FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 20, 2018

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

The Kennedy Center District of Comedy Festival

July 19–21, 2018

Patton Oswalt

Derek Smalls, formerly of the band, formerly known as Spinal Tap, presents Lukewarm Water Live with the National Symphony Orchestra

RIOT!: A Celebration of Women in Comedy

The Second City’s Generation Gap

The Second City Training Center

~ more ~
(WASHINGTON)—From July 19–21, 2018 the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, with presenting sponsor Capital One®, presents its third annual District of Comedy Festival. With diverse offerings of both free and premium events, this laugh-out-loud comedy weekend will bring acclaimed stars and rising acts together in celebration of the art form.

“The District of Comedy Festival offers the Washington community an opportunity to engage with our nation and community’s premier comedic talent across genres, including stand-up, music, sketch, and podcasting,” said Matthew Winer, Director of Special Projects and Comedy Programming. “In the present era, comedians have become our modern-day philosophers, holding the responsibility to speak truth to power and to illuminate and relate important perspectives to audiences from all backgrounds. We are thrilled to explore the depths of the human experience through this amazing and hilarious weekend.”

Following the release of his latest Netflix special “Annihilation,” Emmy awarding winning comedian, actor, writer, and Northern Virginia native Patton Oswalt will make his Kennedy Center debut with a headline set on July 21.

On July 19 Derek Smalls, formerly of the band, formerly known as Spinal Tap, presents “Lukewarm Water: An Adventure in Loud Music” with the National Symphony Orchestra —under the baton of Christopher Anderson-Bazzoli. The bass force of the fabled heavy metal band returns to center stage with the release of his first solo venture, his new album Smalls Change. The D.C. premiere of this not-to-be-missed, multimedia extravaganza features special musical guests, brand new songs, Spinal Tap classics, and a musical exploration of aging, the passage of time, and all things loud.
RIOT!: A Celebration of Women in Comedy will salute comedy icons while giving today’s rising stars a national platform to embrace creative risk and emphasize the female perspective. The star-studded celebration will feature stand-up comedians, writers, actresses, sketch performers, artists, and community leaders—sharing the stage in a show of unity and strength at the nation’s cultural center. Casting will be announced at a later date.

The Kennedy Center will reverberate with laughter from numerous other events set for the weekend. The wellRED Comedy Tour: From Dixie With Love with Trae Crowder, Drew Morgan, and Corey Ryan Forrester, celebrates everything great about the South and tells stories from a place of love. Amanda Seales Presents: Smart, Funny and Black brings your favorite funny folks to the “Hall of Flava” to compete in a head-to-head battle of wits that tests their knowledge of black history, black culture, and the black experience. Hari Kondabolu, director of the critically acclaimed documentary “The Problem with Apu” on truTV will present his stand-up act in the Terrace Theater; America’s funnyman Neil Hamburger will bring his legendary stand-up comedy act to the Family Theater; and Brightest Young Things will return to curate, The Bentzen Ball Podcast Studio, with daily podcast tapings in the Atrium.

The festival will feature numerous free events, both on the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage, in the Atrium, and in the Capital One Lounge. Millennium Stage events will include a showcase led by The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon writer Jo Firestone and a stand-up and music variety show, The New Negroes with Baron Vaughn and Open Mike Eagle. Late night in the Atrium will feature a special music and cabaret performance Joe’s Pub Presents: What’s Your Safe Word? and Picture This!, a live comedy show with stand-ups, voice actors, and others performing while they are drawn live by animators and cartoonists. The Capital One Lounge in the Terrace Gallery will also showcase a number of free shows curated by D.C.’s own Underground Comedy, On Deck, a live-comedy game show hosted by D.C. native Jamel Johnson; and ongoing stand-up performances throughout the weekend.

Baby Wants Candy is one of the most popular and critically-acclaimed comedy ensembles in the world. The group has performed more than 6,000 completely
improvised musicals to thousands of fans around the world. Entirely based on
audience suggestion and accompanied by a full band, the show is a roller-coaster ride
of spontaneously choreographed dance numbers, rhyming verses and witty, jaw-
dropping comedy.

