

Famous comedian Mark Curry to appear at UCSD's Price Center Theatre May 21

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Late Night Comedy Comes to UCSD

On May 21, comedian Mark Curry will appear at the University of California, San Diego to turn the campus' Price Center Theater into an improvisational night spot. Starting at 8 p.m., Curry will share some of the humor that has won him fame in the San Francisco Bay area.

A 28 year old Oakland native, Mark Curry is, one of the Bay area's leading stand-up comics, and a rising star on the national scene.

Curry started his career as a class clown in school. Then, as a member of the working force, he was urged to go into comedy by his coworkers.

Since Curry's first appearance on a local gong show doing jokes about Michael Jackson and Prince being the same person, he has appeared on stage at numerous stand-up clubs and on a variety of television programs. Curry appeared on Fox TV's "Arsenio Hall Show," Art and Entertainment's "An Evening at the Improv" and VH-1's "Comedy Spotlight," among others.

Curry can be anybody. He played a crotchety grandmother on the KSOL morning show with Billy Ocean at one time. He also played "Leslie," a gay retail clerk; "Dante's Mother," the parent of a disruptive little boy; a generic black cheerleader, and a homeboy named "Icewater," who gets high all the time.

Curry's routines include children as well. "Kids love Big Bird," he says. "Big Bird tells them to look both ways before they cross the street. They do it. Big Bird tells them to do their homework. They do it. I've taken to calling kids on the phone and saying, 'This is Big Bird, I want you to put your mother's wallet on the porch.'"

Curry was champion of the Bay Area Black Comedy Competition in 1988. Tony Spires, the founder of the competition, says that "Mark's improvisational skills are amazing. He just doesn't know how to not be funny."

Through his comedy, Curry portrays the absurd situations of everyday life and, because he is black, the absurd situations of everyday black life. Curry says there is a fine line between perpetuating stereotypes and just talking about the realities of certain neighborhoods and lifestyles.

For more information on this event, call the UCSD Box Office at 534-4559.

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