



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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'4-Star Comedy Fest' Comes to Navy Pier Oct. 6

A Star-Studded Showcase of Chicago Improv Featuring Free Workshops and Performances is Coming to Navy Pier this October!

CHICAGO — Over the past 50 years, Chicago has established itself as the influential center of American comedy, fostering a thriving community of improv performers and developing a true American art form. This fall, this city's rich tradition of improv comedy will take center stage at Navy Pier! In conjunction with The Chicago School of Comedy, the Pier is proud to announce an inaugural event: **4-Star Comedy Fest at Navy Pier**.

On **Saturday, Oct. 6**, Navy Pier will celebrate the art form of improvisation as it was developed here in Chicago with a full day of classes, discussion and performances by Chicago's premiere talent.

"We are pleased to partner with the Chicago School of Comedy to bring acclaimed improv performers to Navy Pier," said Marilynn Gardner, President and CEO of Navy Pier, Inc. "As we seek to reimagine Navy Pier as it approaches its 100th anniversary in 2016, inaugural events such as 4-Star Comedy Fest will help build on the Pier's success to assure its continued growth in coming years."

During the day, attendees will have the chance to participate in **free workshops** taught by Chicago's world renowned schools of improvisation where they will learn what it takes to perform improv. At night, the Grand Ballroom will be transformed into an intimate cabaret setting to host performances by some of Chicago's most acclaimed improv performers.

Top Chicago improv troupes already scheduled to perform include:

- The Improvised Shakespeare Company
- Cook County Social Club
- Baby Wants Candy

Additional acts and a headlining group will be announced soon!

“We really want Chicagoans to be proud of improv, which is a uniquely American art form that was created right here,” says Jimmy Carrane, a co-producer of the festival who has been improvising in Chicago for more than 25 years. “Our goal is to showcase improv as it has evolved throughout the years in this city.”

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, **4-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, on the festival, please visit:
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/TheChicagoSchoolOfComedy>

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