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receSs Proudly Announces Revival of Slate Comedy Festival

Program Board (PB) and receSs are excited to announce the revival of the Slate: The World College Comedy Festival, an eleven-year-old renewed tradition at GW, with performances May 7th, 8th, and 9th at the Dorothy Betts Theatre in the Marvin Center, 800 21st Street NW.

Beginning in 1990, receSs recognized the need for comedy on campus, and formed the first sketch and improv troupe. They performed every Friday night in the Lisner Downstage theatre at midnight. Their shows became a staple and a hit – the GW comedy empire was unrivaled.

Slate I was the fruit of those efforts. As the GW Hatchet wrote, “it’s not often something really fun happens on campus.” Groups from across the East Coast decamped to Foggy Bottom and demonstrated their comedic prowess. The original festival featured premiers of new, unaired South Park episodes from Comedy Central. The original Upright Citizen’s Brigade and Saigon Suicide Squad with Matt Besser, Ian Roberts, Matt Walsh, and Amy Poehler of NBC’s Saturday Night Live headlined the festival.

receSs now understands that 11 years without a true comedy festival is perhaps too much for students. Enter Slate II: the comedy festival merging performances of improv, sketch, film, stand-up and music from several of the top collegiate and professional comedy groups.

The event starts with Opening Ceremonies on Thursday Night, May 5th, with a combination of professional groups headlined by groups from Washington Improv Theater. Friday at 7pm is College Night #1, with visiting college improv and sketch groups. Headliners Derrick Comedy will perform standup, and Dr. Fantastic of Washington Improv Theater will perform improv. The All-Headliner Show at 10pm features an Improv showcase from Washington Improv Theater’s Tournament of The FIST, as well as their original house troupe, Onesixtyone, and a full improv set from Derrick Comedy. Saturday at 7pm is College Night #2, with more college troupes, and more standup from Derrick Comedy, along with improv from the Upright Citizen’s

Brigade Touring Company. UCB TourCo will perform again as co-headliner at 10pm in GW receSs' last comedy show of the year, with all new original improv, sketch, and video comedy, featuring the final moments of its four senior members.

Tickets are available at the Marvin Center Ticketmaster box office. Tickets are \$5 for students, and \$7 for non-students for the Thursday and 7pm Friday/Saturday shows. Tickets for 10pm shows are \$8 for students and \$10 for non-students.

A VIP Festival Pass for \$20 (a \$59 value) grants access to EVERY show, as well as no cover at all after parties and events all weekend. Every night, our parties will be the exclusive gathering of comedy celebrities and performers and VIP passholders. For the general public, and those without the festival pass, it is \$5 cover/party.

“This is the biggest moment in recent receSs history, and something we’ve all worked extremely hard to build towards in the last few years. We have always valued our history, and the community in both the college and professional comedy world, and are just really proud to be able to present some of the incredible talent from all over the country,” says Darren Miller, President of receSs and Slate Producer.

Washington Improv Theatre (WIT) is a professional theater collective with four ensembles performing regularly in DC and at national festivals. It is a six-level class program training over 200 students per year. And it is a workplace training team bringing unexpected new ideas into old board rooms. WIT will bring a special selection of shows to Slate, as well as workshops for visiting groups.

UCBTourCo has been called the “juggernaut of American comedy” and joins Slate II for a show of freshest longform improv the nation has to offer. The TourCo cast is hand-picked from the best improv comedians in New York City and Los Angeles - these performers are the “next wave” of comedy superstars from the theatre that brought you Amy Poehler, Horatio Sanz, Rob Corddry (The Daily Show), Ed Helms (The Daily Show, The Office), Rob Riggle (SNL, Daily Show), Paul Scheer & Rob Huebel (Best Week Ever), and many many more. Cast credits include Late Night with Conan O’Brien, MadTV, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, The Showbiz Show with David Spade, MTV’s Boiling Points, VH1’s Best Week Ever to name a few.

Derrick Comedy is four kids (Dominic Dierkes, Dan Eckman, Donald Glover, and DC Pierson) who have hustled their way up from the streets to become the most popular comedians on YouTube. Their comedy videos have been viewed over 100 million times online. Their first feature film, "Mystery Team," premiered at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. They have sold out performances all over the country.

Slate II not only fuses different mediums of comedy, music and performance art, but unites many of the best collegiate and professional comedy groups. Yet this unprecedented opportunity also supports many students. With a rising number of college graduates aspiring to perform professionally after their undergraduate education, this

festival serves as a supportive, formative environment to gain crucial stage skills

Three days. Five Shows. Some of the best comedy in the country. All on campus.

Please contact us for media inquiries or interview requests at recess@gwu.edu

recess currently performs long-form improvisational comedy, sketch comedy, and video comedy at their monthly shows, a tradition of the GW campus for over 19 years. They perform at national shows and festivals across the country, including the University of Maryland, USC and Skidmore College, and emcee many shows on campus. Cast members regularly win top awards in local and national standup competitions. Alumni have excelled in the fields of drama, art, and comedy achieving notoriety in the television and film industries.

Program Board is the largest student-run programming organization at GW. It is best known for running the biggest events on campus such as Fall Fest, Film Series, and Relay For Life. Additionally, the organization hosts and co-sponsors smaller events throughout the year catering to the diverse interests of the student body. For more information, please visit pb.gwu.edu.

Slate II is made possible through the generous contributions of local corporate sponsors.

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BrightestYoungThings.com is a written by the young and urban of DC for the young (at heart) and urban of DC. BYT contains things you need to know to survive the nation's capital: the parties you want to go to, the dance moves you want to have, the desserts you want to eat, the pools you wish to crash, and the movers and shakers you want to brunch with. <http://www.brightestyoungthings.com>

Skye Lounge has been its "plentiful bar sure to quench the thirstiest patrons palate. Its economical happy hour pricing ranges anywhere from a \$3 beer, to an \$8 Signature "Classic" Mojito that will surely make you come back for more. The venue is open for both lunch and dinner, and does provide local corporate and private event catering. Skye Lounge sets itself apart from other venues in the Nation's Capitol by promising an inviting atmosphere with good music, refreshing drinks, and a delicious menu. <http://www.skyedc.com>

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