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Comedians Brian McKim and Traci Skene, wed for 18 years, say the marriage has been a career boon.

By Rusty Pray
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It seems as if Brian McKim and Traci Skene have been a part of comedy — and comedy a part of them — for, well, forever.

The Audubon couple — they have been married for 18 years — met at a comedy club in Philadelphia. They started their careers in the 1980s as separate stand-up acts in area comedy clubs.

No matter where they travel — and they have both performed in all 50 states — they usually appear on the same bill. They have written comedy together for radio and television, and together they founded and run a blogazine, www.sheckymagazine.com.

"Because comedy is so important to us, means so much to both of us on stage and off, we're one of those couples who are — and this may sound trite — made for each other," McKim said.

Skene, 41, who grew up in the Kensington section of Philadelphia, discovered her funnyman in 1984 when he was doing stand-up at the Comedy Factory Outlet in Philadelphia. The club was owned by a family member, and she hung out there a lot.

In 1985, she decided to put together her own stand-up act. "I had been wanting to be a comic secretly since I was 10," she said.

A little more than a year after she started her act, Skene dropped out of Temple University, where she had been studying broadcast journalism.

"I was getting too many comedy bookings," she said. "It came to a point where I just had to make a choice."