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Improv Nerd with Jimmy Carrane welcomes special guest Charna Halpern at Four Star Comedy Fest at Navy Pier

CHICAGO — Navy Pier, Inc. is excited to announce that **iO Chicago founder Charna Halpern** will be the guest of honor at a special performance of *Improv Nerd* at the inaugural **Four Star Comedy Fest at Navy Pier!**

On **Saturday, Oct. 6** at 5 p.m., host Jimmy Carrane will interview Halpern about her legendary life during a live taping of *Improv Nerd*, a popular podcast that gives audiences a behind-the-scenes look at careers in comedy. **Tickets to *Improv Nerd* are free.**

Born in 1952, Halpern co-founded the iO with Del Close in 1984 and has launched the careers of such famous comedians as Mike Myers, Chris Farley, David Koechner, Adam McKay, Tina Fey and many more. She is the co-author of *Truth in Comedy* and the author of *Group Improvisation* and *Art by Committee*.

“Charna is one of the most important figures in comedy today, and I think audiences are going to be fascinated with the anecdotes and history she’ll be able to give about so many celebrities,” Carrane says. “It’s going to be a great show!”

The live *Improv Nerd* taping is just one of many events taking place on Oct. 6 as part of the Four Star Comedy Fest.

From 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., attendees will have the chance to participate in **free workshops** for the entire family taught by some of Chicago’s most well-respected improv training centers including **The Annoyance Theater, ComedySportz** and **iO**.

Then, **from 6 p.m. – 11 p.m.**, the Pier's Grand Ballroom will be transformed into an intimate cabaret setting to host performances by some of Chicago's most acclaimed improv performers including Baby Wants Candy, Cook County Social Club, Improvised Shakespeare and Uncle's Brother, featuring *Saturday Night Live* alum **Tim Meadows**.

Ticket prices for the performance:

\$39 - General Admission/ (Balcony) Standing Room Only

\$69 - General Admission/ (Main Floor) Seated. Ticket price includes one complimentary cocktail (choice of mixed drink, beer or wine).

\$99 - Preferred Seating/ (Main Floor) You will be seated in the first four rows from the stage, and will have table service. Ticket price includes one complimentary cocktail (choice of mixed drink, beer or wine).

Improv is an essential component of the cultural fabric of Chicago. The Pier is proud to display our city's cultural legacy for the world. Whether you are new to improv, a comedy pro or just simply love to laugh, **Four-Star Comedy Fest at Navy Pier** will be the place to be on **Oct. 6**. You won't want to miss this **inaugural Navy Pier event!**

For additional details regarding ticket sales tickets please visit: www.navy Pier.com or <http://www.facebook.com/#!/TheChicagoSchoolOfComedy>

For information about Navy Pier and Four-Star Comedy Fest, please contact Nick Shields at 312-595-5136 or email nshields@navypier.com. To set up an interview with Jimmy Carrane or Ben Capraro, artistic directors of the Chicago School of Comedy, please email chicagoschoolofcomedy@gmail.com.

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ABOUT CHICAGO SCHOOL OF COMEDY

Founded in 2012 by Ben Capraro and Jimmy Carrane, Chicago School of Comedy is dedicated to the promotion and advancement of improvisation and the promotion of Chicago as the influential center of American comedy. Jimmy Carrane is the host of the popular podcast Improv Nerd. He teaches the Art of Slow Comedy, and has previously taught at The Second City, iO-Chicago, The Annoyance Theater, Victory Gardens and Stage 773. Ben Capraro is an improviser and recovering attorney. He has studied at The Second City and is the producer of the Improv Nerd podcast.

ABOUT NAVY PIER

A Chicago Landmark since 1916, Navy Pier has evolved from a freight passenger ship docking facility to the #1 tourist attraction in the Midwest, drawing more than eight million visitors annually. Navy Pier currently encompasses more than fifty acres of parks, gardens, shops, restaurants, family attractions and exhibit facilities, making it a tourists and visitors entertainment hub. For more information, visit our website at www.navy Pier.com.