FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
June 19, 2018

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

Taking Over the Kennedy Center  
July 19–21, 2018

RIOT! A Celebration of Women in Comedy Talent Announced:  
Bridget Everett, Phoebe Robinson, Amanda Seales, Melissa Villaseñor,  
Sasheer Zamata, and Special Guests to be announced

Harry Shearer: Up To Eleven  
Live Screening of This Is Spinal Tap and Q&A with Harry Shearer

Added performances from Ophira Eisenberg, Chris Gethard, and Patton Oswalt

The Bentzen Ball Podcast Studio:  
That’s So Retrograde  
Employee of the Month with Catie Lazarus

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces additional programming and talent for The District of Comedy Festival, a three-day festival which brings
together acclaimed stars and rising acts for an all-laughs takeover of the nation’s cultural center. The festival, with Presenting Sponsor Capital One®, is a part of the Center’s Comedy at the Kennedy Center initiative, a signature program focused on elevating comedy as an art form and uniting the local community together through laughter. High-resolution photography is available here or upon request.

RIOT! A Celebration of Women in Comedy will bring together today’s most hilarious comedic stars for a special evening of stand-up comedy and music. Bridget Everett (Jimmy Fallon, Inside Amy Schumer), Phoebe Robinson (2 Dope Queens), Amanda Seales (Insecure), Melissa Villaseñor (SNL), and Sasheer Zamata (SNL) will join together in an one-night-only celebration emphasizing the female perspective in our rapidly evolving culture.

The Bentzen Ball Podcast Studio, presented by Brightest Young Things, returns with That’s So Retrograde and EMPLOYEE of the MONTH with Catie Lazarus. That’s SoRetrograde—hosted by Steph Simbari and Elizabeth Kott—delivers real conversations and humor about health and wellness, all while providing tips and expert insight to guide listeners to a healthy lifestyle. Creator and host of the EMPLOYEE of the MONTH, Catie Lazarus, will host her podcast live, with a special appearances by SNL’s Sasheer Zamata and Christopher Jackson, who played the original role of George Washington in Hamilton and currently stars on CBS’s Bull. He will perform with the EMPLOYEE of the MONTH house band featuring Lin-Manuel Miranda’s hip-hop group Freestyle Love Supreme as well as musicians from Antibalas, The Dap-Kings, Common Rotation, Hamilton, The Lion King, Dear Evan Hansen, and Waitress. With a nod to comedy variety shows, Lazarus interviews comedians, musicians, journalists, filmmakers, entrepreneurs, and social activists who love what they do. Their candid conversations reveal the fun, frustrations, good, bad, and absurd involved in creating and sustaining a fulfilling career.

Highlights of newly added performances to the festival include comic and expert impressionist James Adomian as 2016 presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders; Ophira Eisenberg, host of NPR’s and WNYC’s weekly trivia and game show Ask Me Another; and Chris Gethard, the host and star of Funny or Die’s The Chris Gethard Show on TruTV. The
festival will offer an added performance from Emmy Award®-winning comedian, actor, writer, and Northern Virginia native Patton Oswalt in his Kennedy Center debut.

Updated Programming: The Kennedy Center will present Harry Shearer: Up To Eleven with a special screening of This is Spinal Tap, considered one of the top comedy films of all time, followed by a post-screening conversation with comedy icon Harry Shearer, who famously played the character of heavy metal bassist Derek Smalls. The beloved comedian will be on stage to share behind-the-scenes stories from his legendary career and life. This event replaces Lukewarm Water Live: An Adventure in Loud Music featuring Derek Smalls with the National Symphony Orchestra.

Previously announced highlights for the festival include the wellRED Comedy Tour: From Dixie With Love with Trae Crowder, Drew Morgan, and Corey Ryan Forrester, which 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.

An updated listing of all festival programming is below and can be found on the Kennedy Center website.

