

STREET CRACKS

What to do with a fieldhouse?

U-D offers laughs at its 'spectacular'

By Bob Sadler
Special writer

In a metropolitan area already saturated with concert venues of various shapes and sizes, an unlikely old building is about to enter the fray.

The storied fieldhouse was once the home of roundball standouts Dave DeBuschere, Spencer Haywood, John Long and coach "Disco" Dick Vitale — just to name a few. But would you believe a "Comedy Spectacular" at the University of Detroit's venerable Calihan Hall? Well, believe it. The U-D Titans are taking their basketball act to Cobo Arena, leaving an 8,800-seat hall with a few dates to fill.

SATURDAY, the U-D is hoping four of today's top comics can launch Calihan Hall as an alternative entertainment venue. And with a lineup featuring Cathy Ladman, lo-

cal boy Dave Coulier (of ABC's "Full House") and legitimate headliners Jimmie Walker and Jerry Seinfeld, they may be able to pull it off.

"It's a pilot project to see how much interest there is in this kind of thing," said Tom Sakely, acting manager of the U-D news bureau. "It depends on the support we get from the public."

The idea of bringing big time entertainment back to Calihan Hall (it has been absent since a disastrous Ronnie Millsap show several years back) first surfaced in February, according to George Clarkson, U-D associate director of marketing and public affairs.

"It's way overdue," Clarkson said. "We've got the facility to do it. We wanted to see if there is an audience for neighborhood concerts."

"To see this kind of show in the area, you'd normally either go downtown or to the suburbs."

A FEW musical acts were considered for this experiment, but comedy eventually won out because of its combination of potential profitability and simpler logistics.

"Because comedy is so hot right now, this show would be the easiest to set up and do," Clarkson said.

A theater-style seating arrangements will be used, with approximately 5,000 total seats available.

Ladman is the least known of the comics on the bill, but is currently riding the crest of her recent first appearance on "The Tonight Show." Born and raised in Queens, N.Y., she is a straight observational performer, drawing material primarily from her family and other experiences.

COULIER is the pride of St. Clair shores and a graduate of Notre Dame High School. An adept impressionist, his variety of character voices got him a start in radio at the now defunct album rocker WABX doing commercials.

He opened at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle and later moved to Los Angeles to take a job at the Comedy Store — initially as a doorman.

Eventually, he got some stage time there, but his major breakthrough came again through his impersonations.

He became the voice of "Scooby-Do," Mork in the animated "Mork and Mindy" and won an Emmy for his work on "The Muppet Babies" series. That enabled him to land the role of aspiring comic Uncle Joey in the series "Full House."

Walker is probably best known for his role as the teenage son J.J. on the still syndicated series "Good Times." He has gone on to appear on some short-lived TV shows and a few movies, but devotes most of his time to stand-up comedy — particularly in Las Vegas, where he is a regular at the Dunes Hotel.

Seinfeld is currently one of the top draws working the comedy circuit today. He's at home in small clubs, concert halls and showrooms all across the country. Regular appearances on "The Tonight Show" and "Late Night with David Letterman" have allowed him to hone his act to a razor's edge.

A "Comedy Spectacular," featuring Jerry Seinfeld, Jimmie Walker, Dave Coulier and Cathy Ladman, comes to U-D Calihan Hall at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14. Tickets are \$20, \$15 and \$10 for students (with proper identification), and available at all Ticket-Muster outlets or by calling 645-6666.



Jimmie Walker, best known for his role as the teenage maldcontent son on the TV series "Good Times," will be among headliners at this weekend's "Comedy Spectacular" at U-D's Calihan Hall.

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 COMEDY KITCHEN
Tim Lilly will perform with Skegger Murray and Mario Scardino Friday-Saturday, Oct. 13-14, at Bea's Comedy Kitchen, 541 Larned, Detroit. Show times are 8:30 and 11 p.m. For information, call 961-2581.

CHAPLIN'S EAST
Jeff Jena will perform with Michael Casper and Ken Brown Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 11-14, at Chaplin's East, 3474 Groesbeck. Frasier. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 792-1902.

CHAPLIN'S PLYMOUTH
Mick Jarbo will perform with Mark Tripp and Gavin Jerome Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 11-14, at Chaplin's Plymouth in the Plymouth

Radisson, 14707 Northville Road, Plymouth. For information, call 454-4680.

CHAPLIN'S WEST
Mac King will perform with Mike Rivera and Paul Link Tuesday-Saturday, Oct. 10-14, at Chaplin's West, 16890 Telegraph, south of Six Mile, Detroit. For information, call 533-8866.

HOLLY HOTEL
Jeanette Barber will perform along with Jim Melcan and Andy

Jentzen Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 12-14, 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
Ted Norkey will perform Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 12-14, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36671 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Show times are 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday. For reservations, call 261-0555.

LOONEY BIN
Norm Stulz will perform Thurs-

day-Saturday, Oct. 12-14, at the Wolverine Lounge and Looney Bin Comedy Club, 1655 Glogary, Walled Lake. Show times are 9 p.m. Friday and 8 and 10:15 p.m. Saturday. For information, call 669-9374.

MISS KITTY'S
Tim Walkoe will perform Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 12-14, at Miss Kitty's Comedy Club, Long Branch Restaurant, 595 N. Lapeer Road, Oxford. Show times are 8 p.m. Thursday, 8 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 628-6500.

MAINSTREET
Eddie Kekkas will perform Wednesday-Thursday, Oct. 11-12, and Brian Regan will perform Friday-Saturday, Oct. 13-14, at Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-9080.

SECOND CITY
Second City Touring Company will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Michigan Theater, 633 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$12.50 and \$15. For information, call 99-MUSIC.



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