

DSI brings 2 comedy shows together

The show features Sara Schaefer and the Pink Collar Comedy Tour.

By Alex Dixon
Arts Editor

Comedian Sara Schaefer said that her show tonight at the Dirty South Comedy Theater might be the last time anyone can see her perform at a small venue.

MTV just signed Schaefer's television show, which features interviews, sketches and jokes. Schaefer said the show, hosted by her and comedian Nikki Glaser, will air either later this year or early next year.

"I'm hoping, not assuming, I'll get big, but this might change the venues I'm performing in," Schaefer said.

Schaefer's stand-up show is part of her Iddy Biddy Teeny Tiny stand-up tour. The tour began on May 25 in Spokane, Wash., and is funded through Schaefer's 'kick-starter' project. The project accepts monetary pledges from people in return for rewards such as shirts, admission to shows and Schaefer teaching her 'secret handshake' to pledges.

"Supposedly, a huge part of developing your stand up act is to take it on the road," Schaefer said. "I'm not big enough yet to sell out stadiums or anything, so I did this kick-starter and it helped me support it."

Shortly after Schaefer's performance, performers from the Pink Collar Comedy Tour will take the stage.

The tour features comedians Kaytlin Bailey, Erin Judge, Carrie Gravenon and Abbi Crutchfield.

Bailey organized the tour and said she wanted to bring the comedians she met living in New York back to the Southeast, where she grew up.

"The tour has been like a road trip," Bailey said. "It's been a ton of fun."

After graduating from the College of Charleston, Bailey worked for a progressive political consulting firm, while performing comedy in her spare time. Bailey quit her job in 2010, moved to

SARA SCHAEFFER

Time: 7:30 p.m. today

Location: DSI Comedy Theater, 200 N. Greensboro St., Carrboro

Info: www.dsicomedytheater.com/calendar/

PINK COLLAR COMEDY

Time: 9:00 p.m. today

Location: DSI Comedy Theater, 200 N. Greensboro St., Carrboro

Info: www.dsicomedytheater.com/calendar

New York City and began performing comedy full time.

"I took a leap of faith, moved to New York, and never looked back," Bailey said.

Schaefer attended The College of William and Mary in Virginia. About a year after she graduated, she moved to New York to pursue comedy.

"There were a million things I wanted to do with my life, and I decided I should do the riskiest, craziest dream first, while I'm young," Bailey said. "And if it doesn't work out, I'll do something more boring."

Schaefer and Bailey said attendees should expect two great shows.

"I talk a lot about my life; it's very self-deprecating, but it's very fun," Schaefer said. "I like to have fun when I'm on stage, and I try to get people to relate to what I'm thinking and feeling at the same time."

Bailey said each of the Pink Collar Comedy Tour performers brings a unique style to their performances.

"Every audience we've had laughed so hard it was practically an ab workout," Bailey said.

Schaefer said she hopes audience members will talk to her after the show.

"I don't insult people in the audience, if that's something they're concerned about," Schaefer said. "I'll actually stick around after the show and make eye contact with people."

Contact the Arts Editor at arts@dailytarheel.com.

Writers pitch books at Flyleaf

Pitchapalooza gives local writers one minute to pitch book ideas.

By Alex Dixon
Arts Editor

Author David Henry Sterry attended a party in San Francisco where people drunkenly pitched book ideas to a publisher.

Sterry said this party was the influence for the largely successful event, Pitchapalooza, which is expected to bring hundreds of people to Flyleaf Books on Saturday.

The event gives local writers the opportunity to be published by pitching their book ideas to a panel in one minute.

Sterry and his wife, Arielle Eckstut, created Pitchapalooza and are promoting and organizing the event.

Bookstores around the country have hosted the event since its inception five years ago.

"There are so many talented writers who aren't able to get their work out into the world because they don't understand how the book business works," Sterry said. "And that's part of what we supply to them."

Sterry said, at the event, participants must purchase a copy of his and Eckstut's book, "The Essential Guide To Getting Your Book Published," in order to be eligible to pitch their idea. As many as 20 writers will be selected at random to pitch from those who purchase the book.

"We critique their pitches in a kind, gentle way," Sterry said. "No one is going to ask the writers who dressed them this morning or whether they cut their hair in a Cuisinart."

Eckstut said that on average,

PITCHAPALOOZA

Time: 2 p.m. Saturday, June 23

Location: Flyleaf Books, 752 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Info: www.flyleafbooks.com/pitchapalooza

the event draws between 150 and 250 writers who want to pitch.

Those not selected will receive a 20-minute consultation with Sterry and Eckstut about their idea. Eckstut said they hear ideas from amateur writers who haven't written a book yet to ideas from established authors.

"There's so much mean, bitter, angry nastiness in the publishing business and we don't think it's right," Sterry said. "Our job is to help people no matter what stage they are in the process."

Sterry and Eckstut will serve on a judging panel with Craig

Popelars, Chuck Adams and Cathy Pories from Chapel Hill-based Algonquin Books. They will select a winner at the end of the event.

Sterry said they match the winning writer with a publisher that is best suited for their work.

Jamie Fiocco, one of the owners of Flyleaf, said the event should bring a lot of writers.

"The number one question we get everyday from writers is, 'How do I get published?'" Fiocco said. "And I think this event will be good for that."

Eckstut said the event is educational, even to those watching and not pitching ideas.

"The art of pitching extends far beyond the book to really everything that you want to do and that you have a dream with in your life," Eckstut said.

Contact the Arts Editor at arts@dailytarheel.com.

Benefit show held by UNC graduate

By Alex Dixon
Arts Editor

Adrian Schlesinger curated and coordinated two art shows before she graduated from UNC in May.

Her third show, held last week at Carrack Modern Art Gallery in Durham, benefited Church World Service — an organization that partners with religious groups to serve refugee and immigrant communities.

The show, "Home is in You," featured artwork from recent UNC graduates Laura Melosh and Katie Frohbose. Wilmington-based artist Wendy Kowalski provided paintings from her new collection for the show as well.

Schlesinger said her former UNC communications professor Nadia Dawisha, who now works for Church World Service, asked her to organize the benefit show.

"It turns out June is International Refugee Awareness Month, so I think that scheduling the show now brings more awareness," Schlesinger said at the opening reception on last week.

Schlesinger said in an email that nine works of art were sold at the show.

Schlesinger's past shows occurred at the Carrack in 2011. Her first show was a fundraising



DTH/HANNAH SAMUELSON

"The Home Is In You" opening at the Carrack on May 15.



DTH/HANNAH SAMUELSON

Attendants view the show at the reception.



DTH/HANNAH SAMUELSON

Show organizer Adrian Schlesinger (left) and gallery director Laura Ritchie (right) talk at the show.

show for the gallery when it first opened last summer.

Laura Ritchie, a recent UNC graduate, co-founded the Carrack in June 2011. She co-directs the gallery with John Wendelbo.

Ritchie said the Carrack is a zero-commission gallery, meaning

all art sales go directly to the artist.

"The idea is that the artist takes over the space," Ritchie said. "It's a great place to overlap the social and the arts."

Rodney Derrick lives in Durham and said he goes to the Carrack gallery almost every

week. "The space adds a lot of dynamism to downtown Durham," he said. "It's like an incubator for young artists' work."

Contact the Arts Editor at arts@dailytarheel.com.

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