



Thursday, January 15, 2004

Friday Night Live winter series starts strong

By *Kalee Iacoangeli, OU Student Writer*

After three weeks vacation and a week full of new classes, Oakland University students were entertained by the first Friday Night Live performer of the winter semester, comedian Maria Bamford.

Bamford, who is no stranger to the comedy stage, has performed twice on NBC's "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and on "Late Nite with Conan O'Brien." Her resume also includes a half hour Comedy Central special that was rated number five overall in a viewer poll of favorite comedians. She also has appeared on Comedy Central's "Premium Blend," "USO Tour," "World Comedy Tour," "Make Me Laugh," "TOUGH CROWD with Colin Quinn," the NBC series "Late Friday," Gameshow Network's "Funny Money" and "Prairie Home Companion" with Garrison Keillor on Public Radio International.

Her comedic wit and skill of changing voices gave the FNL crowd a performance not soon to be forgotten.

"I thought she was really good," senior Jocelyn Baldwin said. "I had seen her on Comedy Central before and recognized her on the (FNL) fliers. I was really glad I came to see her."

The FNL winter series has many more laughs in store. Upcoming performances include:

- Kivi Rogers, returning for his third FNL appearance on Jan. 23;
- The Evasons: "Psychic Entertainers" on Feb. 6;
- Alex House, a contestant on NBC's "Last Comic Standing," along with special guest Clara Bijn on March 5;
- Award winning Canadian comedian Elvira Kurt on March 19;
- One of comedy's newest rising stars, John Heffron, on April 2;
- And, for the final FNL performance, the "Best of Detroit Comedy" featuring Horace Sanders and Mike Green on April 19.

A new Saturday Night Sounds concert series also will provide students with weekend entertainment as well. The new series kicks off Jan. 17 at 8 p.m. in Vandenberg Dining Center with the musical comedy group J Chris Newberg and the Rest. On Jan. 31, Tamara Bedricky, a recent OU graduate who has performed in clubs and at colleges from Detroit to Los Angeles, will perform. The series then ends for the semester on March 27 with singer/songwriter/guitarist Jason LeVasseur.

SUMMARY

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