

COMEDY SHOW

Valentine's Day may not be a romantic occasion for everyone, but Jeff Cesario's performance Saturday is designed for people who ...

Love to laugh

By Troy Espe
Leader-Telegram staff

At the height of his career in the early 1990s, Los Angeles comedian Jeff Cesario visited Minneapolis to shoot a special for Showtime. While in town he performed a guest spot at a local nightclub, where he met his future wife.

"I was hot stuff," Cesario said during a telephone interview. "I'm hanging out at the bar. I think I'm Brad Pitt at this point.

If You Go

Who: Comedian Jeff Cesario.
When: 8 p.m. Saturday.
Where: Green Mill Restaurant & Bar, 2703 Craig Road.
Tickets: \$10, advance; \$15, day of show.
Information: 833-8687.

I see her and she sees me, and I think there's a little connection. I find out she thought I was the janitor." Cesario will share other dating misadventures Saturday in Eau Claire. The show is part of his two-city "I

Do All the Work and You Get All the Action Tour!"

"The tour, of course, is Mankato (Minn.) and Eau Claire," he said. "I still consider that an international tour. It's close enough to Canada."

Falling on Valentine's Day, the comedy routine will center around relationships. Cesario will interact with the crowd and offer advice.

"If it's going smooth, for all the guys, just keep pretending to be whoever you're pretending to be," he said. "Clearly you're not yourself if it's going well."

Cesario also will insert self-deprecating humor.

"I'm getting older now," he said. "So when I make love, the stiffest thing on me is my back."

Cesario grew up in Kenosha and graduated from UW-Madison in 1975. He was a band geek before switching to comedy.

"I was good at musical stuff," he said. "But you know, it wasn't like a rock band. It's was more like concert band and orchestra. That's not the chick magnet it used to be in the 1800s."

Cesario launched his comedy career in 1980. He made his national television debut in 1984 on "Late Night With David Letterman." He appeared on "The Tonight Show" and starred in stand-up specials for Showtime and



Los Angeles comedian Jeff Cesario will perform a Valentine's Day-themed routine Saturday in Eau Claire. Cesario has won two Emmy Awards and has appeared on national television.

HBO. He also hosted "Reel Classics" on ESPN.

He won two Emmy Awards in 1994 for writing and producing "Dennis Miller Live." He also was a writer and producer for the HBO series "The Larry Sanders Show." He recently finished pilots for Comedy Central and Playboy TV.

"I like it all," he said. "It's just so

much fun. It's all storytelling, whether you're writing for TV or film or you're up on stage. It's all getting people to laugh and have a good time."

Cesario enjoys returning to Wisconsin and appreciates fans who see his act.

"Certainly in today's economy, anybody who can come out to a show, I tip my cap," he said. "We've got so

To watch Jeff Cesario video clips, visit www.leadertelegram.com and click on "News Links."

many other things to do: File for a third mortgage. Fill out the bankruptcy papers. We're busy."

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Main Events



Craig Allen will present a Valentine's Day comedy show Saturday at The Metropolitan Hotel. Contributed photo

Comedy

FOR COMEDY LOVERS:

Craig Allen and Shannan Paul will give a Valentine's Day comedy show at 8:30 p.m. Saturday at The Metropolitan Hotel, 5150 Fairview Drive.

Allen has been heard on "The Bob and Tom Radio Show" and on XM Satellite Radio. His writings have appeared in Playboy,

The London Times, The Washington Post and The New York Times.

Paul is co-host of the "Tone E Fly Morning Show" on Twin Cities radio station B96. She also is a member of the women's pro football team Minnesota Vixens. Tickets cost \$15 for general



Paul

admission and \$20 for preferred seating. Room packages are available for \$129. Call 852-6000 for reservations.

Music

CLEAN SOUND:

Minneapolis experimental rock band Soap will play this weekend at The Cabin in Davies Center at UW-Eau Claire. Performances will be at 11:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. Friday and 8

p.m. Saturday. Shows are free and open to all ages.

The four-man band fuses rock, jazz, bluegrass, blues and funk. Soap released the full-length album "Lather" in 2006. Call 836-4833 with questions.



WELL-VERSED: Sheboygan band Cedarwell will perform at 8 p.m. Monday at Infinita Tea House, 112 E. Grand Ave. Cedarwell lead singer Erik

G. Neave will be backed by Eau Claire trio The Daredevil Christopher Wright. Cedarwell has been touring the United States and Europe for the past three years. The group's debut album is "Gamboge."

Kyle Christian also will perform.

Admission is \$5 to the all-ages show. Call 514-1975.

More to Do

FUNDRAISER: The Wissota Winter Classic will take place Saturday on small Lake Wissota.

An ice fishing contest begins at 8 a.m. Entertainment starts at 1 p.m. with food, beer, raffles and local celebrities. Bear Creek Band will play rock 'n' roll from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Admission is free. Proceeds benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation. For information call 832-1782 or 579-9570.



FREE LOVE: Curves for Women, 3198 London Road, will host a "Love Carnival" from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday.

There will be free food, chocolate, wine, prizes and gift bags. Los Angeles jazz singer Johnny K will provide music.

Admission is free. Call 552-8783 for details.

From staff reports