The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces additional programming for

featuring


New Kennedy Center Commission with The Second City

Brightest Young Things presents The Bentzen Ball Podcast Studio

(WASHINGTON) — From June 22–25, the Kennedy Center presents its first District of Comedy Festival, bringing together acclaimed stars and rising acts for an all-laughs takeover of the nation’s center for the performing arts. The festival, an expansion of Capital One’s Comedy at the Kennedy Center sponsorship, features stand-up shows, a musical comedy revue, a jazz and comedy mashup, and a performance for children and families in spaces across the Center. The District of Comedy Festival also coincides with the world premiere of a new collaboration with Chicago’s The Second City, which will run for six weeks in the Theater Lab. Tickets for the newly announced performances go on sale to Kennedy Center Members on Monday, April 4, 2016 and to the general public on Thursday, April 7, 2016.

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The District of Comedy Festival’s updated schedule features six added events: **The District of Comedy Roast of James Carville**, which will convene politicians, media personalities, and entertainers to honor the celebrated political consultant; **The Daily Show Writers Standup Tour**, a raucous evening of political and news satire with writers from the Emmy Award®–winning late-night TV show; **Jermaine Fowler & Friends**, a stand-up showcase led by the Maryland-born comedian; **Saturday Night Live** star **Jay Pharoah** in his Kennedy Center headlining debut; **The Goddamn Comedy Jam**, an underground comedy event that mixes stand-up routines and live singing; and an original performance by **Reggie Watts**, highlighting his talents as a comedian, musician, and improviser. A newly announced collaboration for the festival includes a podcast studio curated by **Brightest Young Things**, in association with BYT’s annual **Bentzen Ball**.

The festival also includes the following previously announced performances: a special tribute to the late comedy icon Joan Rivers, featuring TV host, producer, and **New York Times** best-selling author Melissa Rivers alongside a stellar cast of comedians and actors; the new musical comedy show, **See Jane Sing!**, starring revered actress and comedian Jane Lynch; Robert Post’s one-man variety show for children and families; and an evening performance with the legendary social satirist Dick Gregory, combining the arts of comedy and jazz.

The District of Comedy Festival will also highlight a new Kennedy Center co-commission, **The Second City’s Almost Accurate Guide to America**. In this exclusive collaboration with the Kennedy Center, Chicago’s legendary The Second City will put a comic twist on historical figures, events, and inventions that make up the story of America. The work will premiere in June and the troupe will remain in residence in the Theater Lab through July.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Celebrating Joan: A Tribute to Joan Rivers** and the newly announced District of Comedy Festival performances go on sale to Kennedy Center Members on Monday, April 4, 2016 and to the general public on Thursday, April 7, 2016. Tickets will be available for purchase in person at the Kennedy Center Box Office, by calling InstantCharge at (202) 467-4600, and through the Kennedy Center website at www.kennedy-center.org.

Subscriptions will also be on sale. To receive subscription information, call the Subscription Office at (202) 416-8500 or visit www.kennedy-center.org/subscribe.

A listing of festival events follows.
THE KENNEDY CENTER’S DISTRICT OF COMEDY FESTIVAL*

Celebrating Joan: A Tribute to Joan Rivers  Lineup Just Announced!
Hosted by Melissa Rivers
Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
Kennedy Center Concert Hall
Tickets $59-$125

“People say that money is not the key to happiness, but I always figured if you have enough money, you can have a key made.” – Joan Rivers

No one made audiences happier over the last 50 years than trailblazing comedian Joan Rivers. The opening night of the Kennedy Center’s District of Comedy Festival will feature a celebration of the entertainment icon hosted by her daughter—TV host, producer, and New York Times best-selling author Melissa Rivers. The Emmy® and Grammy Award®–winning Joan Rivers changed the way America thinks about women in comedy and paved the way for an entire generation of stand-up comedians. Featured presenters and performers will include Rachel Bloom, Margaret Cho, Billy Eichner, Susie Essman, Aubrey Plaza, and Bob Saget, with more to be announced. The Kennedy Center looks forward to saluting Joan with a star-studded tribute. Recommended for mature audiences.

The District of Comedy Roast of James Carville  Just Announced!
Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 8 p.m.
Kennedy Center Concert Hall
Tickets $59-$250

The leading names in politics, broadcasting, comedy, and entertainment will come together in the Concert Hall to roast the “Ragin’ Cajun.” Best-known for helping President Bill Clinton win the Oval Office, Carville is also a best-selling author, television host, acclaimed speaker, actor, producer, professor, and restauranteur. His legendary career and trademark personality will leave no shortage of material when a star-studded dais of celebrity friends, colleagues, political friends and enemies, skewer America’s favorite political consultant. Of course, Carville will get the last word (and laugh) when he roasts back at the end of the evening. Recommended for mature audiences.

The roast will include appearances by Paul Begala, Mary Matalin, Jim Norton, Patton Oswalt, Jeff Ross, Luke Russert, and Triumph the Insult Comic Dog, with many more of Carville’s political friends and enemies to be announced soon.

