

2017 Gilda's LaughFest Artist Bios - Individual Ticket Shows
As of January 23, 2017



Keith Alberstadt - Friday, March 10 - Grand Volute

Clean Adult Laughs

- Growing up the youngest of four in a close-knit Catholic family in Nashville, Keith quickly developed a sense of humor and a love for making others laugh.
- Whether it's his sarcastic approach, his playful attitude, or his good old-fashioned southern charm, Keith makes his comedy relatable and approachable.
- For over a decade, he has been entertaining comedy fans all over the world -- club audiences in the U.S., expats in Asia, as well as U.S. troops throughout the Middle East.



Blackout Diaries - Friday, March 10 - Vander Mill

Rated R...Really!

- Blackout Diaries is an interactive comedy show based out of Chicago where comics plus regular people (cops, firefighters, teachers, homemakers & more) tell true drinking stories. Then you, the audience, can ask questions.
- The show is hosted by its creator, Sean Flannery (Comedy Central, NPR, & more). Flannery introduces each act and moderates the Q&A session where the audience can ask each performer questions on their stories.



Samuel Comroe - Thursday, March 16 - The BOB

Presented in Partnership with DisArt

Rated R...Really!

- As seen on *Conan* and BET's *Real Husbands of Hollywood with Kevin Hart*, Samuel Comroe's personal stand-up is universally hilarious.
- Diagnosed with Tourettes Syndrome at the age of six he talks about living with the disorder while at the same time just trying to live.
- He won the prestigious San Francisco Comedy Competition and The Ricky Gervais Just Saying Stand-Up Competition.

Dirty Show - Friday, March 17 - Pyramid Scheme

For Mature Audiences - Ages 21+

- Do you like your comedy inoffensive, free of swear words, and something you could take your grandmother to? Well, this isn't the show for you!
- This is the 5th Annual Dirty Show, and we plan on bringing you some hilarious jokes with a side of filth. It will be raucous, over the top, and mind blowing! When it is all over your sides will be hurting from laughing and you will walk away with a whole new vocabulary of words you can't use at church!

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Hen Sapp Presents Colorblind Comedy Show - Saturday, March 18 - Godwin Heights Auditorium
Clean Adult Laughs

- Hen Sapp attributes his comedy ideas to the everyday things that happen around the house. He is an edgy Christian Comedian whom God has anointed, for such a time as this, with a gift to make people laugh. He has been involved in every year of the festival. This year he is joined by special guests The Brights and Melvin Bender.



- The Brights are branded as the top up and coming Humorous Marriage Entertainers! Richard and Sheri, being a blended family, are extremely transparent about their own real-life marriage and they fearlessly share the ups and downs of marital bliss.

- Melvin Bender has been in the comedy game for 17 years. He's opened for everybody from Kevin Hart to Kathleen Madigan, and he'll be in the new sitcom *Detroiters*.

Homegrown Show - Thursday, March 16 - Pyramid Scheme

Rated R...Really!

- Returning for its sixth year, the Homegrown show is a mix of five comics that tour the country but call Grand Rapids home. Quite literally these comedians have everything to offer, from sexy appeal to receding hairlines and are a constant reminder to not date a comedian.



The Irish Comedy Tour - Thursday, March 16 - 20 Monroe Live

Rated R...Really!

- The Irish Comedy Tour takes the party atmosphere of a Dublin pub and combines it with a boisterous, belly-laugh band of hooligans.

- The clover -- make that clever -- comedians, whose ancestors hail from the Emerald Isle, include Detroit native Derek Richards; Boston-born Mike McCarthy; Nova Scotia's Damon Leibert; and from Inchicore, a suburb of Dublin, Ireland Derrick Keane.

- Don't miss these hilarious Irish American comedians as they tear apart as well as validate all of the Irish myths and stereotypes.



Pecha Kucha Grand Rapids - Wednesday, March 15 - Wealthy Theatre

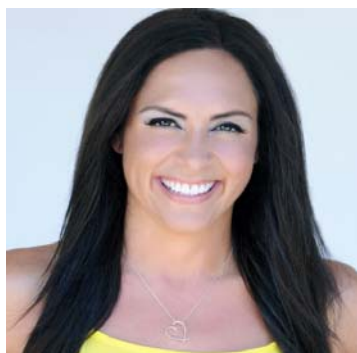
Rated R...Really!

- PechaKucha 20x20 is a simple presentation format where you show 20 images, each for 20 seconds. The images advance automatically and you talk along to the images.

- PechaKucha Nights are informal and fun gatherings where creative people get together and share their ideas, works, thoughts, holiday snaps -- just about anything, really -- in the PechaKucha 20x20 format.

- Don't miss this special LaughFest edition - sure to be full of laughs and the unexpected!

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Jeanette Rizzi - Blindsided - Saturday, March 18 - Dog Story Theater

LaughteRx - Health & Laughter Focused

- *Blindsided* is a product of Jeannette's commitment to live, as well as her pledge to helping others who battle with their own *raison d'être*. By going where no else has gone – into the lives of those we've lost, and into those who are left behind – this show has already been touted as a "groundbreaking resource for an epidemic that takes more lives than automobile accidents each year."
- Born to a nun and a monk in the small town of Alachua, Florida, Jeannette was always a standout kid...and also one who stood alone. Until she met her best friend Katie, who, tragically, at the age of 16, took her own life.
- Thus began Jeannette's battle to sink or swim, or – in her case – live or die. Jeannette has dedicated her life's work to helping others work life out.



Rory Scovel - Friday, March 17 & Saturday, March 18 - Pyramid Scheme

Rated R...Really!

- Rory's stand up has been featured on Comedy Central, *Conan*, and *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*. His second album, *Rory Scovel Live at Third Man Records*, was released in 2013 and was recorded live at their studios in Nashville.
- Whether discussing drugs, politics, or life in general his infectious stage presence and engaging charisma will quickly shift the vibe of any room and place the audience in the scene of every punch line.
- He recently finished shooting the New Line feature *The House*, alongside Will Ferrell and Amy Poehler.

Meijer Presents

The Family Friendly Series



Baby Loves Disco - Saturday, March 18 - HOME at The BOB

Family Friendly!

- Baby Loves Disco is a dance party featuring real music spun and mixed by real DJs blending classic tunes from the '70s & '80s with today's hottest dance tunes...guaranteed to get those little booties moving and grooving!
- At it's core, Baby Loves Disco is a community event that brings together kids and parents.



Super Saturday Kids Zone - Saturday, March 11 - GRCC Ford Fieldhouse

Family Friendly!

- Super Saturday is a kids carnival for all ages featuring surprise guests, inflatable games, music, crafts, and much more!
- Kids can flip on the Velcro wall, suit up and sumo wrestle, take a ride on the Turbo Slide and much more! Free healthy lunch provided by Meijer.
- There's something fun for the whole family!