

RUTH ECKERD HALL

RICHARD B. BAUMGARDNER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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**CRAIG FERGUSON
TO BRING HIS STAND-UP COMEDY ACT
TO RUTH ECKERD HALL
FOR ONE NIGHT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17 AT 8 PM**

Tickets go on sale this Friday, December 18 at noon

December 14, 2009, Clearwater, FL – Late night talk show host, comedian and actor Craig Ferguson makes his debut at Ruth Eckerd Hall when he brings his stand-up comedy act for one incredible show Wednesday, March 17 at 8 pm. Tickets go on sale this Friday at noon.

Ferguson entered the world of late night comedy following a diverse and eclectic career that encompasses film, television and the stage. Since taking the helm of the *Late, Late Show* on January 3, 2005, the show has set all-time viewer records in three consecutive sweeps.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Ferguson got his start in the entertainment industry as a drummer for some of the worst punk bands in the U.K., a profession he held for several years. Following his musical stint, he began bartending in a local pub in Glasgow where he was introduced to Michael Boyd, the artistic director of The Tron Theatre in Glasgow, who persuaded Ferguson to give acting a go. After several low paying acting gigs, Ferguson discovered he had a knack for comedy and was soon the star of his own BBC television show, *The Ferguson Theory*.

After several stints on the English comedy circuit, Ferguson brought his act to America in 1995 to star with Betty White and Marie Osmond in the short-lived ABC comedy *Maybe This Time*. After the show ended, ABC decided to add the talented Scotsman to *The Drew Carey Show*, playing Drew Carey's boss, Nigel Wick, from 1996-2003.

Ferguson has written the feature films *The Big Tease* and *Saving Grace*. In 2003, he made his directorial debut with *I'll Be There*, which he also wrote and starred in. *I'll Be There* went on to receive the Audience Award for Best Film at the Aspen, Dallas and Valencia film festivals. Craig was also named "Best New Director" at the Napa Valley Film Festival. Ferguson's other film credits include, *Niagra Motel*, *Lenny the Wonder Dog*, *Prendimi l'anima*, *Life Without Dick*, *Chain of Fools*, *Born Romantic* and *The Big Tease*.

Since coming into his own on the *Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson* and winning his first Emmy nomination in 2006, Craig has seem to become the topic of conversation within the media and a growing trend of success in 2008. In February he succeeded in becoming a U.S. Citizen mentioning that this is his home after thirteen years and "my heart is here". Soon after, Craig had landed himself the biggest date of all; A date with President Bush hosting the White House Correspondence Dinner. Critics raved of his witty and comical deliverance speech to the 3,000 attendees who included political journalists, celebrities and Washington's power players.

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Coming up in September 2009 Harper Collins is set to publish a memoir by Craig Ferguson [In America On Purpose](#) - a book about why and how late night funnyman, Craig Ferguson became an American. "American on Purpose..." says David Hirshey, Senior Vice President and Executive Editor. "...will make you laugh, cry and sing The Star Spangled Banner with a Scottish burr."

Reserved tickets priced at \$69.50, \$49.50, \$39.50 and \$29.50 will be available at the Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office located at 1111 McMullen Booth Road in Clearwater, by calling 727.791.7400 or by logging onto www.rutheckerdhall.com. The Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office is open Monday through Saturday, from noon to 6 pm and one hour prior to showtime. Tickets will also available by logging onto www.ticketmaster.com.

Designed by the prestigious Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Ruth Eckerd Hall is known for its 2,180-seat, acoustically perfect auditorium. Artists from America and around the world, ranging from classical, rock, opera, Broadway, jazz, pop and more are included in the stellar lineup of more than 200 performances a year.

Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Ruth Eckerd Hall Foundation are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.

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