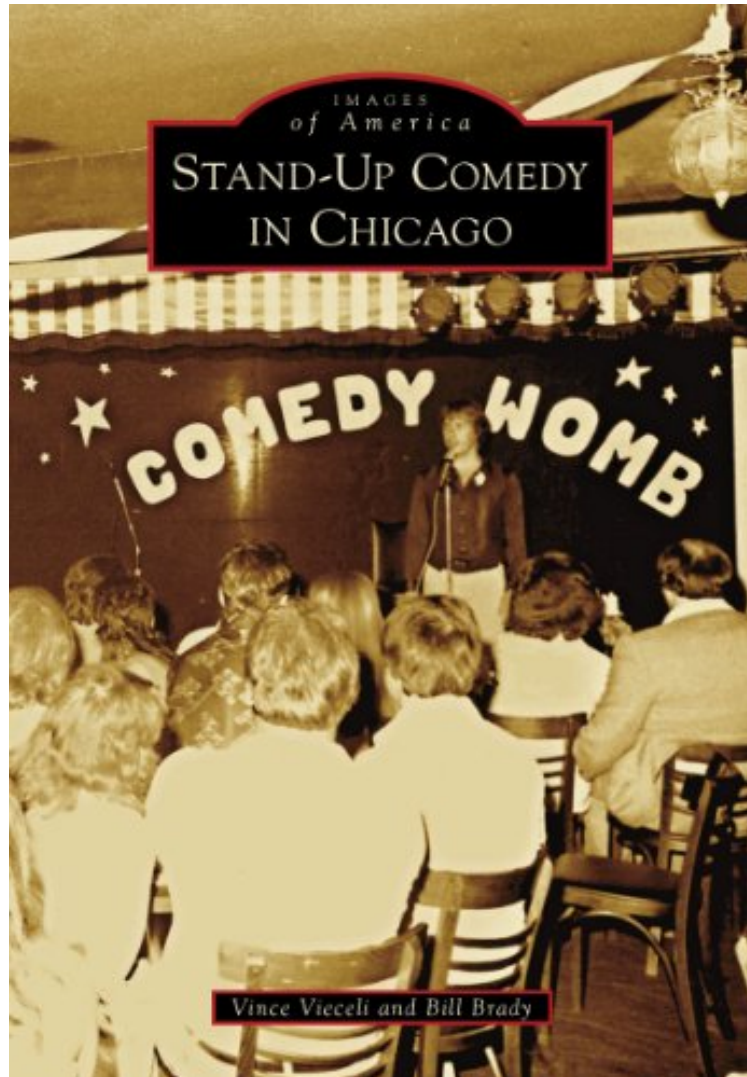


[FREE] Stand-Up Comedy in Chicago (Images of America)

## Stand-Up Comedy in Chicago (Images of America)

*Vince Veceli, Bill Brady*

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Ten years after Chicago saw its first full-time comedy club open, the landscape was decidedly different. Stand-up

comedy has exploded in the last couple of years, a club owner told the Chicago Tribune in 1985, that's the only way to describe it: exploded. It was truly a comedy boom, with as many as 16 clubs operating at once, and it lasted nearly a decade before fading, taking with it some of Chicago's oldest comedy stages, including the Comedy Cottage, Comedy Womb, and Whos on First. Still, stalwarts like Barrel of Laughs (south) and Zanies (north) persevered. That part of the story is known; overlooked is the fact there was a comedy boom, period. To hear the story, it is as if stand-up comedy innately morphed from a dated nightclub scene to what one Chicago Sun-Times writer called Chicago's atomic comedy blast.

About the Author Written by Vince Veceli, a writer and former comedian, and Bill Brady, who has worked as comedian, host, and booker for nearly four decades, including a 33-year stretch as a club owner, Stand-Up Comedy in Chicago highlights the venues and individuals who established and cultivated stand-up in Chicago, thus making the boom even possible.