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**FIFTH ANNUAL MEMPHIS COMEDY FESTIVAL LAUGHS THROUGH  
TOWN, MARCH 31 – APRIL 3**

**(MEMPHIS, TN)** The fifth annual Memphis Comedy Festival has announced the 2016 show and performer lineup and rolls into April Fools' weekend bigger and funnier than ever. With more than 30 events featuring 44 comedians from around the country and Canada, the 2016 Memphis Comedy Festival looks to celebrate the recent explosion of stand-up in the Bluff City.

"It's amazing," said festival co-founder and CEO Katrina Coleman. "The quality of comics we are able to bring in, the support from local audiences and businesses. Memphis is ready to laugh and they know the festival will deliver."

While anchored at Theatreworks behind Overton Square, the festival's myriad of shows cover several other local venues: The P&H Café on Madison, The Hi-Tone and The Basement in Crosstown, Studio on the Square, Dru's Place, and the Memphis Gay & lesbian Community Center.

Headlining the festival is Pheobe Robinson, a Chicago comedian who has appeared on *Last Comic Standing*, *The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore*, *@Midnight*, *Broad City* and *Late Night with Seth Myers*. Appearing with her on the headliner showcase are Seattle comedian Derek Sheen and New York comedians Kenny DeForest and Mike Albanese.

Filling out the performer field are 40 other comedians from cities all over the continent. Atlanta, New Orleans, Portland, Austin, TX, Nashville, Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco and even Toronto are included in the represented cities.

Not being simply a festival of standup, the festival also hosts a number of specialty shows from around the country, bringing their unique formats to a Memphis audience. These specialty shows boast performances from the featured performers.

Among the shows are Chicago's *Late Late Breakfast*, an improv, standup and variety showcase that features games, balloons and pancakes, Little Rock's *Brain Trust*, a nerd's quiz show for comics, and the incredibly popular local roast show *You Look Like*.

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Between events, stand-up showcases, specialty shows, workshops, parties, open-mics and the *Don't Be Afraid of the Shorts* comedy short film showcase, the festival provides more than 60 hours of comedy shows and events in four days.

"In previous years we've been called 'The summer camp for comics,'" said Coleman. "This year is so big, we want everyone to upgrade us to Space Camp."

**THE MEMPHIS COMEDY FESTIVAL** is a four-day celebration of stand-up comedy and the comedic arts. The past five years it has happened in the spring in Memphis, Tennessee. MCF hosts stand-up showcases, themed comedy shows, improv showcases, podcasts, informational seminars, comedy open-mics, and probably (definitely) a karaoke session. It spans a few neighborhoods and several venues and attracts thousands of Memphians. Founded by a gaggle of young, independent comics in 2011, MCF has grown exponentially each year, culminating last year in a festival that featured more than 60 comics, almost 50 shows, and attendance of more than five thousand. The current festival board consists of festival founders Katrina Coleman, Nathan Hiller, Richard Douglas Jones, and Josh McLane. Also on the board are Benny Elbows and Doug Gillon. MCF is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization with five named board members and wide-support from the Memphis independent comedy and arts communities.

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