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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Headlining Comedians Perform at Comedy Night at the CVPA in 2017

MUNSTER, Ind. (January 18, 2017) - - Comedy Night at the CVPA is launching its seventh season with favorite funny female stage comics to open the 2017 comedy and dinner night series at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, in Munster.

The first performance of 2017 features the ladies of laughter, Sheila Kay and Connie Ettinger on Friday Jan. 27, with the option of a buffet dinner served when the dining room opens at 6:30 p.m. prior to the show at 8 p.m. in the theater.

A new offering in 2017 has two show dates, one of which is the Jan. 27 performance, letting patrons purchase a "comedy show only" ticket for \$28, as well as still having the option of the traditional dinner/show combo ticket for \$38. The April 22 comedy night is the other 2017 date with the "comedy show only" ticket offering or the option of the traditional dinner/show combo ticket. For both of these special performance dates, the evening will consist of dinner served in the dining room and the show seating in the theater space at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts. For both dinner and for comedy show tickets, call the Theatre at the Center box office at 219-836-3255 or visit [www.cvpa.org](http://www.cvpa.org).

Sheila Kay, nominated twice for American Comedy Awards, has television credits that include *Law & Order: SVU*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, *HBO's Not Necessarily the News*, *Evening at the Improv* and *Showtime's Comedy Club Network*. After many years raising her daughter while working at a veterinary hospital and a law office, Sheila found herself in show biz and earning a paycheck talking about a range of topics from dieting to sex while sharing the humorous moments of her life. She tells audiences she "was born, married and divorced in Detroit, Mich."

"It was also during this time in Detroit when I started cooking and eating everything in sight, which lasted through two marriages, one child, and 16 scales," Shelia said.

What do you get when you cross a farm girl with a former partner in a major Detroit law firm? The answer is Connie Ettinger, a self-styled "recovering lawyer." Connie's seemingly divergent aspects of a small town upbringing with the legal fast lane creates a sardonic view of matters ranging from the uncertainties of puberty to the absurdities of our justice system. She says she has no tolerance for antics that bring the legal system (and freeways and grocery check-out lines) to a maddeningly slow crawl. Her engaging, animated delivery on a variety of topics draws the audience into a shared appreciation of life's little ironies.

The buffet dinner menu for the Jan. 27 Comedy Night at the CVPA is a Southern Buffet theme featuring delicious favorites such as roast chicken with corn bread stuffing, stewed chicken ala king with buttermilk biscuits, fried catfish, baked ham, spaghetti, cheesy Duchess potatoes, cut sweet corn, macaroni salad, cottage cheese, coleslaw and carrot cake for dessert.

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## Comedy Night at the CVPA 2017 CONTINUED

February welcomes two funny Friday headliners to Munster to perform at Comedy Night at the CVPA. Jimmy McHugh performs Feb. 10 and Jeff Jena takes the stage Feb. 24. Both of the February performances are at 8 p.m. presented in the dining room at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts following dinner. All tickets are \$38 and include the dinner seating, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Jimmy McHugh has been dishing out his style of comedy for more than 25 years. Born and raised on the Northwest side of Chicago, Jimmy blends a mixture of classic observational humor emphasized with his unique vocal and facial expressions and specializes with his swings at the world of sports. Jimmy appears at various national comedy clubs and has also been seen on *Comedy Central*, *HBO*, *MTV*, *ESPN2* and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

In his 36 years as a stand-up comic Jeffrey Jena has appeared on more than 40 national television shows, including *The Dennis Miller show*, *HBO*, *MTV*, *Evening at the Improv*, *NBC Friday Nights* and *Comics Unleashed*. As an actor he has been seen on *Murder She Wrote*, *Hunter*, and appeared in shows with Jenny McCarthy and Weird Al Yankovic and in several films including *Raising the Dead* with Allison Eastwood. He is also a frequent guest on the nationally syndicated *Bob and Tom Show*.

Nationally-known TV comedian Nick Gaza will continue to serve as the host for Comedy Night at the CVPA.

"With all of the worries of the world these days, everyone needs a good laugh now more than ever," Gaza said.

"We bill this as a chance to get over those winter doldrums by planning a night out this January and February. The addition of a buffet dinner included with a ticket price makes it even better. It's close, the parking is free and it's a night of great food and laughs as just the ticket to treat cabin fever."

The remaining comedy nights for Spring 2017 include Pat McGann performing March 10 and 11 and Tim Walkoe and John DaCosse together April 22. All of the shows are for audiences 21 and older. In addition to the select nights with the "comedy show only" ticket for \$28 and the dinner and show ticket for \$38, there's also the option to purchase all five comedy dinners and shows for a discounted price of \$180 per person. Tables of 10 can be reserved for dinner. Gift certificates are also available.

The Center for Visual and Performing Arts is a multi-purpose facility built by Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, Inc. to support the cultural and educational needs of the region. The 72,660-square-foot facility, which opened in 1989, provides services for meetings, seminars, banquets, weddings, dinners, theater and fine arts. The elegant dining room can accommodate up to 500 guests or be divided for smaller parties. Other unique space options are available, including smaller rooms to accommodate private parties and business meetings. The CVPA is also home to Theatre at the Center, South Shore Arts and the Northwest Indiana Symphony. For more information about the CVPA, call 219-836-1930.

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### PROMO PHOTOS of January and February Comedy Talent Attached with Emailed Press Release

1. Shelia Kay
2. Connie Ettinger
3. Jeff McHugh
4. Jeff Jena

