

Evanston Sentinel

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American Indian Museum's First Comedy Event Brings Headliner from Showtime Network

The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian in Evanston will stage its first-ever comedy show when it presents nationally headlining Native American comedian Marc Yaffee at 5PM. on Sunday, April 22, 2012, at the Heartland Café, 7000 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago.

Tickets are \$12 for the general public and \$10 for Mitchell Museum members. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the museum or by phoning the museum at (847) 475-1030. Tickets may also be purchased at the door of the show, depending on availability. For information, phone (847) 475-1030 or email visitor.services@mitchellmuseum.org.

Yaffee was among the comics featured on the Showtime network's December 2009 breakthrough special, "Goin' Native: American Indian Comedy Slam". He has also been seen on "Comics Unleashed" and the PBS special "Crossing the Line", and he's been featured on Sirius XM and NPR's "Weekend America".

Yaffee is co-founder of the touring standup show "Powwow Comedy Jam", which has been likened to a Native version of the Kings of Comedy.

The April 22nd show will be Yaffee's

Chicago-area comedy debut.

Yaffee, 51, was born to a Mexican Navajo father and Scotch-Irish mother and adopted at birth by a Mexican mother and Jewish-American father. "Jewish father, Navajo son", Yaffee says in one of his televised routines. "I'm a bargain hunter-gatherer".

The Los Angeles-born comic, now based in Reno, Nev., says he'll talk about "family, tribal identity, politics, and misperceptions about racial stereotypes, among other things" during his Chicago show.

Yaffee didn't learn of his Navajo roots until age 25. He says he played childhood cowboys and Indians, realizing later that "I was suiting up for the wrong team."

In addition to his TV appearances, Yaffee performs in comedy clubs and casino show rooms and at colleges across the country and has entertained members of the U.S. armed forces overseas.

The independent nonprofit Mitchell Museum, celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, is presenting the comedy show in an initiative to address a wide range of contemporary Native American culture and issues through special events and exhibits, according to Kathleen McDonald, the museum's executive director. In April 2011, the museum hosted its first poetry night, with readings by a group of prominent Native American poets.