

arts & culture

The Villages Entertainment Scene Brings Laughs

The 2024 entertainment season is right around the corner, bringing both new and beloved returning acts.

By TAYLOR STRICKLAND
Daily Sun Senior Writer

Every year, The Villages Entertainment and Significant Productions strive to bring premiere comedy acts to the community and the lineup for 2024 is no joke.

The new year will feature comedian Jeff Allen, “Mutts Gone Nuts,” a dog comedy show, Colin & Brad, and Justin Willman, a comedian magician — all in January alone.

“We curate a diverse selection of comedians to ensure our audience experiences a spectrum of humor that resonates with a wide range of tastes,” said Taylor Adkins, marketing director for Significant Productions. “Each comedian is hand-picked for their unique style, relatability, and ability to connect with our community here in The Villages.”

The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center kicks off the 2024 comedy season with comedian Jeff Allen, a Christian comedian who turns anecdotes from his everyday family life into a stand up routine that is sure to leave audiences laughing all night long, Adkins said.

Renowned for his clean and relatable humor, Allen’s performances are a master-class in storytelling, she said. Allen comes to The Villages 7 p.m. on Jan. 9 at The Sharon. Tickets start at \$30.

Up next at The Sharon is Justin Willman’s “Magic for Humans in Person Tour,” an live adaptation of the Netflix “Magic for Humans” series. Before he was host of Food Network shows like “Baking Impossible” and “Cupcake Wars,” Willman was an aspiring magician.

“**M**agic for Humans in Person Tour” promises to turn even the most cynical skeptic into a believer and will keep audience members up at night wondering how Willman did it. Catch the show 7 p.m. on Jan. 25 at The Sharon. Tickets start at \$40 with an additional VIP meet and great starting at \$135.

There are also plenty of slapstick expected at the Savannah Center’s Scarlett O’Hara Theater in 2024. From big name acts to canine comedians, it’s a season not to be missed.

“We’re excited to bring in some light-hearted laughter, as this time of year is all about bringing in and creating moments of merriment — and Savannah Center is looking forward to bringing that to The Villages to kick off the new year,” said Sarah DeCapua, marketing



Daily Sun file photo

Trainer Samantha Valle and Chuck Taylor do a trick during the show “Mutts Gone Nuts” at the Savannah Center in January 2018. “Mutts Gone Nuts,” a dog comedy show, will visit The Villages again in January as the first comedy act of the Savannah Center’s 2024 season.

manager for The Villages Entertainment.

“Mutts Gone Nuts,” a dog comedy show, is the first comedy act of the Savannah Center’s 2024 season. Featuring nine of the world’s most talented four-legged performers, this canine comedy show includes “the highest jumping dog in the universe,” two Guinness World Record champions, a hilarious six-pound Pomeranian mix, and a host of previously discarded dogs that will dance, prance, flip, and skip their way into audiences hearts.

“The upcoming show in the Villages is going to have new

trainers with amazing new tricks,” said Joan Houghton, comedienne and co-producer.

See “Mutt’s Gone Nuts” 7 p.m. on Jan. 12 at the Savannah Center. Tickets start at \$30.

Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood of “Whose Line is it Anyway” and “Scared Scriptless” are coming to The Villages as part of their new improv comedy tour, “Asking For Trouble.”

“It’s a live version of ‘Whose Line,’ but without the dead weight,” Mochrie said of the show. “It’s more interactive — the audience is

on stage more than half the time.”

As opposed to “Whose Line is it Anyway,” Mochrie said the “Asking For Trouble” tour allows for greater creative freedom and enough time to “really milk that comedy cow dry.”

The show is entirely driven by audience participation. Audience members shout suggestions, which Mochrie and Sherwood take and run with. However, Mochrie asks that none be about gynecologists or proctologists, please — not even if the person who made the suggestion comes from a long line of either.

Throughout the show, audience members are also brought on stage, adding another layer of hilarity and making it a true free for all.

“Every closing night it goes differently,” Mochrie said. “We’re adding games constantly and try to change the mechanics.”

While “Asking for Trouble” is technically Mochrie and Sherwood’s third official tour, the two comedy legends have been friends and co-stars for more than 30 years. They first started working together on “Whose Line is it Anyway,” an ABC improv comedy series hosted by Drew Carey, and have toured

North America as a two-man duo since 2002.

Mochrie and Sherwood are often praised for their unique synergy and ability to create what Sherwood refers to as “comedy brain magic,” which Mochrie ascribes to their close working relationship.

“**H**e’s like a younger, irritating brother,” Mochrie said of Sherwood. “(On stage), he likes to go out of his way to roast me and I have to discipline him.”

The “Asking for Trouble” tour with Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood has two shows 7 p.m. on Jan. 16 and 17 at the Savannah Center. Tickets are \$45 and up.

To buy tickets for any performance in The Villages, visit a Villages Box Office location or go to thevillagesentertainment.com.

OTHER COMEDY ACTS TO EXPECT IN 2024:

The Irish Comedy Tour: 7 p.m. on March 23 at The Sharon. Tickets start at \$30.

Southern Fried Chicks: 7 p.m. on April 13 at The Sharon. Tickets start at \$30.

20+ Years of Porsche Experience
Porsche Factory Trained & Certified

OIL CHANGE
starting at
\$130
(Every 10,000 Miles or 12 Months)

MAJOR SERVICES
starting at
\$300
(Every 20,000 Miles or 24 Months)

ALL GERMAN MOTORWORKS
SERVICE, REPAIR & PERFORMANCE
Porsche, BMW, Mini, Audi, VW, Mercedes-Benz

109 Weber Ave., Leesburg, FL 34748
352-787-8778

We look forward to seeing you!

MEMORY LOSS??

CRAIG CURTIS, M.D.
US NAVY VETERAN

Join Dr. Craig Curtis for a FREE Seminar where you will learn about:

- Causes of memory loss and proper diagnosis
- Memory, Forgetfulness and Aging — What is Normal?
- Differences between Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia
- New FDA approved treatments to slow Alzheimer’s Disease
- A Brain Healthy diet and lifestyle
- **ALL** are welcome to attend this educational event

CALL TODAY TO RSVP

352-500-5252

WWW.CRAIGCURTISMD.COM

Sharon L. Morse Medical Center
Building 500 • Located on the 3rd Floor
1400 North US Hwy 441 • Suite 537
The Villages, FL 32159

SPROUTS® FARMERS MARKET

SIGN UP FOR A CHANCE TO

WIN \$5,000 IN HEALTHY GROCERIES*

Simply create a Sprouts account and enter for a chance to win healthy hauls on us in 2024!

ENTER NOW

*Terms and conditions apply. See sprouts.com/win-groceries for full details and official rules.