Under a just-announced partnership to produce original works and programming
created for Kennedy Center audiences, Chicago comedy institution The Second City
will present a new show in addition to a selection of workshops. From the Greatest
Generation to the latest generation, The Second City’s twelve-week summer run of
*Generation Gap...Or, How Many Millennials Does It Take to Teach a Baby Boomer
to Text Generation X?*, follows three families on a satirical crash course spanning
miscommunications, careers, dating, and more in this two-act, interactive new spin on
the age-old battle of the ages.

[The Second City Training Center](#) will also bring hands-on improvisation and stand-up
workshops to the festival. Taught by seasoned Second City comedy pros, the
workshops are designed for beginners through experienced performers looking to learn
unique and creative methods to improvisation and stand-up. Offerings will include
[Intro to Improv Fundamentals](#), a casual intro for beginners and the improv-curious;
[So You Want to Try Stand-Up](#) combines writing, discussion, and improve to work on
structure and developing stage presence; and [Character Generator](#), a high-energy
opportunity for more experience improvisers to increase range and depth to their
characters.

**Ticket Information**

Tickets for *District of Comedy Festival* performances will go on sale to Kennedy Center
Members Tuesday, March 20 and to the general public on Wednesday, March 21. Tickets for
The Second City Training Center workshops will be on sale at a later date. Group sales (for
groups of 20 or more people) are available for most performances. For more information
regarding group tickets, call the Group Sales Office at (202) 416-8400, Monday through Friday,
10 a.m.—5 p.m. Kennedy Center Member and general public 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](http://www.kennedy-center.org).
**THE KENNEDY CENTER’S DISTRICT OF COMEDY FESTIVAL**

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*Artists and performances are subject to change.*

**Lukewarm Water Live: An Adventure in Loud Music featuring Derek Smalls with the National Symphony Orchestra**

July 19, 2018 at 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall
Derek Smalls, formerly of the band, formerly known as Spinal Tap, is back! The bass force of the fabled heavy metal band announces his return to center stage with the release of his first solo venture, his new album *Smalls Change*. Join Derek, his band
The Surviving Members, and the National Symphony Orchestra for the D.C. premiere of his not-to-be-missed, new multimedia extravaganza that features special musical guests, brand new songs, and Spinal Tap classics and musically explores aging, the passage of time, and all things loud.

**Neil Hamburger**
July 19, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater
America’s Funnyman Neil Hamburger performs up to 399 shows a year to international critical acclaim and sold out audiences. He has toured as the hand-picked opener for Tenacious D, Tim & Eric, and Faith No More. Hamburger has appeared on television shows ranging from Fox News’s Red Eye to Tim and Eric Awesome Show Great Job!, Jimmy Kimmel!, and worked extensively with Tom Green on his internet talk show. Among his dozen or so albums and DVDs is the new LP release *Hot February Night.*

**Baby Wants Candy: The Original Completely Improvised Full Band Musical**
July 20–21, 2018 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. in the Family Theater
Baby Wants Candy is one of the most popular and critically acclaimed comedy ensembles in the world. “Truly Amazing! Critics’ Choice!” *New York Times*, “Highly Recommended” *The Onion*, “Best Visiting Comedy” *TimeOut*. With casts in Chicago, NY and Los Angeles as well as a robust international touring company, the group has performed over 6,000 completely improvised musicals to thousands of fans around the world. Entirely based on audience suggestion and accompanied by a full band, the show is a roller coaster ride of spontaneously choreographed dance numbers, rhyming verses and witty, jaw-dropping comedy.

**The Second City’s Generation Gap...or how many Millennials does it take to teach a Baby Boomer to text Generation X?**
June 16–August 12, 2018 in the Theater Lab
The Second City returns for another summer of uproarious irreverence under a new partnership with the Center. The famed Chicago comedy institution will finally answer life’s greatest questions: when exactly were the good old days? From the Greatest Generation to the latest generation, follow three families on a satirical crash course spanning miscommunications, careers, dating, and more. Gap grievances will be aired as the laughs are universal in this interactive, two-act show for everyone. Whether you are part of Generation X, Generation Y or just asking, “generation...why?”, you won’t want to miss this brand new spin on the age-old battle of the ages.

