



Contact: Laura Silverman/Beth Silverman
The Silverman Group, Inc.
312.932.9950
laura@silvermangroupchicago.com

For Immediate Release

CHICAGO LIVE! RETURNS WITH EVEN MORE HEADLINE-MAKING INTERVIEWS AND PERFORMANCES, BRINGING THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE TO LIFE

**Season Three Guests Include Chef Rick Tramonto,
the Chicago Children's Choir, an All Blues Show, and More,
Kicking Off on Thursday, May 5 at The Chicago Theatre Downstairs**

(April 7, 2011) Jam-packed with comedy, musical performances and commentary, **CHICAGO LIVE!** returns for a third season! A weekly live stage show, taped for WGN Radio and carried online at chicagolive.com, **CHICAGO LIVE!** showcases who and what is making news in Chicago. The show features topical comedy sketches by The Second City, interviews with newsmakers and athletes, and rare, up-close performances by talent typically headlining theater and music club stages. Season Three kicks off at the intimate Chicago Theatre Downstairs, 175 N. State Street, **Thursday evenings at 6:30pm beginning May 5 through June 9**. Following each show will be a "meet and mingle" reception with the cast.

Presented by the *Chicago Tribune*, in partnership with The Second City, **CHICAGO LIVE!** is a fast-paced 60-minute program. Hosted by **Rick Kogan**, a veteran Chicago Tribune reporter, author and radio/TV personality, **CHICAGO LIVE!** utilizes the abundance of talent from the Tribune and The Second City. Thursday night live shows are taped for broadcast on WGN Radio (720AM) Saturdays at 11 pm. Show recaps, podcasts and behind-the-scenes footage are also available at www.chicagolive.com.

Since its launch in October 2010, **CHICAGO LIVE!** has presented local and national celebrities and newsmakers and continues that trend in Season Three. Among the talent kicking off the season on **Thursday, May 5** will be Arlington Park's **Howard Sudberry**, former CBS 2 sportscaster, previewing the upcoming racing season; local restaurateur and entrepreneur, **Billy Dec**, discussing success with social media; and local bluegrass band **Cornmeal**. The remainder of the season includes:

- **Track-Off**, a competition of emerging Chicago musical talent, with RedEye columnist **Kyra Kyles** and a performance from the winner; local author **James Keene** talking about his new book, *In With The Devil*; and the head of A Safe Haven, **Neli Vazquez-Rowland**, on Thursday, May 12.
- WGN Radio's **Garry Meier**; chef and author **Rick Tramonto** (*Scars of a Chef*); and **Dr. Paul Freeman**, retiring founder of the nation's most diverse orchestra, Chicago Sinfonietta, and his successor **Mei-Ann Chen**, on Thursday, May 19.

- Old Town School of Folk Music's **Chris Walz**; Chicago MOTH GrandSLAM champion **Shannon Cason** showcasing MOTH's storytelling mission; and from the Chicago Film Office, **Richard Moskal**, on Thursday, May 26.
- Members of the **Chicago Children's Choir** and Artistic Director **Josephine Lee** in advance of their Ravinia opening night appearance; married jazz-vocal-guitar duo, **Petra van Nuis** and **Andy Brown**; and first time novelist, **Kelly O'Connor McNees**, previewing the Printers Row Lit Fest, on Thursday, June 2.
- An all-blues program, previewing the **Chicago Blues Festival**, with **Bruce Iglauer** of Alligator Records and performances by blues musicians to be announced, on Thursday, June 9.
- Additional talent will be announced continually throughout the season.

Each show features Rick Kogan's "Chicago Almanac," which spotlights a significant year in Chicago history as a means to reflect on our rich history and remind us how far we have, or haven't, come. Through words, images and music, the "Chicago Almanac" is an entertaining and enlightening time-trip. Kogan's "Chicago Almanac" will be featured on www.chicagotribune.com with an interactive Chicago history quiz during each weekend of the show's run.

CHICAGO LIVE! is one part of Trib Nation, an initiative of the Chicago Tribune to bring news, information, and entertainment to live events. Trib Nation Events also includes *Chicago Forward: Conversations About the Future*, panel discussions with newsmakers, leaders and policymakers exploring important issues; *TribU*, a multi-platform content program focusing on personal and professional enrichment; *Press Pass*, programs by Chicago Tribune columnists and personalities; and the *Lit Series* including the Printers Row Lit Fest, Tribune literary prizes and monthly AuthorTalks. For its entire history, the Chicago Tribune has been a market-leading publication serving its community. Reaching three million readers each week in print and over ten million online monthly, the Chicago Tribune is known for its award-winning journalism. The Tribune's news focus is centered on the Chicago experience, community issues and government, business, as well as entertainment, culture and sports. For more information, please visit www.tribnation.com/events

The Second City is the nation's premier developer of improv-based comedy and home to generations of the comedy world's most influential artists. Additionally, The Second City is a diverse entertainment company that operates the largest school of improvisation in the country, a corporate communications division that brings improv training to a wide array of businesses and a new media division that leverages the legendary company's expertise in topical, short form content across a variety of platforms.

Tickets for **CHICAGO LIVE!** are on sale now and priced at \$20 and include a meet & mingle reception (with cash bar) following each taping. Tickets are available at The Chicago Theatre box office, 175 N. State Street, all Ticketmaster outlets, and Ticketmaster phone charge (1.800.745.3000) or can be purchased online at www.thechicagotheatre.com and www.ticketmaster.com. For more information or to download a podcast of all CHICAGO LIVE! programs, please visit www.chicagolive.com.

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