Schedule

THE KENNEDY CENTER’S DISTRICT OF COMEDY FESTIVAL

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
A new original work created especially for Kennedy Center audiences, The Second City’s twelve-week summer run of Generation Gap is a satirical crash course spanning miscommunications, careers, dating, and more in a two-act, interactive new spin on the age-old battle of the ages.
Millennium Stage: James Adomian’s Bernie Sanders Town Hall

July 19, 2018 at 6 p.m. in the Atrium

Comic and expert impressionist James Adomian holds a Town Hall as 2016 presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders. As Bernie Sanders, James is one-half of Trump vs. Bernie, a comedy debate act that includes a memorable guest appearance on Comedy Central and two TV specials for Fusion, along with a live international tour in 2016. Well known for his standup, characters, and impressions, he can be seen in David Cross’ feature directorial debut Hits, and in forthcoming feature films Love After Love and Adventures of Drunky. He has guest starred on Comedy Central’s @midnight, The Meltdown and Drunk History, on Adult Swim’s Children’s Hospital.

Neil Hamburger

July 19, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Family 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!, 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. This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

Harry Shearer: Up To Eleven

July 19, 2018 at 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall

This is Spinal Tap follows British heavy metal band Spinal Tap as they embark on their biggest tour in the US to promote their new comeback album, Smell The Glove. Marty DiBergi (Rob Reiner) sets out to make a documentary of the legendary rock band’s exploits on the road, featuring front men Nigel Tufnel (Christopher Guest), David St. Hubbins (Michael McKean), and bassist Derek Smalls (Harry Shearer), bearing witness to the highs and lows of what makes a musician into a rock star. Following the screening Harry Shearer, co-creator and co-star of the film, hosts a Q&A about his legendary career and life.

Ophira Eisenberg

July 19, 2018 at 8:30 p.m. in the Atrium

Ophira Eisenberg, host of NPR’s and WNYC’s weekly trivia, puzzle, and game show Ask Me Another, brings her signature stand-up routine to the Kennedy Center for the first time. She has appeared on HBO’s Girls, Comedy Central, Gotham Live, The Late Late Show, The Today Show, and VH-1. Selected as New York Magazine’s Top 10 Comics that Funny People Find Funny, and featured in the New York Times as a skilled comedian and storyteller with a “bleakly stylish” sense of humor, Ophira’s debut memoir, Screw Everyone: Sleeping My Way to Monogamy was optioned for a feature film with Zucker Productions.

Millennium Stage: Jo Firestone and Friends

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 comedy shows around New York, including Punderdome 3000, The Unexpectashow, 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. This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

**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. 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. This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

**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. This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

**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. Each team member has 27 minutes to make the most comedy “runs” before the time is expires. The team with the most “runs” after each round, wins. This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

**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 feature stand-up comedians—Bridget Everett, Phoebe Robinson, Amanda Seales, and Sasheer Zamata—sharing the stage in a show of unity and strength at the nation’s premier performing arts center. This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

**The Bentzen Ball Podcast Studio: That’s So Retrograde**
July 20, 2018 at 8:30 p.m. in the Atrium
Two best friends, Steph Simbari and Elizabeth Kotton, on the edge of 30 had questions. They found all of the Googleable information to be esoteric and unrelatable, so being cool millennial females (if they do say so themselves) with inquisitive minds, laughter in their hearts, and a joint in their purse, they endeavored to find the answers. They have attracted a myriad of
wellness gurus, experts, and celebrities who cover topics from the scientific to the deeply personal to the metaphysical. They keep the vibes loose and feel very accomplished in their ability to get spiritual healers to laugh at their jokes. As they’ve become gatekeepers of the wellness conversation by grounding their journey in laughter, they’ve come to the conclusion that the guru you seek is always within you. This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