“It’s truly an honor to be roasted at the Kennedy Center and I can’t wait to see all of my political allies (and opponents) along with my comedian friends,” says Carville. “I just hope they are ready because I plan to give as good as I get!”
**Jane Lynch**  
*See Jane Sing!*  
Friday, June 24, 2016 at 7 p.m.  
Kennedy Center Eisenhower Theater  
Tickets $70-$125 (currently on sale)

Prepare for an evening of side-splitting laughter as famous actress Jane Lynch brings her musical comedy and dash of wit to the Kennedy Center. Laugh along with Lynch as she explores her love of the beauty and absurdity of the American standard. Fresh from her iconic portrayal of Sue Sylvester on *Glee* and her Broadway debut as Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Lynch will bring her comic skills and musical prowess for an evening of musical comedy. In *See Jane Sing!*, Lynch explores her love of the beauty and absurdity of the American standard and show tune.

**Jermaine Fowler & Friends Just Announced!**  
Friday, June 24, 2016 at 7 p.m.  
Kennedy Center Terrace Theater  
Tickets $22.50

Raised in Hyattsville, Maryland, Jermaine Fowler began performing stand-up in 2006 while still in high school. On his 20th birthday, he took a Megabus and moved to New York City with three pieces of luggage and a dream. Before building a buzz with stand-up, Fowler was featured in promos for McDonald’s, Sobe, and *Sports Illustrated*. In 2012, he was one of the “New Faces” at the Just for Laughs Montreal Comedy Festival and was invited back the following year to tape *Funny as Hell* for HBO. He has toured nationally with *College Humor* and *Comedy Central on Campus*, and was one half of the internet sketch group BodegaCat Sanchez alongside Kevin Barnett. Fowler also has been featured on two seasons of MTV2’s *Guy Code*, *@Midnight*, and *Comedy Underground with Dave Attell*. He is the co-creator, writer, and star of TruTV’s *Friends of the People*, and most recently can be seen on his Showtime special, *Give ’em Hell Kid*. Recommended for mature audiences.

**Jay Pharoah Just Announced!**  
Friday, June 24, 2016 at 9:30 p.m.  
Kennedy Center Eisenhower Theater  
Tickets $29-$45

Jay Pharoah is an actor and stand-up comedian. Currently rounding up his sixth season as a cast member of NBC’s *Saturday Night Live*, Pharoah is best known for his wide array of uncanny celebrity impressions, including President Barack Obama, Will Smith, Denzel Washington, Stephen A. Smith, Kanye West, and Chris Tucker, as well as his recurring character of school principal Daniel Frye. Pharoah developed his comedy skills at a young age, training in local comedy clubs. He went on to tour in the U.K., United States, and Montreal. He has released a series of music videos through *Above Average*, including “Bad Kisser,” a parody on Usher’s “Good Kisser,” and “Problems.” Pharoah’s previous Kanye West parody, “I Am a Dog,” became an instant viral video reaching more than a million views within the first week. Recently, Pharoah and First Lady Michelle Obama teamed up at the White House to create a viral rap video, “Go to College,” promoting the value of higher education. In 2015, he debuted his first stand-up comedy special, *Jay Pharoah: Can I Be Me?*, on Showtime. His past feature film
credits include *Get a Job* with Bryan Cranston and Miles Teller, *Ride Along* with Kevin Hart and Ice Cube, and *Top Five* with Chris Rock, among others. *Recommended for mature audiences.*

**The Daily Show Writers Standup Tour**  Just Announced!
Friday, June 24, 2016 at 9 p.m.
Kennedy Center Terrace Theater
Tickets $27.50

The writers and producers behind *The Daily Show* perform “political-lish” comedy, followed by a Q&A session about how the Emmy Award®–winning news show is produced. The entertainers’ stand-up credits include *John Oliver’s New York Stand-Up Show, The Late Show with David Letterman, Late Night with Conan O’Brien, Adam DeVine’s House Party*, and performances for the USO in Afghanistan, among many others. *Recommended for mature audiences.*

**The Goddamn Comedy Jam**  Just Announced!
Friday, June 24, 2016 at 10:30 p.m.
Kennedy Center Atrium
Tickets $20

Stand-up comedian Josh Adam Meyers and his band, Elemenopy, host the premier underground comedy event: *The Goddamn Comedy Jam* (#GDCJ). The intersection of comedy stardom and rock ’n’ roll dreams, *The Goddamn Comedy Jam* features comedians performing a stand-up sets and short stories, followed by a song of their choosing with accompaniment by a live band. Witness a killer lineup of comedic entertainers come together to rock the stage and the mic in the only show that proves every comedian wants to be a rock star. *Recommended for mature audiences.*

**Robert Post**

*Robert Post Comedy Theatre for Kids*
Saturday, June 25, 2016 at 2 p.m.
Kennedy Center Terrace Theater
Tickets $20 (currently on sale)

