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## Benefit planned for Stern show regular socked by medical bills



If you're a fan of the **Howard Stern** show, chances are you're also a fan of wack packer **Beetlejuice**, who is best known for his off-the-cuff commentaries on life and his outrageous lifestyle both on- and off-air.

For years, **Sean Rooney** has not only managed Beetlejuice's career, landing him in several major motion pictures, but has also taken him in as part of his extended family. Along with his wife Michele and an 11-year-old son, the Rooneys share their New Jersey house with Beetlejuice.

Stern fans were shocked to learn last month that Rooney, a frequent Stern guest himself, had a life-threatening stroke causing permanent heart damage and requiring an extended hospital stay. Rooney, who has no health insurance, is facing massive medical bills.

That's why several Stern show regulars have organized a benefit to raise funds for Rooney's mounting expenses. The benefit will be held on Friday, February 10 at [Emerald City](#), which is at 460 N. 2nd Street, between Spring Garden and Callowhill Streets.

Headlining the benefit is comedian [Rev. Bob Levy](#), who says the bonds between Stern fans is strong. "[Sean] has a family and a kid and right now he doesn't have insurance. Basically he's screwed and he's going to fall so far into the hole that you do whatever you can to help a friend like Sean out." Also scheduled to appear are: Beetlejuice, Howard 100 News reporter Shuli, celebrity impersonator Billy Mira, Stern regular Hi-Pitch Eric, former adult star Tabitha Stevens and others.

Rooney's wife Michele says she's in awe of the support from Stern fans, Stern show staffers and even Howard Stern himself. "We never expected all the love and support we have so far received. It shows you how loyal the Stern fans really are." She says she's received hundreds of e-mails and financial donations from concerned Stern fans.

One month after his stroke, Rooney is back at home, but must take nearly a dozen medications daily and requires weekly lab tests. While his family is hopeful for acceptance into a health insurance program, his medical care costs continue to soar. And Rooney remains at high risk for additional congestive heart failure until he's well enough to have a defibrillator implanted in his chest.

Michele says the experience has been a life-changing one. "We spend more time together as a family. We realized how short life is and how we could never take that for granted. We don't argue over little things that don't really matter." She adds, "Life is a wonderful thing, but it is how you treat yourself and others that really matters. If you don't take care of yourself, you are not only harming yourself you are harming all the people that love you."

Sean Rooney Benefit

February 10, 2006

[Emerald City](#)

460 North 2nd Street

Philadelphia, PA

215-413-2500

To make a donation to help with Sean Rooney's medical expenses, go to

[jollydwarf.com](http://jollydwarf.com).

Posted by Dave M at 1:08 pm |