

# Week 1: Moms Mabley



# Moms Mabley quick bio:

- Born **Loretta Mary Aiken** (March 19, 1894), in Brevard, North Carolina
  - known by her stage name **Jackie "Moms" Mabley**
- Ran away to Cleveland, OH, in 1908 to join a minstrel show
- Took her stage name from an early boyfriend, Jack Mabley
- Came out as a lesbian in 1927
- Performed in the Chitlin Circuit from the 20's to the Great Depression
- Opened for Cab Calloway in Harlem's Apollo Theater in the 30s. Made \$10K a week at her height during the Depression.

# Moms Mabley

- Made LP albums in the 1960s
- Played Carnegie Hall in 1962
- Billed as “the funniest woman in the world” she was introduced on national television on The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour 1967 and the Ed Sullivan Show 1969