

## Praise for “Maria Bamford: the special special special!”

\*One of **New York Magazine’s** Top 10 Stand-Up Specials of 2012

\*One of **KPCC’s** 10 Best Comedy Releases of 2012

“What the comedian Maria Bamford really wants is the approval of her parents. That’s not armchair analysis. In ‘The special special special!’...Ms. Bamford performs an hour of stand-up for her mother and father as they sit on a couch. By replacing a typical audience with her original one, she breathes life into a cliché by making it literal and creates a compelling dynamic that is as eccentric as her singularly funny comedy.”

– **New York Times**

“Bamford is a comic’s comic, with a stylized, experimental act that lingers in the mind, full of riffs on her struggles with anxiety and depression.” – **The New Yorker**

“[O]ne of the most fearless and bracingly dark explorations of mental illness in recent memory. But since the special is the product of Bamford’s beautifully tormented mind, it has the benefit of being consistently hilarious. Grade: A” – **The AV Club**

“Stand-up is a performative art. At all times it’s a back and forth between the comedian and his or her audience. With Special Special Special, the spacey/brilliant Bamford subverts that relationship by having an audience of two: her parents. As an onlooker, sure, you laugh at each joke’s punchlines, but the deeper laughs come from the situation’s unavoidable awkwardness. Bamford’s parents have to laugh at every joke, regardless if it’s obviously too weird for their taste or ultimately about them. The end product is singular Maria Bamford: a bit off, a bit sad, a bit hard to describe.”

– **New York Magazine’s Vulture.com**

“Bamford is smart, insightful and uncompromising, and ‘special special special’ is her artistic breakthrough.” – **The Oklahoman**

“A brilliantly funny concept brought to life by a brilliantly funny comic.” – **Pop Culture Beast**

“Maria Bamford is the most brilliant American stand-up comedian working today.”

– **the paper**

“Perhaps the most innovative release of the year...Bamford is a fearless, compelling, and hilarious chameleon, and *the special special special* is a must-see.” – **KPCC Blog**

“This would be a bold move for any comic, but is particularly so for Bamford, who not only pokes fun at her relationship with her parents in her act, but also frankly talks about being diagnosed as bipolar, having suicidal thoughts, and spending time in a psychiatric hospital...Of course, she approaches these topics from her unique (and brilliant) comic perspective.” – **Slate**

“It’s funny and grotesque, and the fact that her parents sit there and laugh as their daughter has a carefully-crafted psychotic breakdown is wonderfully disturbing. It takes on some added weight considering Bamford’s openness about being bipolar. A comedy special? This is a lost treasure from the *Twilight Zone* vaults.” – ***The Spit Take***

“The special special special’ pushes the DIY concept so far – Bamford’s living room is set up like a homespun nightclub, with a makeshift stage, red velvet curtain as backdrop and her best friend, Jackie Kashian as opening act – that it’s almost a parody of the self-distribution trend she’s embracing.” – ***LA Times***

“This hour-long set is pretty delightful.” – ***Huffington Post Comedy***

“The whole concept of this is so perfectly Bamford...With this release, Bamford has nailed her signature beat-poet meets Ani DiFranco style of spoken word riff.”  
– ***Duluth News Tribune***

“She’s proving herself as a versatile and talented comedian, and her special special special will be quite worth the \$5 price tag.” – ***Tubefilter***

“Bamford’s *special special special* is not only hysterical as a work of comedy, but leaves the viewer feeling like they’ve gotten one big warm hug from Bamford, whispering that it’s all going to be all right because she’s been through all of this mental and emotional turmoil too.” – ***Nerdist***

“One of the most interesting comedy productions I’ve seen in a while...The dark subject matter coupled with Bamford’s unique style of comedy makes this \$5 gem worth every penny you’ll pay for it.” – ***The Comic’s Comic***

“Her stories are so jarringly self-revealing and her onstage manner so genuinely eccentric that she’s often described as “child-like.” I disagree – she may use squeaky voices, but her material is unrelentingly grown-up.” – ***Inverse Delirium***

“The Special Special Special is raw, fascinating and personal.” – ***Chortle.co.uk***