**wellRED Comedy Tour: From Dixie with Love**
July 20, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Terrace Theater
Trae Crowder (*The Liberal Redneck*), Drew Morgan and Corey Ryan Forrester are stand-up comedy and writing partners. The trio has been touring nationally to sold-out clubs and theaters in support of their best-selling book, *Liberal Redneck Manifesto: Draggin’ Dixie Outta the Dark.* wellRED: From Dixie With Love, is about celebrating everything great about the South and telling stories from a place of love. It’s about dancing to country music at a gay wedding. It’s about loving your neighbor whether you have the same religion, skin color, or sexual preference, as long as they cheer for the same college football team (Go Vols! ...or Go Dawgs if you’re Corey). It is about leaving behind bigotry, but remembering the fried okra.
RIOT! A Celebration of Women in Comedy
July 20, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. in the Concert Hall
RIOT! A Celebration of Women in Comedy will salute our comedy icons while giving today’s stars a national platform to embrace creative risk and emphasize the female perspective in our rapidly evolving culture. Our star-studded celebration will feature stand-up comedians, writers, actresses, sketch performers, artists and community leaders - sharing the stage in a show of unity and strength at the nation’s premier performing arts center.

Jo Firestone
July 20, 2018 at 6 p.m. in the Atrium
Jo Firestone is a comedian based in Brooklyn, NY who works as a staff writer on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. She hosts several alt comedy shows around New York, including Punderdome 3000, The Unexpectedshow, and Friends of Single People. Her work can also be seen on The Chris Gethard Show and the Refinery29 digital series “Womanhood.” You can catch Jo on WNYC’s 2 Dope Queens, Search Party, High Maintenance, Crashing, Broad City, and in the critically acclaimed film Don’t Think Twice. Her Comedy Central half hour came out this year, and her album, "The Hits" will soon be available on Comedy Central Records. Her podcast, Dr. Gameshow, which she does with cohost Manolo Moreno, is available through Earwolf.

On Deck
July 20, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Capital One Lounge (Terrace Gallery)
On Deck is a stand-up comedy show hosted by Mike Mulloy, Courtney Karwal, and Jamel Johnson. The show pits two teams of comedians against each other to see who can take home the glory!

Joe’s Pub Presents: What’s Your Safe Word?
July 20, 2018 at 10:30 p.m. in the Atrium
Artist-ambassadors from Joe’s Pub at The Public bring their unconventional and inimitable comedic customs to The Kennedy Center. Through raucous mélanges of music and comedy, a few of NYC’s favorite downtown stars share stories that delight heart and mind, while blazing new trails in American art. Featuring Justin Vivian Bond (“The best cabaret artist of [their] generation” – The New Yorker), Ike Ufomadu (“I would not miss anything by Ikechukwu Ufomadu” – Time Out), Erin Markey (“An alt-cabaret star with swaggering confidence and off-kilter sense of humor” – The New York Times), Tori Scott (“Garland for the Grindr era” – Broadway World), and more.

The New Negroes with Baron Vaughn & Open Mike Eagle
July 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at in the Atrium
"New Negro" is a term popularized during the Harlem Renaissance to imply an outspoken intellectual departure from long-standing racist ideology and institutions. Imagine, if you will, a world where alternative comedians are black, and black comedians do alternative comedy. Have you fallen down a rabbit hole, entering a world of mayhem and absurdity? No. You’ve just found yourself in 2018, where black people are actively redefining “black people.” So sit back, and enjoy, while we welcome you... to the New Negroes.
**Patton Oswalt**  
July 21, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Concert Hall  
Award-winning comedian, actor, and writer Patton Oswalt makes his Kennedy Center debut. Patton Oswalt continues to find success in all areas of entertainment. From his award-winning comedy specials to his many memorable film roles and guest appearances on his favorite TV shows (including *Parks and Recreation*, for which he received a TV Critics Choice Award). As a comedian, Oswalt has shot seven TV specials and released five critically acclaimed albums, including his Grammy®-winning *Talking for Clapping* (which the one-hour special of the same name earned him and Emmy) and Grammy®-nominated *Tragedy Plus Comedy Equals Time* that debuted in 2014.

