

CHINA CROSSROADS

Tuesday, July 14th, 2026, 19:30 – 21:00

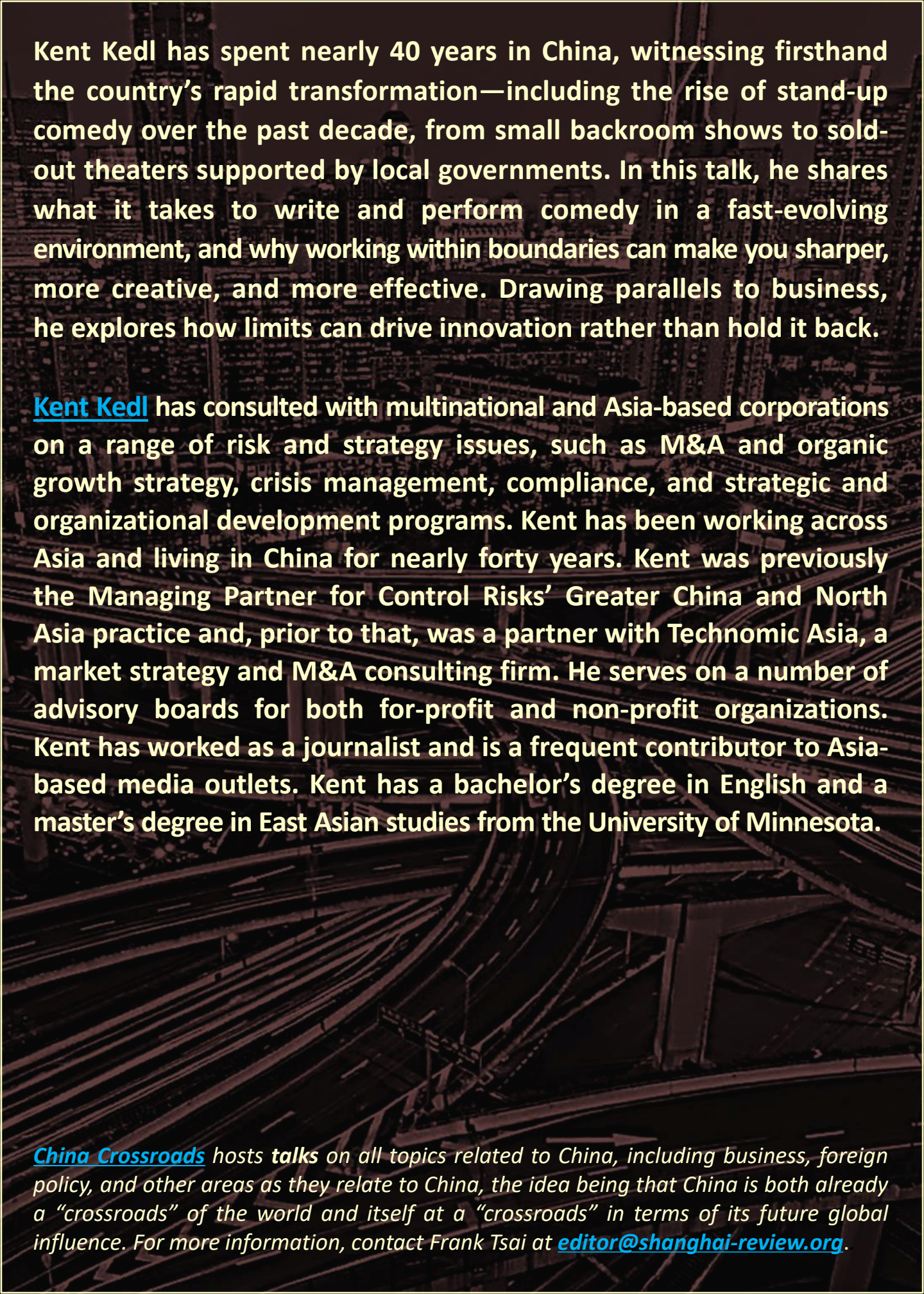
What Are You Laughing At? Why Limits Win in China — From Stand-Up Comedy to Strategy

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Kent Kedl has spent nearly 40 years in China, witnessing firsthand the country's rapid transformation—including the rise of stand-up comedy over the past decade, from small backroom shows to sold-out theaters supported by local governments. In this talk, he shares what it takes to write and perform comedy in a fast-evolving environment, and why working within boundaries can make you sharper, more creative, and more effective. Drawing parallels to business, he explores how limits can drive innovation rather than hold it back.

[Kent Kedl](#) has consulted with multinational and Asia-based corporations on a range of risk and strategy issues, such as M&A and organic growth strategy, crisis management, compliance, and strategic and organizational development programs. Kent has been working across Asia and living in China for nearly forty years. Kent was previously the Managing Partner for Control Risks' Greater China and North Asia practice and, prior to that, was a partner with Technomic Asia, a market strategy and M&A consulting firm. He serves on a number of advisory boards for both for-profit and non-profit organizations. Kent has worked as a journalist and is a frequent contributor to Asia-based media outlets. Kent has a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in East Asian studies from the University of Minnesota.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts *talks* on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.