**Chris Gethard**
July 20, 2018 at 9:30 in the Terrace Theater
The host and star of Funny or Die’s *The Chris Gethard Show* on TruTV and the host of the popular Earwolf podcast *Beautiful Stories from Anonymous People* returns to the Kennedy Center for an evening of his signature comedy. Chris recently starred in the Mike Birbiglia film *Don’t Think Twice* and currently plays Todd on Comedy Central’s *Broad City*. Other credits include Comedy Central’s *Inside Amy Schumer*, NBC’s *Parks and Recreation*, *The Office*, and the film *The Heat*. Chris is the author of the book *A Bad Idea I’m About to Do* and his first stand-up album (*My Comedy Album*) debuted at No. 2 on Billboard’s Heatseekers chart in 2014. Chris’s one man show, *Career Suicide* (produced by Judd Apatow), just premiered on HBO after completing a successful off-broadway run at The Lynn Redgrave Theatre in New York City. This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

**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 mélange 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. Featured artists include Justin Vivian Bond (“The best cabaret artist of [their] generation” – *The New Yorker*), Ike Udomu (“I would not miss anything by Ikechukwu Udomu” – *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. This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

**The Second City Training Center: Character Generator**
July 21–22, 2018 at 11 a.m. in Rehearsal Room
Taught by seasoned Second City comedy pros, this high-energy workshop will offer improvisers a variety of tools to quickly generate characters and put them into play. Learn both internal and external tricks to increase your range, add depth to your choices, and increase your confidence. Get out of your head and into your character. Previous improvisation experience is recommended.

**The Second City Training Center: Intro to Improv Fundamentals**
July 21–22, 2018 at 3 p.m. in Rehearsal Room
Taught by seasoned Second City comedy pros, this workshop is for anyone and everyone who has ever watched comedy and thought: "That looks fun; I'd like to try that." The basics include giving and taking focus, supporting the choices of your ensemble-mates, and, of course, "Yes, And." This is a great introduction for anyone who wants to learn how to
improvise, including people who want to try out improv for fun, to better their professional skills, or to eventually pursue it professionally.

The Second City Training Center: So, You Want to Try Stand-Up?
July 21–22, 2018 at 3 p.m. in Rehearsal Room
This workshop will take you from “Wish I could” to “Wow! I did!” In a supportive atmosphere, practice finding the comedy in real-life experiences and turn them into a stand-up set. This class will include writing, discussion, a bit of improvisation, and prepare you for your first stand-up open mic performance. Bring in a few jokes that you wrote or funny ideas that could become jokes. We’ll help give your jokes structure, as well as give you the tools to begin developing your solo stage presence. Previous stand-up experience is recommended.

Millennium Stage: 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. This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

Patton Oswalt
July 21, 2018 at 7 & 9:30 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. This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

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. This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.
Underground Comedy*
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. Underground Comedy also produces seven free shows throughout the week featuring DC’s best comics along with occasional drop-ins by nationally touring headliners. This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

The Bentzen Ball Podcast Studio: EMPLOYEE of the MONTH with Catie Lazarus with a special appearance by Christopher Jackson and Sasheer Zamata
July 21, 2018 at 8:30 p.m. in the Atrium
EMPLOYEE of the MONTH is a live talk show recorded for podcast and hosted by Catie Lazarus. With a nod to comedy variety shows, Lazarus honors and interviews people she admires who love what they do. Their candid conversations reveal the fun, frustrations, good, bad and absurd involved in creating and sustaining a fulfilling career. With a background in psychology and comedy, Lazarus’s eye for discovering cutting edge talent and insatiable curiosity about people ensures each show offers something for everyone.

Amanda Seales Presents: Smart, Funny and Black
July 21, 2018 at 9:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater
Created by comedian/writer/producer, 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!” This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

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). This performance contains strong language and is recommended for mature audiences.

*Artists and performances are subject to change.

*TICKET INFORMATION
Capital One cardholders will have the exclusive opportunity for a ticket presale for RIOT! Celebration of Women in Comedy on Tuesday, June 19 and Wednesday, June 20. As an
added benefit, cardholders can save off the standard ticket price when using their Capital One card online. For details, visit kennedy-center.org/CapitalOne. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on Thursday, June 21.

Tickets for all District of Comedy Festival performances are now on sale. Group sales (for groups of 20 or more people) are available only for The Second City. 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 are 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.

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.

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