**Hari Kondabolu**  
July 21, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Terrace Theater  
Hari Kondabolu is a Brooklyn-based, Queens-raised comic who the *New York Times* has called “one of the most exciting political comics in stand-up today.” In March 2014, he released his debut standup album “Waiting for 2042” on indie-label Kill Rock Stars. Hari has done standup on the Late Show with David Letterman, Conan, Jimmy Kimmel Live, Live at Gotham, and John Oliver’s New York Standup Show. His Comedy Central Presents television special debuted on the network in February 2011. He was also a writer and correspondent for the Chris Rock-produced *Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell* on FX. In 2017, he released his critically acclaimed documentary “The Problem with Apu” on truTV.

**Underground Comedy presents**  
July 21, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Capital One Lounge (Terrace Gallery)  
Underground Comedy is D.C.’s premier independent comedy production company, bringing rising comics from around the country to D.C. to perform on a weekly basis. These comics have appeared on Comedy Central, Last Comic Standing, Fallon, Conan, Showtime, and HBO.

**Amanda Seales Presents: Smart, Funny and Black**  
July 21, 2018 at 9:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater  
Created by comedian/writerproducer, Amanda Seales’ (HBO *Insecure*) *Smart, Funny, and Black*, brings your favorite funny folks to the “Hall of Flava” to compete in a head to head battle of wits that test their knowledge of black history, black culture, and the black experience. After a night of fun as hell games, flanked by a live band, and a turnt up audience, each show ends with one guest, literally, taking the “L”, the other, taking the crown, and being inducted into the, “Illustrious League of Master Blacksperts”!

**Picture This!**  
July 21, 2018 at 10:30 p.m. in the Atrium  
Picture This! is a live comedy show with stand-ups, voice actors, and others performing while they are drawn live by some of the best animators, cartoonists, and other artists in the business! The comedians don’t know what the animators are drawing and the animators don’t know how the comedians will react. Comedy by: Clare O’ Kane (VICELAND, Outside Lands, Edinburgh Fringe), Eric Dadourian (MTV, The Special Without), Brandie Posey (Lady to Lady, Comedy Central), and more.
Animation by: Mike Hollingsworth (Bojack Horseman, HBO), Mike Mayfield (Big Mouth, Mr. Pickles), Bryan Brinkman (Tonight Show), and Victoria Montes (The Get Down).

The Bentzen Ball Podcast Studio
July 20–21, 2018 at 8:30 p.m. in the Atrium
The Bentzen Ball, is D.C.’s longest running, premiere comedy festival, and a collaboration between BYT & Tig Notaro. The 2018 edition will feature all female headliners and The Bentzen Ball Podcast Studio will present some of our favorite funny ladies talking into microphones to create content for you to enjoy live in your earbuds.

ABOUT COMEDY AT THE KENNEDY CENTER
Comedy at the Kennedy Center is an initiative focused on elevating comedy as an art form and uniting the local community through laughter. Made possible with support from Presenting Sponsor Capital One®, Comedy at the Kennedy Center programs include mainstage productions, such as Shear Madness; a Signature Comedy Series, which features high-profile comedic artists; the annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor; the District of Comedy Festival, which launched in summer of 2016; ongoing collaborations with Chicago’s The Second City; and monthly comedy nights on the Millennium Stage. Since 2013, Comedy at the Kennedy Center has reached more than 400,000 people through live performances that have included some of comedy’s biggest stars—Judd Apatow, Mel Brooks, Whoopi Goldberg, Jay Leno, Tracy Morgan, and John Oliver—and over 6 million people across the nation via television broadcast.

ABOUT CAPITAL ONE
Capital One Financial Corporation (www.capitalone.com) is a financial holding company whose subsidiaries, which include Capital One, N.A., and Capital One Bank (USA), N.A., had $241.2 billion in deposits and $348.5 billion in total assets as of March 31, 2017. 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, Louisiana, Texas, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey 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. Visit the Capital One newsroom for more Capital One news.

For more information about the Kennedy Center, visit www.kennedy-center.org.

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