



Carl Hardin, a native Detroit, is the man responsible for putting together a comedy show, "Laugh Jam 1989," Friday evening at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit.

Hardin brings laughter to the Fisher

By Bob Sadler
special writer

It's easy to understand why Carl Hardin is excited. Hardin, a native Detroit, is the man responsible for putting together a comedy show at the Fisher Theatre called "Laugh Jam 1989," under the auspices of his CHH Productions company. Assembled for this Friday's show are a funny combination of local and national talent, including the headliner Chris Rock (from "Beverly Hills Cop II" and "I'm Gonna Get You Sucka"), Tommy Davidson, Detroit comic "Downtown" Tony Brown, recently named best comic in a Metro Times reader poll, and one other local funnyman... himself.

"I'm probably the only comedian with an MBA," said Hardin. He received both his bachelor's and master of business administration degrees in finance from the University of Michigan. After feeling restricted creatively in the nor-

mal business world, Hardin now has an opportunity to combine his business savvy with his desire to perform on the comedy stage.

"What I was doing in business was too formal," Hardin said. "It was inhibiting. I had to break out."

"LIFE'S A gamble. If you don't take chances, you'll never get anywhere."

He's been doing the comedy circuit for a couple of years and is now in the process of trying to sell a television special called "Cheap, But Funny" to stations in a few markets. The special stars himself.

On the business side of things, "Laugh Jam 1989" is a show that will tour briefly after its debut in Detroit. The other cities slated for shows are Toledo and Chicago.

Hardin is "highly optimistic" about the show and hopes that it can become an annual Detroit mainstay, as well as a national tour. He chose to have the show downtown at the Fisher because he wants to bring comedy to a slightly different audi-

ence — those who don't travel to the suburbs for the conventional comedy clubs.

"The location was one of the things I was looking at," Hardin said. "I asked myself 'Why isn't there more comedy in Detroit? Would people come downtown to check out comedy?'"

"I was thoroughly convinced that they would."

A PORTION of the proceeds from the show will also go to benefit the fund to save Detroit Public School athletic programs, which Hardin, a graduate of Cass Tech, supports wholeheartedly.

"Having grown up in Detroit, I can empathize with what's going on," Hardin said. "I realized when I was there (Cass Tech) that the school system didn't have the resources to compete."

"Hopefully, the show will make a dent."

"Laugh Jam 1989" comes to the Fisher Theatre in Detroit at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11. Tickets are \$16.50 and are available at all Ticket-Master outlets or by calling at 645-6666.

COMEDY CLUBS

Here are some listings of comedy clubs in our area. To let us know who is appearing at your club, send the information to: Comedy Listings, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

BEA'S KITCHEN
Altura Shelton will perform with Downtown Tony Brown and Bruce Wilson will perform Friday and Saturday, Aug. 11-12, at Bea's Comedy Kitchen, 541 Larned, Detroit. Showtimes are 8 p.m. and 11:15 p.m. For information, call 961-2581.

CHAPLIN'S EAST
Dave Dagan will appear on Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 9-12, at Chaplin's East, 34244 Groesbeck, Fraser. Showtimes are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 792-1902.

CHAPLIN'S PLYMOUTH
Heywood Banks will appear Thursday, Aug. 10, at Chaplin's

Plymouth in the Plymouth Hilton, 14707 Northville Road, Plymouth. For information, call 454-4660.

CHAPLIN'S WEST
Tony Hayes will appear Tuesday-Saturday, Aug. 8-12, at Chaplin's West, 16890 Telegraph, south of Six Mile, Detroit. For information, call 533-8866.

HOLLY HOTEL
Al April will perform with Karl Anthony and Tommy Chua Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 10-12, at Holly Hotel, 110 Battle Alley, Holly. Show times are 8:30 p.m. with additional 10:30 p.m. shows on Friday and Saturday. For information, call 634-1891.

JOEY'S LIVONIA
Ruben Ruben will perform Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 10-12, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Showtimes are 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday. For reservations, call 261-0555.

JOEY'S WYANDOTTE
Ruben Ruben will perform on Sunday, Aug. 13, at Shots on the Water, 507 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte. Showtime is 9:30 p.m. For information, call 281-SHOT.

KOMEDY KORNER
Orlando Reyes will perform Wednesday through Saturday, Aug. 9-12, at the Komedy Korner, 161 Riverside, west of Ouellette, Windsor. For information, call (519) 252-6848.

LOONEY BIN
Jef Brannan will perform Friday-Saturday, Aug. 11-12, at the Wolverine Lounge and Looney Bin Comedy Club, 1655 Glengary, Walled Lake. Showtimes are 9 p.m. Friday and 8 and 10:15 p.m. Saturday. For information, call 669-9374.

LOONEY BIN TOO
Gary Thilson will perform Friday-Saturday, Aug. 11-12, at The Looney Bin at The Rovey, 194 Haggerty. Showtimes are 9 p.m. Friday and 8 and 10 p.m. Saturday. There's a \$5

cover charge. For information, call 699-1822.

MISS KITTY'S
Dennis Butler will appear with Greg Phelps Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 10-12, at Miss Kitty's Comedy Club, Long Branch Restaurant, 595 N. Lapeer Road, Oxford. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 628-6500.

MAINSTREET
Dennis Wolfberg will perform on Wednesday through Saturday, Aug. 11-12, at Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. For information, call 906-9000.

RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE
Dana Gould will appear Tuesday-Saturday, Aug. 8-12, at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, 2593 Woodward, Berkley. Showtimes are 8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For reservations, call 542-9900.

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***Three Star Rating by Molly Abraham — Detroit Free Press, 1989

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