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Jokes @ The Joynt on December 29th offers an opportunity for the best local Stand-Up Comics to showcase their talent for a new TV show dubbed "After Dark with Joe Piscopo"

CHICAGO, ILL – December, 2009 – A new variety series for TV hosted by *SNL* alum Joe Piscopo is slated to shoot early next year at The Joynt in Chicago's River North neighborhood. The show will feature some of today's best Artists from all genres of entertainment including music, comedy, theatre and film. The Joynt co-owner Stan Wozniak and Piscopo go back many decades so filming his new project there seemed only natural. Piscopo's deep roots in stand-up comedy lend to his desire to feature comedians on *After Dark* and the audition showcases on the 29th will allow him to take a good look at the talent Chicago has to offer.

Piscopo cut his teeth as a performer in the late 70's with stints as a disc jockey and dinner-theater performer. Later he turned to comedy doing open mikes and then becoming a regular at clubs like Dangerfield's in New York City. In 1980, he was chosen to join a newly formed ensemble charged with one of the most difficult tasks in TV history- Replacing the original cast of Saturday Night Live. Following his departure from *SNL* Piscopo has stayed very busy with Film and Television projects and has continued to make live performances and important part of his career performing stand-up comedy concerts in arenas and casino showrooms from coast to coast and in Canada (including the prestigious Montreal Jazz Festival). Joe tours with his own original Big Band tribute to Frank Sinatra, as well as his multimedia comedy show.

The first audition showcase of the night begins at 7 pm and will feature native Chicagoan and national stand-up headliner **Rocky LaPorte**. LaPorte performed at this year's *Just for Laughs* festival in Chicago and his set on TBS's *The Very Funny Show* aired on December 3rd. Rocky also appears in the upcoming Tim Allen film *Crazy on the Outside* which will be released on January 8th. At the Las Vegas Comedy Festival he received the "Best Male Club Comedian of the Year" award presented by George Wallace and has done a half-hour comedy special on Comedy Central. Featuring is **Hannibal Buress**; a brilliant emerging comedic talent from Chicago now living in New York City. Buress is the newest addition to the writing team at *Saturday Night Live*. He was offered the job by head writer Seth Meyers immediately following a performance on *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*. He also performed at this year's *Just for Laughs* festival in Chicago. Also scheduled to appear on the first showcase are Vince Carone, Marty DeRosa, Mike Lebovitz, Jeanie Doogan and Lucky Luciano.

The second showcase immediately following at 9:30 will feature an outstanding lineup of Chicago Comics many of whom were handpicked to perform at a recent industry showcase at Chicago's Lincoln Lodge for Los Angeles-based powerhouse management/production firms *New Wave Entertainment* and *3 Arts Entertainment*. NBC's *Last Comic Standing* is among many of *New Wave's* production credits and manages A-List Talent such as Dance Cook. *3 Arts* represents stars such as Chelsea Handler and Jamie Kennedy and produces the E! Network's smash hit show *Chelsea Lately* among many others. Scheduled to appear on the second show are host Joe Fernandez, CJ Toledano, Junior Stopka, Brian Babylon, Ricky Carmona, Aaron W., Prashanth Venkat, Joe Red, CJ Sullivan, Bill Cruz, Matty Ryan, feature act Dave Odd and headline act Deon Cole. Cole has done his own half-hour Comedy Central Presents special and had supporting roles in both *Barbershop 1* and *2*. He also is a current writer for *The Tonight Show* with Conan O'Brien and has also performed stand-up on the show on several occasions.

Tickets for both shows are available at <http://jokesatthejoynt29th.eventbrite.com>.