

In 2010, **Jimmy Tingle** was chosen to give the Commencement address in front of thousands of people at Harvard. He'd just received his Masters Degree in Public Administration. Being that he was in the midst of many great academic minds, Tingle felt he should explain himself.

"I'm a comedian by profession and have traveled all over the world performing stand-up comedy," he said. "I don't want to brag, but two years ago I performed in Europe. I'd just like to say 'excellent country!" He punctuated it with an enthusiastic thumbs-up gesture.

As the students, families and faculty erupted with laughter, Tingle went on to explain, "People asked me all year why would a comedian want to go to The Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. I told them: 'the same reason all of you wanted to go to Harvard... We got in!'"

Yes, there was that. But also, as a political humorist he wanted to dive deeper into those murky waters of politics.

The Cambridge, Mass.-born Tingle has a career spanning three decades, as a comedian, writer, actor, activist and entrepreneur. He rose up from the Boston comedy boom of the '80s, the scene that spawned Denis Leary, Bobcat Goldthwait and Paula Poundstone.

He did two seasons of "60 Minutes II" on CBS in the "Andy Rooney" spot. Tingle was less curmudgeonly journalist and more exasperated, wry comic. "Some cities are using money from parking tickets to fund the schools," Tingle told "60 Minutes II" viewers. "Why is the quality of a child's education being influenced by their parent's inability to park? 'Dad, the school needs a computer! 'Don't worry, son, I'll leave the car in front of the hydrant.'"

Tingle also worked as a contributor and satirist for MSNBC and h...

Testimonials

Jimmy's insights into the ways in which the world works - or not - and his bold ideas for how to fix things kept our entire company laughing. His intelligent and at times surreal humor was perfect for a bright, engaged, and quick-thinking audience. An evening with Jimmy was the perfect way to celebrate our company's achievements, and weeks later we're still laughing about what he said.

- CEO and Co-Founder of Sentillion.

"The feedback was excellent; I would highly recommend Jimmy Tingle as an emcee for any corporate event."

- Vice President, Credit Union National Association.

Jimmy Tingle

Speech Topics

Politics & Current Events Humor

