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Arcade Comedy Theater's Opening Weekend Has Big Names and High Talent
"Pittsburgh Dad", Gene & Sean Collier, & Lee Terbosic highlight theater's comedy/variety programming

Pittsburgh, PA—Arcade Comedy Theater, downtown Pittsburgh's newest theater company and premiere destination dedicated to all things comedy, is thrilled to announce the special line-up in store for audiences of its opening weekend shows—February 15 and 16, shows at both 8 and 10:30pm each night. The weekend will provide a unique glimpse into the future of Arcade programming, which will showcase a variety of comedic entertainment. The theater, which is both a producing and presenting arts organization, will debut its new improv house team, "Player One" and also include the incredible talent of several local comedic artists, each noteworthy in their respective fields. Finally, the evenings will feature special guests to excite crowds and highlight the momentous occasion. Scheduled to appear are notable Pittsburgh stand-up comedians, father and son, Gene Collier and Sean Collier, nationally-renown magician/comedian Lee Terbosic, and Curt Wootton's "Pittsburgh Dad" personality will literally cut the ribbon and say a few (likely stern) words.

The theater's opening weekend is marked by four variety shows with four distinct headliners from Pittsburgh's burgeoning comedy scene. The 8pm Friday show will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony and unique live performance by "Pittsburgh Dad" himself, Curt Wootton. Wootton, along with series co-creator Chris Preksta, are responsible for the Pittsburgh YouTube sensation, which has reached millions of online viewers across the world. Most recently the pair was appointed grand marshal of the Highmark First Night parade, so "Dad" is no stranger to the downtown Cultural District. Friday's late show, slated to start around 10:30pm, will feature an exciting closing set by Lee Terbosic, magician and stand-up comedian. From CEO's to celebrities, colleges and television, Lee Terbosic has performed both stand-up comedy magic and close-up sleight of hand, earning numerous awards and thousands of performances across the country. Saturday's 8pm show will feature comedian Gene Collier. He's a veteran stand-up comedian, sports columnist for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and co-author of "The Chief." The last show of the weekend, 10:30 on Saturday, will be closed by Sean Collier, columnist for Pittsburgh Magazine and a regular contributor on the DVE Morning Show.

Alongside these headlining acts, the grand opening shows will be filled with a variety of different styles of comedy—all of which will be featured regularly, on a rotating basis, at the Arcade. The theater's own in-house improv team will be featured in each show performing two styles of improvisational comedy: short-form (made famous by the television show *Whose Line is it Anyway?*) and long-form (made famous by Chicago's Improv Olympic and Second City). "Player One" is comprised of both experienced improvisers from the Second City Touring Company and iO West, as well as local veterans from Friday Night Improvs, the Cellar Dwellers, and Steel City Improv Theater. In the form of sketch comedy, Frankly Scarlett, the city's only all-female sketch troupe, will be on stage for their first live performance since two sold-out Cabaret shows last year. For the first time with male actors in featured roles, Frankly

Scarlett, whose founding members are Abby Fudor, Robin Hitchcock, and Liz Labacz, will debut new material as well as remount an audience favorite: “Salt ‘n Suga,” a 90s-esque all-girl edutainment rap group. Also scheduled to appear in the genre of written comedy, is the popular Pittsburgh blog Act Classy, a digital stage for humorous social commentary, essays, short fiction, multimedia and more.

Adding to the package of entertainment that evening, both music and variety will be covered with featured artists musician Addi Twigg and juggler/yo-yo performer Mark Hayward. Twigg, who will play a key role at the Arcade in helping program unique and comedic musical acts, is one half of the group Bait and Switch—scheduled to appear opening night. With Sean Donaldson, Bait and Switch twists beloved pop songs into surprising and entertaining new creations. The pair has performed at charity events, variety shows, comedy gigs, and even weddings, and has become something of an unofficial darling of the Pittsburgh improv comedy scene. Hayward, a Wisconsin-native, entertains audiences with an amusing combination of comedy and object manipulation. He uses props such as yo-yos, tops and juggling equipment, as well as nontraditional performing objects like a mousetrap—the latter seen with his appearance on David Letterman’s Stupid Human Tricks.

In a final unique combination of visual art and comedy, Toonseum executive director Joe Wos will treat audiences to a short performance mixing storytelling with cartoon illustration. Wos, a cartoonist who heads Pittsburgh’s Museum of Cartoon and Comic Art, has been keeping the vaudeville traditional chalk talk alive for over 20 years. His unique blend of pun-filled storytelling and live cartoon illustration has been performed for audiences nationwide.

Arcade Comedy Theater is thrilled to open its doors to the public with such strong support from the various comedic talent found in Pittsburgh’s rich arts community. The variety line-up, with special guests, will showcase the non-profit arts organization mission: to be a premiere destination for all things comedy, elevating and advancing the art form for players of all levels.

WHO: Arcade Comedy Theater

(featuring “Pittsburgh Dad”, Gene Collier, Sean Collier, Lee Terbosic, Mark Hayward, Frankly Scarlett, Bait and Switch, “Player One” improv comedy, and more)

WHAT: Opening Weekend

WHERE: 811 Liberty Avenue, downtown Pittsburgh

WHEN: Friday, February 15: 8pm and 10pm; Saturday, February 16: 8pm and 10pm

HOW: Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Purchase advance tickets at www.arcadecomedytheater.com, or by calling [412-339-0608](tel:412-339-0608)

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