

Some laughter for Miss Connecticut's expense

By MIKE CHAIKEN
EDITIONS EDITOR

This Friday, you can laugh at Miss Connecticut's expense.

Or better put, you can laugh to help Miss Connecticut with her expenses.

Miss Connecticut, Brittany Decker of Bristol, is making preparations to head to Las Vegas in January to compete for the honor of becoming the next Miss America.

To help defray the costs of competing, "Laugh the Night Away," a fundraiser featuring stand-up comedians Rick Carino, Pat Oates, and Darren Rivera will be held this Friday at Nuchie's in Forestville. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the show begins at 8:45 p.m.

Rick Carino is not only taking the mike that night, he is the driving force behind the show. We caught up with him via email to talk to him about the show, himself, and what fans of stand-up can expect at Nuchie's.

Q: First of all, how did you get involved with helping out on this event for Miss Connecticut?

A: I got involved in this event because my sister-in-law Paola Carino works with Bonnie (Decker, Miss Bristol's mother). I do a lot of fundraisers and charity shows. If anyone is interested in putting on something they can reach me through my website at www.rick-carino.com.

Q: Who are the comedians performing that night... can you offer up a little bio on them and what they've done?

A: The comics are Pat Oates, Darren Rivera and myself. Pat is a very high energy comic who relies heavily on crowd work. He has been doing comedy for about four years and is considered one of comedy's rising stars. I met Darren when I first started comedy. He won the initial WCCC "Last Comic Standing" competition and was a runner-up in Connecticut's Funniest Person contest last year. I have been in comedy for about four years and I also produce shows all over the east coast. I do a lot of charity shows and fundraisers. Most often they are fundraisers for animal shelters.

Q: How did you get involved in stand up? What's your day job?

A: I work in a technical services center at Laticrete International giving out technical advice. I also just got my own line of spices through the Dick Wayne Company at www.dick-waynes.com. Most people get involved in comedy



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'Laugh the Night Away' on Friday at Nuchie's is a benefit to help Brittany Decker of Bristol, above, Miss Connecticut, compete at Miss America in January. Decker is seen here singing at last month's Southington Scholarship Pageant.

because their friends think that they are funny and tell them they should try it. My friends never told me that. I just took it upon myself to do it. I went to an open mic to talk to the person who ran it. She was not there. The person taking over that night asked if I was one of the comics for the night. I said "I sure am" and did my first five comedy minutes. I'm sure the crowd thought they were unforgettable. Unfortunately, I can't forget those minutes. I also thought a good sense of humor was supposed to be the way to meet women. Unfortunately, telling people about all your shortcomings for 30 minutes kind of works in a negative manner.

Q: What topics inspire your comedy?

A: My comedy is inspired by things that have happened to me in life and general observations. I use a lot of self-deprecating humor. My upbringing was a little on the tough side so now I get to exact my revenge on my parents in the form of joking about their rules on stage.

Q: What kind of topics are inspiring your current set?

A: Currently, I have the above-mentioned things as well as a bunch of jokes about the Internet and Facebook and something new about how my Halloween costume came about. I was Bret Favre. I also have a new bit about my frustrations with women and how long it takes them to get ready to go anywhere.

Q: Who are your comic influences?

A: I grew up when HBO was first getting popular and they had all those comedy specials. So some people that have influenced me have been Sam Kinison, Mitch Hedburg, Rodney Dangerfield, and Bill Cosby. Apparently, you have to be dead or Cosby to make my list. I like people who do comedy like I can't or don't. It helps to see jokes from different perspectives.

Q: What are your comic ambitions?

A: Does it make me sound pathetic to say I really have no grand ambitions? I like what I am doing now especially when I can help charities along the way. If the opportunity

came along where I could do this full time I'm sure that I would give it a shot. For now, I just want to keep getting better as a comic, making people laugh and forget about what is troubling them for a little while. If listening to me make fun of myself makes others feel better then I'm all for it. I can do it all day. I have plenty of issues.

Q: What can people expect from the entire night out?

A: You are going to get some food, beer and wine and a comedy show all for \$35. I think that's a great deal. You can meet Miss Connecticut (Brittany Decker) and, hopefully, the next Miss America. You will get an excellent comedy show. I work with Darren and Pat often and they are two of the best comics that I know.

Admission to "Laugh the Night Away" at Nuchie's, Central Street in Forestville on Friday, Nov. 12 is \$35 per person. It includes finger foods, open beer and wine bar and comedy show. There is also a raffle as well. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., the shows starts about 8:45 p.m.



Comedian Rick Carino will perform, and has organized, a night of stand-up comedy to help defray the expenses for Bristol's Brittany Decker to compete at Miss America in January. Decker is Miss Connecticut.

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RENAISSANCE DOWNTOWNS at BRISTOL

WHAT: Depot Square Redevelopment Informational Session

WHEN: Thursday, November 18th, 6:30-9:00pm

WHERE: Bristol City Hall, Downtown Bristol Council Chambers

Please join us on November 18th to learn about the recent progress for the redevelopment of Depot Square and Bristol's Downtown.

Renaissance Downtowns at Bristol, Master Developer for Downtown Bristol, will present a status report on their revitalization efforts. Preliminary planning efforts will be shown to those who are present, plans that are the culmination of multiple planning workshops that have been conducted by Renaissance since their designation as Master Developer.

Please join us to learn about the project and have the opportunity to speak with the development team about what Downtown Bristol will become through their partnership with the City, the BDDC and the community.