

High-resolution downloadable images of Roomful of Blues and The Second City Touring Company are available on Wolf Trap's Web site: <http://wolftrap.org/press/pressphotos.html>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Between Blues and Comedy, The Barns at Wolf Trap Offers a Highly Entertaining Final Week of February

Vienna, VA—The Barns at Wolf Trap closes the month of February with style, celebrating blues with the last general admission dance of the year, and a rare Barns offering of a sketch comedy troupe during this season. The expert bluesmen of Roomful of Blues arrive on Thursday, February 28. Ending the week with performances on both Friday, February 29 and Saturday, March 1 is the highly lauded comedy troupe Second City Touring Company.

The Swingin' Sounds of Roomful of Blues Rocks The Barns with Selections from Their 2007 Release, *Raisin' A Ruckus*

Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.

\$22

Featuring the recent addition of roots rock veteran Dave Howard on lead vocals, the eight piece unit that is Roomful of Blues arrives at The Barns in support of their gritty 2007 release, *Raisin' A Ruckus*. Founded in 1967 by Rhode Island natives Duke Robillard and Al Copley, Roomful of Blues began as a contemporary blues-rock band. Preceded by reputation as a progressive musician, Robillard had a passion for the sound of jump-blues, taking his band down that path an entire decade before its mainstream revival. Desiring a richer sound with a more complex musical dynamic, Robillard recruited a four-piece horn section and a swing-influenced drummer to prepare for their explosion onto the blues scene.

Their popularity grew as fans took notice of the band with regular performances at the Knickerbocker Café in Westerly, Rhode Island. In 1974, songwriter Doc Pomus had his interest piqued when legendary Count Basie sat in for a special performance. This connection led to a record deal with Island, and the band's debut self-titled album followed in 1977. After the 1979 album, *Let's Have a Party*, Robillard went in his own direction, allowing Ronnie Earl to step up as guitarist and bandleader.

The band found mainstream success after serving as the studio backing group on albums recorded by Grammy nominees such as Eddie “Cleanhead” Vinson’s *Eddie Cleanhead Vinson & Roomful of Blues* (1982), Big Joe Turner’s *Blues Train* (1983), and Earl King’s *Glazed* (1988). Roomful of Blues has recorded 15 critically acclaimed albums, including the Grammy-nominated *Turn it On! Turn it Up!* in 1995. Their most recent album, *Standing Room Only*, released on the Alligator label in 2005, successfully delivers their signature retro-flavored, horn-based upbeat blues.

**Popular Sketch Comedy Troupe Presents an Evening of
Daringly Original Improvisation**

Friday, February 29, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 1, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
\$20

Formed in the 1950s by a group of University of Chicago students, The Second City Touring Company has soared to popularity as a 49-year tenured, constantly evolving unit. Following their debut performance in 1959, the 1960s brought a slew of high-profile workshops, their debut album, *Comedy From The Second City*, a prestigious run on Broadway, television specials, and more. By the late 1960s, the already successful troupe was poised to spread their brand of improvisational comedy across a nationwide demographic.

The 1970s brought massive recognition for The Second City Touring Company, with many alumnus members joining the cast of late night NBC sketch comedy show Saturday Night Live. Former Second City cast members John Belushi, Dan Akroyd, Gilda Radner, and Bill Murray formed the core of SNL’s cast, serving as the building blocks for a show that still entertains America more than 30 years after its inception.

To date, The Second City Touring Company has spawned movies, TV shows, international tours, and dozens of famous comedians. The current decade proves no less promising for the troupe, already with new locations, tours, and appearances in the media. Currently on its “One Nation, Under Blog” tour, sketches range from quips about casual relationships to the controversial political battle between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Company Vice President Kelly Leonard explains the title concept as, “the universe of blogging has gotten completely out of control...Second City Touring Company members are doing it all the time! So that was a real good generic title that kind of spoke to the generation that’ll be performing for people.” The current cast of “20-somethings” in the touring company consists of Aimee McKay, Brian Jack,

Chuck Malone, Katie Rich, Kiff Vanden Heuvel, Meghan Teal, Shad Kunkle, Tara DeFrancisco,
and Tim Sniffen.

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**Tickets can be purchased by calling 1 (877) WOLFTRAP; or online at
<http://www.wolftrap.org/performances/tickets.html>.
For more information, call The Barns at Wolf Trap at (703) 938-2404.**