



(annual report)

qwerty.indd 1 12-04-26 10:10 AM

FIRST EDITION copyright © Angela Szczepaniak, 2012

The production of this book was made possible through the generous assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council.



Canada Council Conseil des Arts



All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Printed in Canada.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Szczepaniak, Angela, 1975-The QWERTY Institute (annual report) / Angela Szczepaniak.

(Department of narrative studies; no. 5) ISBN 978-1-897388-82-2

I. Title. II. Series: Department of narrative studies; no. 5

PS8637.Z39Q84 2011

C813'.6

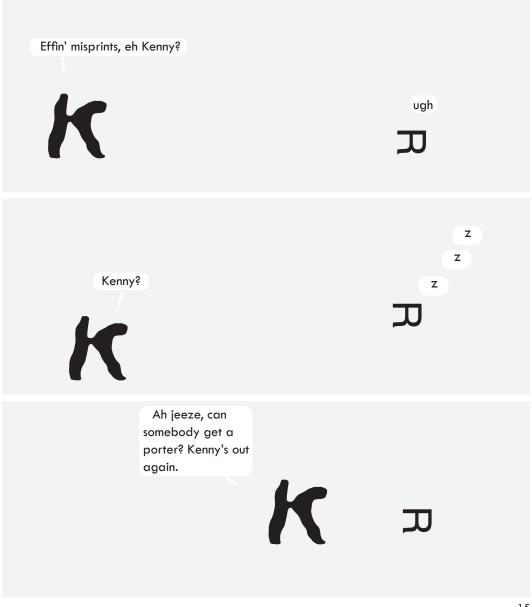
C2011-901540-4

gwerty.indd 2 12-04-26 10:10 AM This is a font comedian. Look at him. Observe him in his natural habitat, the deserted airport bar.



qwerty.indd 14 12-04-26 10:10 AM

Hard to believe this faded waste of a punchline was once one of The QWERTY Institute's most promising comedic talents. A goldleaf typeface comic, by all accounts.

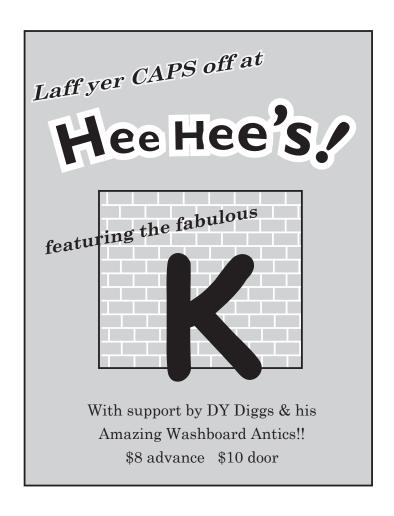


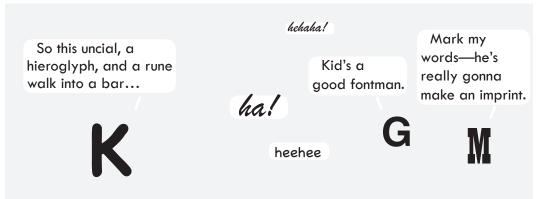
qwerty.indd 15 12-04-26 10:10 AM

From his first open mic at a local fontbar, he quickly won the crowds and built a steady and devoted following, eventually landing top billing at Hee-Hee's.



qwerty.indd 16 12-04-26 10:10 AM





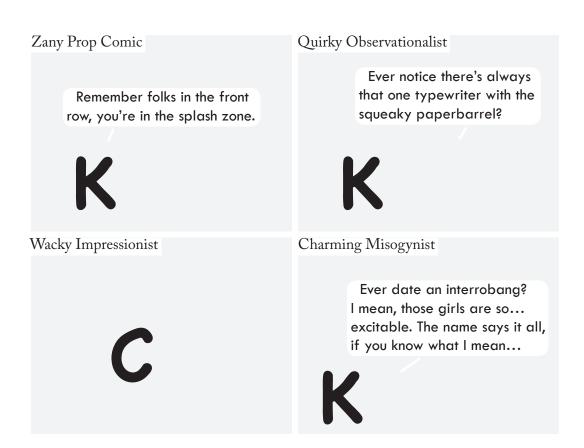
qwerty.indd 17 12-04-26 10:10 AM

But the effects of all the attention soon weighed on him. He faded in the limelight as he struggled to meet the constant demand for new material. Turning to alcohol and drugs to dull the pressure, his work quickly became careless and derivative.



18

He went through endless phases trying to rewrite himself. Caving under pressure from his agent, he abandoned his esoteric typeface material in favour of more mainstream, relatable fare.



qwerty.indd 19 12-04-26 10:10 AM

As the crowds thinned his bitterness thickened into a tough callous. His jokes became increasingly hostile and in poor taste, culminating in the ugly racist phase that was so well documented in the tabloids.



22

Following the massive public outcry, club owners had no choice but to ban him from all the national chains. He ended up pulling sets anywhere he could.

Laff'n Fold Laundromat Chains

> My wife's so rigid she sleeps in a file folder!



Corporate

Team-Building Retreats

Anyone here ever get photocopied naked?



All-Night

Convenience Stores

You know you're in trouble when you wake up in a typing pool of your own—



Hey buddy, I left the car running—can you just pass over some smelts and a Tab?



qwerty.indd 23 12-04-26 10:10 AM

Children's Birthday Parties

Look, lady, I got a daisy that squirts water. You in or what?



I don't know.... Kids these days won't find that funny.



For adults I use piss. You want me to try that?





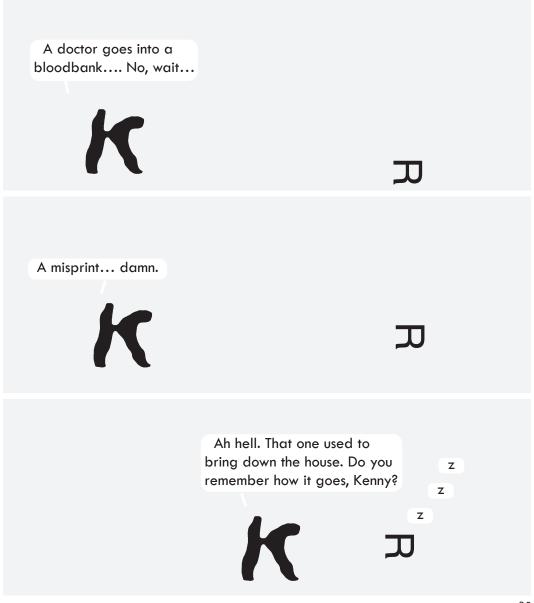








But font comedians are resilient. Finally returning to his typeface gag roots, our champ is currently poised to stage a class-A comeback. He's got a lot of things in the pipeline. Talks to get things in development. His eye firmly on the much-coveted HBO special that haunts every funny fontman's dreams. Until then, he can be seen in one of several Midwest airports.



qwerty.indd 25 12-04-26 10:10 AM