

Thursday, January 31, 2008

Stern comedians coming to Milford

The Killers of Comedy, comedians best known for their appearances on "The Howard Stern Show," will bring their show to Parsons Auditorium in Milford on Saturday night, as they continue their North American tour. The all-star lineup of comedians includes The Reverend Bob Levy, Jim Florentine, Sal Governale, Yucko the Clown and Shuli.

Additionally, Beetlejuice, one of the most popular "wack packers" from the Stern show, and former professional wrestler The Iron Sheik will make special appearances.

Levy, a comedian with a reverent nickname despite boasting an irreverent act, gained fame by winning Stern's "World's Meanest Listener Contest" in 2002.

The New Jersey resident is known by many fans for his unique living situation of many years, in the basement of his suburban Philadelphia home. His ex-wife and son live upstairs, creating situations ripe for material in a stand-up routine and a sitcom development.

Levy, who is not actually a member of the clergy, also organizes regular roasts of "Stern Show" staff members during

the popular morning program on Sirius Satellite Radio.

Additionally, he is co-host (along with Florentine and Shuli) of "Miserable Men," a weekly program on Sirius that profiles the best horror stories of men's relationships with their significant others that is best described as "The View" for angry men.

Best known for lending his voice to a mentally challenged puppet named "Special Ed" on Comedy Central's "Crank Yankers," Florentine has made his signature phrase, "I've got mail! YAAAY!" part of the pop culture lexicon.

Despite this recent success, Florentine says much of his career is owed to Stern, because Stern began playing clips from the comedian's CD Terrorizing Telemarketers in the late 1990s.

The album features Florentine answering incoming sales calls and using creative insults to morph them into comedic bits. Florentine has been dating Stern's longtime sidekick Robin Quivers since 2007 and getting plenty of airtime and ribbing because of it.

Governale spent most of his 20s on Wall Street, working as a stockbroker but always longing to make a living performing comedy.

The long-time Stern fan caught his big break several years ago, when the "King of All Media" hired him to work full-time on the show.

Governale, a Long Island native, makes phony phone calls and creates other packaged bits for the show.

Additionally, he is well-known for his obsession with all elements of Stern's private life. Yucko the Clown finished second to Levy in the 2002 meanest listener contest, and he was the third-place finisher in a competition to replace "Stuttering" John Melendez, who is now of "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

Yucko's outfit, a clown suit that hasn't been washed in years, includes a horn he honks every time he utters an inappropriate joke. Yucko was also the star of a sketch comedy show on MTV2 called "Stankervision."

A comedian who first made his name in Las Vegas, Shuli now calls New York and Sirius Satellite Radio his home. The one-name performer is a reporter for "Howard 100 News," a daily program that humorously covers Stern-related events.

Before moving East, Shuli was the co-writer and producer for the award-winning "mocumentary" about the life

expectancy of open-mic comics titled, "No Laughing Matter."

Easily recognized by his undersized head, oversized teeth and short stature, Beetlejuice (a.k.a. Lester Green), has made Stern fans laugh for nearly 10 years through his futile attempts to answer simple questions and repeat information presented to him no more than two seconds earlier.

Additionally, Beetlejuice has perfected the art of dwarf tossing, which involves full-sized people throwing him through the air onto a mattress.

The Iron Sheik has been part of the American professional wrestling scene since the late 1970s, when the Iranian-born wrestler played off the conflicts between the United States and Iran that were in the news at the time to create a dynamic and memorable character.

The Sheik has enjoyed a renaissance of his career in recent months, including an appearance on "The Howard Stern Show" in August 2007 that included his strong opinions about other former wrestlers, including Hulk Hogan and "Macho Man" Randy Savage.

Tickets for the Killers of Comedy range from \$30 to \$50. Advance tickets may be purchased by calling The Treehouse Business Office at 268-5857 or by visiting www.killersofcomedy.com or www.TreehouseComedy.com. Parsons Auditorium is located at 70 West River St. The show is being promoted locally by Treehouse Comedy Productions.