

Celebrities Turn The Tables

Celeb Gig Raises Funds for Save The Franklin Theatre

FRANKLIN, TN.....Running backs will be running back to the kitchen, musicians will be singing for their supper and stars will be shining from a different constellation Monday, Sept. 29 at the Third Annual Turning The Tables benefit.

Presented by *Southern Exposure Magazine*, the event puts the celebs in aprons earning their keep while fans and/or paying guests, are served. Staged this year at the new Boxwood Bistro restaurant on Franklin Road, the 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. event raises money for the Save The Franklin Theatre project, according to magazine publisher Brandy Blanton.

“We are a Williamson County produced and focused magazine. We make every effort to give back to this community; we started Turning The Tables three years ago as an organized effort to give back. All proceeds benefit a different cause each year; this year, it’s the Franklin Theatre, a project near and dear to many of our hearts,” said the long time Franklin resident.

The concept of celebs as waiters came from Blanton’s own life experience as a server at O’Charley’s for 12 years. The mother of five worked as a server to allow her to be home with her children during the days.

She founded Southern Exposure Magazine in 2002.

“I’ve been on the back side of that bar, the pencil and pad side of ordering dinner; I know how much work---and how much fun---it can be. The idea of letting celebrities, those who are perennially ‘waited on’ take the other side of the bar actually turns out to be way more fun than work for them, but it’s a great opportunity for all of us to rub shoulders with the famous while raising funds,” she said.

This year’s edition of Turning The Tables takes over the entire Boxwood Bistro, complete with its pair of patios.

“We are extremely grateful to Peggy and John Franks and Chef Brian Owenby for hosting this event. The food will be incredible and the vibe perfect for this casual evening of fun and fundraising,” she said.

On the celeb line up to date (with more confirming daily) are artist Michael W. Smith; music icon Dobie Gray; Lance Smith, host of CMT’s Top 20 Countdown; artist Jamie O’Neal; columnist and talk show host Steve Gill; American Idol finalist Melinda Doolittle; TV favorite Harry Chapman; Kelly Sutton, Fox 17 Mornings show co-host; Bob Mueller of WKRN TV; Mike Keith, the voice of the Titans; Titans players Erron Kinney, Daniel Loper and Benji Olson; pop artist

Josh Hoge; and a slew of songwriters, all of whom will perform during the evening. Among them are Ed Hill, Tim Nichols, Tyler Hayes, Roger Cook, Casey Bethard, Greg Barnhill, Josh Kear and Pat McLaughlin. There are also some local community leaders: County Mayor Rogers Anderson, Sherriff Jeff Long and State Rep. Charles Sargent.

“The singer songwriters are more than reason enough alone to come to this evening of fun, food, music and shoulder rubbing,” says Blanton.

Tickets are \$125 per person. The event has sold out in advance in each of its previous two outings. This year’s issue sells out at 350.

“Those who know me know how well I like casual; how much I dislike formal. Turning The Tables is anything but black tie; it’s a laid back evening of fun, food and folks---famous and not so famous. And since it’s a school night, we make an early evening of it,” she said.

Those interested in purchasing tickets may call 794.8786 or visit www.turningthetablesbenefit.com.

Save The Franklin Theatre is an effort on behalf of the Heritage Foundation to reclaim, restore and renovate the 71-year old Franklin Theatre on Main Street.

To date more than \$4 million has been pledged; another \$3.5 million is needed for this preservation project.

For additional information on Save The Franklin Theater visit

www.historicfranklin.com or www.savethefranklintheatre.org

For additional information on Boxwood Bistro, visit www.BoxwoodBistro.com

####