

EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW

BULLET POINTS

# Andrew Dice Clay on the ups, downs and U-turns of a strange career

"I was the most controversial comic ever," says Andrew Dice Clay.

The 57-year-old is known for overstatement, but this remark rings true. A couple of decades back, Clay was huge—selling out Madison Square Garden (twice), headlining his own movie. But he was also hated for the foul-mouthed misogyny of his "Diceman" alter ego, and many celebrated his decline.

Then, a few years ago, Clay landed a role in "Entourage," which provided the launching pad for an unexpected comeback. Last year, he followed with a brilliant performance in Woody Allen's *Blue Jasmine*; he's set to appear in an HBO drama produced by Martin Scorsese next year; and he recently met with James Franco to discuss a movie version of his life—which is hilariously documented in Clay's new memoir, *The Filthy Truth* (out November 11).

Here, Clay tries to explain what happened. —CW

## • ON THE DICEMAN

"I'm not a political figure; I'm just a comedian, and I felt people who came to the shows got the joke. Anyone who takes anything I say onstage seriously is a fool—it's so ridiculous. But that was mostly journalists, writing about 'the comedy of hate.' I can't blame them—that was a great story to tell. My job was to get the energy up, excite the crowd, and they would go crazy. Was Diceman me? It's complicated: We're both from Brooklyn, we both smoke and we both like women. Andrew treats his women with a little more respect."

## • ON THE LOW POINT

"It was about seven years ago. I was going through a messy divorce—the cliché. My career was in the toilet. But this

was because I'd made a choice: Am I going to make another movie or am I going to raise my two sons? There was nothing to think about. During the recession, I was in debt, I was battling with my ex. I had about 30 grand in cash, so I took it to Vegas. I won \$1 million, then lost most of it back. There were times I felt shook up—I'll put it that way—but even then I knew I'd find the light at the end of the tunnel."

## • ON THE RESURGENCE

"If you'd told me a few years ago that Woody and Scorsese would be calling me, I'd have laughed at you. It started when I bumped into this guy I hadn't seen in 15 years and he tells me Doug Ellin

wants to talk to me about 'Entourage.' I thought it'd be this little walk-on, but Doug says, 'I'll put you on the last season and see what happens.' Woody Allen saw me on that, and suddenly I'm in front of Woody reading lines. I don't even understand this. I'll never understand."

## • ON THE BOOK

"I couldn't write everything down, so this is like CliffsNotes about my life. Besides all the craziness, I'm hoping people will see someone very driven. I wanted the book to have a little inspiration in it, and I think it does. But I don't lie. This is not a clean world, and if there's something filthy going on, I write about it, like the time I..." [Cut!]



MATT HOYLE (PORTRAIT)