

POWERED BY



P!nk swings into The Garden.



Jay-Z gives back to NYC with a benefit show.



The boys of **Snow Patrol** chill at The Beacon.



Aretha Franklin reigns at Radio City.

Still smokin'

Funnyman Ron White keeps it real (between jaunts to the French Riviera). By **Amanda Waas**



With the titles of nearly all of his five comedy releases referencing some type of debauchery—*Busted in Des Moines*, *Drunk in Public*, and his most recent CD/DVD release, *Behavioral Problems*—Ron “Tater Salad” White has made his name for being something of a comedic badass. It’s a persona he’s honed since breaking out of the small town of Fritch, Texas, and spending years touring the nation playing cramped comedy clubs.

Now he’s selling out arenas, and on October 3, will perform at the famed Radio City Music Hall. When he joined the popular Blue Collar Comedy Tour, White’s cigar smoking, scotch drinking, Good Ol’ Boy schtick won him a huge following. Making simple declarations such as “you can’t fix stupid,” garnered him a bona fide catchphrase that most comedians dream of (think “The devil made me do it,” but on a

smaller scale). And it seems the “badass” has truly arrived, having recently vacationed in the South of France, of all places—with his wife, no less!

“I’m a fucking dinosaur,” White says over the phone while preparing for that trip. With his omnipresent Scotch and cigar, he borrows the Dean Martin cigarette-in-mouth, martini-in-hand act, but it’s always debatable whether these things are just props or the real thing. So is Tater Salad too old to party?

“Of course it’s really Scotch—I’d feel like a phony if it wasn’t,” White says. But Dino might be a tough act to follow, right? “When Dean Martin was drinking and smoking onstage in the ‘60s, it wasn’t that big of a deal—it’s way more difficult for me to do it now with everyone being so PC,” White says.

In Canada, White was told

that he’d get a \$150,000 fine if he smoked onstage. *The David Letterman Show* wouldn’t let him smoke, but *The Tonight Show* would. “In Amsterdam, they told me I couldn’t smoke tobacco, but pot was okay,” White recalls. “What it comes down to is that I’ve used them so long that I don’t know what to do with my hands anymore,” White says. “And taking a drink or a drag from a cigar is a great reason to pause for timing.”

Whether he’ll be able to smoke and drink in the hallowed halls of Radio City has yet to be determined, but a working-class guy from a Texas oil town packing one of the most famous venues in the world is a good reason to pause—with or without a cigar.

Ron White plays Radio City Music Hall on October 3. For more information, go to radiocity.com.