



The fifth annual Campus Activities Magazine Rock N' Road Show went off without hitch, thanks to the great folks at the University of Akron, our top Artist Report Card Submitting campus for the year of 2009.

Four great artists donated their time and services for U of A to get an entire weekend of free entertainment.

The staff at Campus Activities Magazine would like to thank all the folks at Akron for rolling out the red carpet (and tons of swag) and making our stay a real joy. Special thanks go out to Tom Faessel, Aysen Ulupinar, Tiffany Schmidt and Jonathan Morris and the entire board at RHPB for their hospitality.

**August 31st, 2010 2:00PM**

Upon arriving in the college town, we immediately were struck by the accommodations. The Quaker Square Inn has an interesting history. As a large hotel, it also serves as a residence hall for many students and staff on campus and holds the distinction of being previously used by the Quaker company as silos for storing their oats. Now converted into a modern hotel with all the usual amenities, the only obvious signs of the building's history are the rooms, because the outside walls of each are rounded with the silo, creating a sort of pie-shaped hotel room.

The lobby and hallways are adorned with modern art from a local artist, not to mention the huge murals of the advertisements Quaker Oats and Puffed Wheat, "steam exploded to 100 times their normal size." The hotel itself is only a couple of blocks from the campus' very impressive E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Center, the hub of major shows at U of A.

Designed as a campus for foot travel, the venue is easily reached by sidewalk, much easier than navigating the one-way streets of downtown Akron. We highly recommend a guide for this little adventure.

**August 31st, 2010 9:09PM**

The first night's entertainment kicked off with the incredible Buzz Sutherland, 16-time comedian of the year and a tradition at Akron. While EJ Thomas is a very large theater venue with over 3,000 seats, it still seemed full with the 1,003 students Buzz brought in because of a unique movable ceiling panel system that allows the venue to seal off the upper mezzanines, effectively lowering the ceiling and making the large space seem just the right fit for the audience.

Buzz kicked off the show with his usual energy and crowd-favorites, including impressions of Forrest, 'King of The Hill,' and of course the duck. While he has heard comments that his set is a bit dated, for Buzz, veteran of well over 3,000 college performances, he knows what he is doing what works. "So my Forrest Gump impression dates back to the movie, who cares?" he comments. "Who doesn't know Forrest Gump? When I go out and do those impressions from

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**ROCK 'N ROAD SHOW ROCKS AKRON**



Buzz Sutherland courtesy Coleman Entertainment Group, contact Jacqui Volkman, (866)297-9671.

**September 1st, 2010, 12:00PM**



'King of The Hill' or Forrest Gump, I get the same level of reactions I got when it was still in theaters. Why should I change what works? I am here to give the school and it's students the best possible show, not stroke my comedic ego. Therefore, I will do what I know works, not get experimental for my own satisfaction. I want to make them laugh and I already know just how to do that. Why fix what ain't broke right?"

Buzz has been playing this school for a long time and knows just what their crowds want to see. "The University of Akron and I go way back. I have been here probably for more shows than at any other college in the United States, simply because sometimes they bring me twice a year and I have been here for over 20 years. I have been in every venue on campus, from the beautiful EJ Thomas Hall down to a room that if Anne Frank had hid in, she would still be alive today (laughs)."

Buzz lit up the crowd and provided a great kickoff for the event and despite his long history in the market, he said he is just getting warmed up. "I just hit the 3,000 show milestone in the college market and you know I look at it as being only the halfway mark. I really have been rejuvenated over the last six months with changes in my management and agency. I have incredible support now with Jacqui Volkman and Coleman Entertainment Group. I look forward to a resurgence in the campus market and the next 3,000 shows."

The second day's events were kicked off by an afternoon performance from Brian Mackey, a fresh face to the college market.

Brian is a singer/songwriter from Georgia living in New York City. He has a style very reminiscent to the best solo performers, with elements of James Taylor and Cat Stevens mixed in with the contemporary sound of today and creative lyricism. "My influences vary from 70's rock like James Taylor, Billy Joel and Cat Stevens to modern artists. I played the piano at a guys's house who managed Cat and brought him over to America. He actually worked with Paul McCartney & Wings."