Robert Post’s one-man variety show offers a delightful entertainment feast. Hilarious, poignant, and physically dazzling, his meticulously crafted sketches fill the stage with bumbling, dreamers, and cartoonish heroes of every stripe. Post serves as his own witty master of ceremonies, improvising as he banters with the audience. And when he ducks offstage, video clips chronicle quirky encounters from his travels around the world. You’ll roar with laughter and shake your head in amazement! *Recommended for age 8 and up.*

**Dick Gregory**

*An Evening of Comedy and Jazz*
Saturday, June 25, 2016 at 7 p.m.
Kennedy Center Terrace Theater
Tickets $45 (currently on sale)

Comedy legend Dick Gregory headlines the Terrace Theater with a special evening of comedy and jazz. At venues such as New York City’s Village Gate in the 1960s, comedians and jazz
musicians shared the same stage—Richard Pryor and Redd Foxx routinely opened for Miles Davis and Betty Carter. Paying homage to this era, the evening will highlight a common thread shared by both genres: the artist’s unique ability as a storyteller. Both comedians and jazz musicians carefully craft their performances, building up to a punchline or the climax of a song to provoke audience reaction. Part of the first annual District of Comedy Festival, participating jazz musicians will be announced at a later date. Recommended for mature audiences.

An activist, philosopher, anti-drug crusader, comedian, author, actor, recording artist, and nutritionist, Dick Gregory first entered the national comedy scene in 1961, when Chicago’s Playboy Club—as a direct request from publisher Hugh Hefner—booked him as a replacement for white comedian, “Professor” Irwin Corey. His tenure as a replacement for Corey was so successful that the Playboy Club offered him a contract extension from several weeks to three years. By 1962, Gregory had become a nationally known headline performer, selling out nightclubs, making national television appearances, and recording popular comedy albums.

Reggie Watts Just Announced!
Saturday, June 25, 2016 at 9:30 p.m.
Kennedy Center Eisenhower Theater
Tickets $30-$50

Internationally renowned vocal artist, beatboxer, musician, and comedian Reggie Watts brings an evening of music and comedy. Using his formidable voice, looping pedals, and his vast imagination, Watts blends and blurs the lines between the two art forms and wows audiences with his live performances which are 100% improvised. With no two shows the same, this “spectacularly original” (New York Magazine) performer cannot be missed. Recommended for mature audiences.

THE BENTZEN BALL PODCAST STUDIO AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

Bentzen Ball is D.C.’s longest-running, premier comedy festival and a collaboration between Brightest Young Things and Tig Notaro. From June 22–25, The Bentzen Ball Podcast Studio will present some of our favorite funny people at the Kennedy Center, talking into microphones to create content for you to enjoy live… and in your earbuds. Location details and ticket information will be announced at a later date. This year’s Bentzen Ball festival will be presented October 27–30, 2016.

THE SECOND CITY AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

The Second City’s Almost Accurate Guide to America
Sunday, June 19–Sunday, July 31, 2016
Mondays–Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 6 & 9 p.m.; Sundays at 3 & 7 p.m.
Kennedy Center Theater Lab
Tickets $49

What if the history of America was written by comedians? Are you sure it wasn’t? The Second City’s Almost Accurate Guide to America is a look back at the Founding Fathers, the Industrial Revolution, and the individuals and movements that have defined the way America looks at itself. And some of it will even be true. Join us for the premiere of a new co-commission
between the Kennedy Center and The Second City, *Second City’s Almost Accurate Guide to America*. The Second City is the world’s premier club for comedy/theater and school of improvisation, with a unique way of creating and performing comedy. Notably the most influential and prolific comedy theater in the world, The Second City has produced impressive comedic alums, including Keegan Michael Key, Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert, Tim Meadows, Jim Belushi, Chris Farley, Tina Fey, Bill Murray, Amy Poehler, Joan Rivers, and Jane Lynch. *Recommended for age 16 and up.*

*Additional District of Comedy Festival events will be announced at a later date.*

**ABOUT CAPITAL ONE**

Capital One® is the presenting sponsor. This comes as part of the bank’s five-year, $5 million gift to fund *Comedy at the Kennedy Center*, a signature program at the Center focused on elevating comedy as an art form and uniting the local community together through laughter.

Capital One Financial Corporation ([www.capitalone.com](http://www.capitalone.com)) is a financial holding company whose subsidiaries, which include Capital One, N.A., and Capital One Bank (USA), N.A., had $210.4 billion in deposits and $306.2 billion in total assets as of March 31, 2015. Headquartered in McLean, Virginia, Capital One offers a broad spectrum of financial products and services to consumers, small businesses and commercial clients through a variety of channels. Capital One, N.A. has branches located primarily in New York, New Jersey, Texas, Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. A Fortune 500 company, Capital One trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol “COF” and is included in the S&P 100 index.

For more information about the Kennedy Center visit [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org).

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### TICKETS AND INFORMATION

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