

SEBASTIAN MANISCALCO

In 2019, Sebastian Maniscalco was reaching heights that few comedians ever dreamed about. With a string of record-breaking, sold-out arena shows, including the United Center in his hometown of Chicago, Boston's TD Garden, The Forum in LA and New York's Madison Square Garden, he released a new Netflix original special called "Stay Hungry," launched his brand-new "You Bother Me" tour, and starred alongside Robert DeNiro, Al Pacino, and Joe Pesci in Martin Scorsese's Oscar-nominated film "The Irishman." That success was followed by a number of blockbuster years for the comedian; author and actor that included his best-selling memoir, "Stay Hungry;" a role in "Green Book," which won a Best Picture Academy Award, and Billboard's inaugural Comedian of the Year award.

In January 2019, he performed an astonishing four sold-out shows at Madison Square Garden, breaking the record for highest-grossing comedy event ever in North America, and broke the record for highest gross for a single event performance at TD Garden in Boston. He put on the biggest comedy show in the history of Chicago's United Center and with 21,286 tickets sold, and the New York Times called him "the hottest comic in America." "But the Chicago-born Sebastian did not rest on his laurels—thanks to the work ethic drilled into him by his father. And so, in 2020, "People" magazine dubbed "the comedian's comedian." Jerry Seinfeld's "favorite comedian" has been one of "Pollstar's" Top 30 highest-grossing performers in the world the last three years consecutively. Named one of the Top 10 highest-grossing comedians in the world in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 by Forbes, Sebastian has taken full advantage of this new platform—taking on other opportunities, such as hosting the 2019 MTV Video Music Awards.

Since moving to Los Angeles in 1998, Sebastian has served as a textbook example of perseverance and hustle, initially earning his place as a favorite at Los Angeles' legendary Comedy Store. After Vince Vaughn enlisted him for his popular "Wild West Comedy Show," Sebastian began his ascent to what "Pollstar" dubbed "the vanguard of a live comedy revolution," becoming a favorite on late-night television and a touring juggernaut, eventually being named Just For Laughs' Stand Up Comedian of the Year in 2016.

But the biggest focus for Sebastian in 2020 is taking his observational comedic style to the fans on his "You Bother Me" tour. Sebastian notes that all of his accomplishments and visibility definitely create new hurdles for his comedy, he living his life is also a priority, finding new experiences and observations to draw from—including his son, nine-month-old Caruso, who joined three-year-old daughter Serafina, last summer. "Going from hotel to hotel, life gets more monotonous," Sebastian says, "so doing stuff with family is even more important. Toddler groups, music class, gymnastics—the more I get out there, the more material I have to extract from."