The modern balances nicely with the classics, as Brian also enjoys some of the same contemporary artists as many students. "I like Jason Mraz a lot and Jason Reeves is great. James Morrison also is very talented."

Brian's first interest in music has humble roots. "Just singing in the bath tub," he says. "My mom was a songwriter in the 80's, writing some country stuff but never really touring. She did a lot of behind-the-scenes collaborating and had some hand in some of the big hits of the 80's like 'Lookin' For Love In All The Wrong Places.'"

The experience engrained a desire to entertain in Brian and his nomad's spirit fits in perfectly with the lifestyle of a touring musician. "I like to travel, I love to get out and meet people. I don't feel normal unless I am meeting people and on the move. I feel like I am wasting time when not on the move. I just love to get out and play."

Brian Mackey is a fresh face for the campus market, you might be the first of your network of schools to book him. Call Tim Kazimir at RP Talent, (630)746-2293.

**September 1st, 2010, 8:00PM**



After some downtime enjoying the University's fine campus, the evening show was upon us. Instead of packing the house with regular theater seating, the evening's show was brought up onto the impressive stage at EJ Thomas for an intimate close-up performance for about 200 students. Jeff Civillico and Tim Gabrielson are two friends from Las Vegas and two very experienced college performers.

Jeff Civillico is an International Juggling Champion and an experienced corporate emcee, but his real talents lie in audience management and comedy. In fact, his show "Comedy In Action" better describes what Jeff does than to call it a juggling show. "Everything is about crowd interaction. I understand no one out there in the college market cares about how many balls I can jug-



gle at once or the subtly technical throws and catches I might use. They want to laugh."

Jeff's background provided him a very good training ground for adapting just this ability. "I started as a kid working the streets and theme parks, places where you really have to learn to hold an audience's attention and be entertaining, especially if you are basing your income on tips (laughs)."

Jeff made a great connection with the crowd and provided a great introduction and warm-up for that night's feature entertainer and Jeff's good friend, Tim Gabrielson. "I am happy to be playing the college market and happy to be here at The University of Akron. It is a great school and a great audience and I'd personally like to thank them for the opportunity."

Much like Akron would probably like to thank Jeff for playing the date for free, especially since he was informed he would be a substitution quite last-minute. despite this, Jeff showed up and charmed the crowd. Campus Activities Magazine would like to extend him a special thanks for filling the slot. Call Tim Kazimir at RP Talent, (630)746-2293, for more on Jeff Civillico.

**September 1st, 2010, 9:00PM**

Tim Gabrielson is a highly experienced comic magician from the Las Vegas area. While Tim does have some amazing magical effects that left the



audience guessing, his true strength is in his comedic genius and the sheer pace and smoothness of his show. It is perfectly clear that, upon watching Tim perform, he is very experienced.

"Growing up, my family was very involved in theater, so that is where my passion for performing was born. I went to a small high school in Minnesota, so I was able to be a part of the theater scene and play football, whereas at a bigger school with a larger talent pool that wouldn't have been likely. It was awesome for me, because I love to be on stage in front of people now. I have always been interested in art, this is just a different form of that, done on an emotional canvas."

Tim's show is incredible and the audience interaction is second to none. He is funny enough to be a straight standup comic, but the amazement felt

when witnessing his routines just compounds the emotions. "Those moments are beautiful. That feeling you create in a room when you know you are genuinely blowing someone away. They have no idea what's happening and they can't backtrack it and figure it out. As a magician, that is the best thing that could ever happen to you."

Tim has been in this game since he was five, so you can bet he has the experience under his belt to deal with just about an audience and any show. "When I was 13, my mom bought me a magic trick, which is actually still in my act. Magic is a vehicle to get to the audience. I want to create relationships. Ultimately yes, I am a magician, but I don't want people to leave my performance and say 'Wow, that was a great magic show.' I want them to walk out saying 'Wow, I was so entertained!'"

Tim can certainly entertain your audiences in spades, call Tall Tim at RP Talent at (630)746-2293.

The Rock N' Road Show at the University of Akron was a great event for Campus Activities Magazine and we would again like to thank them and all of our participating artists for their part. Special thanks to RP Talent and Coleman Entertainment Group.

For more on the programming board at U of A, check out the story in the April 2010 issue of our magazine.