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Comedy genius @rejectedjokes brings the laughs to @KimmelCC (Twitter)/@KimmelCulturalCampus (Facebook and Instagram) on 4/22. For more info, visit [kimmelculturalcampus.org](http://kimmelculturalcampus.org).

**Press Contacts:**

Lauren A. Hall  
484-832-1963  
[lhall@kimmelculturalcampus.org](mailto:lhall@kimmelculturalcampus.org)

Hannah Palermo  
267-765-3724  
[hpalermo@alliedglobalmarketing.com](mailto:hpalermo@alliedglobalmarketing.com)

**KIMMEL CULTURAL CAMPUS PRESENTS  
HILARIOUS ACTOR, COMEDIAN, WRITER,  
DIRECTOR, AND PRODUCER  
BEN SCHWARTZ IN HIS NEWEST TOUR  
*BEN SCHWARTZ AND FRIENDS*  
APRIL 22, 2022**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (March 1, 2022)** –The Kimmel Cultural Campus, in association with Live Nation, presents Emmy®-winning comedian and actor **Ben Schwartz** in his newest improv show, ***Ben Schwartz and Friends***, at the Campus’ **Merriam Theater** on Friday, April 22, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Ben starred opposite Don Cheadle and Kristen Bell in the Showtime comedy series *House of Lies* and acted alongside Amy Poehler, Chris Pratt, and Aziz Ansari as Jean Ralphio on *Parks & Recreation*. He co-created and stars in three improv specials on Netflix entitled *Middleditch & Schwartz* and has lent his voice to various animated shows such as *Ducktales* and *Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*.

“From stand-up to television, to movies, books, and voiceover, Ben Schwartz has solidified himself as a star in American comedy,” said Frances Egler, senior director of programming and presentations on the Kimmel Cultural Campus. “His engagement is part of a robust spring comedy series here on our Campus, from Whitney Cummings, to Paula Poundstone, to Hannah Gadsby.”

Schwartz can next be seen in Lord & Miller’s AppleTV+ miniseries *The Afterparty*, as well as the second season of Greg Daniels and Steve Carell’s Netflix series *Space Force*, in which he stars opposite Carell and John Malkovich. Schwartz is also the voice of Sonic in *Sonic The Hedgehog 2*, the sequel of the franchise which hits theaters this April.

As a writer, Schwartz has published four books and written television shows and movies for many major studios. In 2009, Schwartz won the Emmy® for Outstanding Original Music and Lyrics for his work on the opening number sung by Hugh Jackman at the previous year's Oscars® telecast. He was nominated again in 2017 for Outstanding Actor in a Short Form Comedy or Drama Series.

He has a website devoted to the jokes that didn't make it to air as well as other short films he wrote, directed, and acted in: RejectedJokes.com. He's performed at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theater (UCBT) since 2003 and has been a part of countless improv and sketch shows including the sketch/improv team Hot Sauce with Adam Pally and Gil Ozeri, which performed at the 2007 Montreal Just for Laughs Comedy Festival.

Previous credits include the Disney feature, *Flora and Ulysses*, based on the popular novel, the indie feature *Standing Up, Falling Down*, for which Ben received rave reviews for his lead performance opposite Billy Crystal; *Night School* opposite Kevin Hart for Universal; *Happy Anniversary*, written and directed by Jared Stern for Netflix; *This Is Where I Leave You*, directed by Shawn Levy, and many others.

Other featured upcoming performances on the Kimmel Cultural Campus include ***Professor Brian Cox - Horizons: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Space Odyssey*** (April 23, 2022, Merriam Theater), ***Whitney Cummings: Touch Me Tour*** (April 30, 2022, Merriam Theater), and ***Hannah Gadsby: Body of Work*** (May 7, 2022, Merriam Theater).

### **Tickets**

Tickets can be purchased by calling 215-893-1999 or online at [www.kimmelculturalcampus.org](http://www.kimmelculturalcampus.org). In-person ticket sales can be conducted daily from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Academy of Music Box Office, located at 240 S. Broad Street. See [www.kimmelculturalcampus.org](http://www.kimmelculturalcampus.org) for more information.

### **Ben Schwartz and Friends**

Kimmel Cultural Campus' Merriam Theater  
April 22, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

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### **Safe & Clean Commitment**

The Kimmel Cultural Campus is proudly certified by the [Global Biorisk Advisory Council](#) – the gold standard for cleaning, disinfection, and infection prevention programs.

We will always put the safety of our guests, artists, and staff first, and we have worked closely with partners, producers, artists, guests and other performing arts centers around the nation to develop the most comprehensive plan to safely reopen our doors. We are committing to a healthy and clean environment with increased disinfection, enhanced ventilation, and will enforce recommended health authority guidelines, including masks and proof of vaccination.

Masks are required to be worn at all times when on the Kimmel Cultural Campus, except when actively consuming food or beverage in designated locations. Prolonged periods of mask removal are not permitted.

All attendees for public events must show proof of full vaccination at the time of entry, with valid photo ID and copy of vaccination card (physical or photo). Proof of negative COVID-19 tests will not be accepted, with the exception of children under the age of 5, effective January 17; children under 5 will be required to show a negative PCR test or negative rapid result. While rapid tests (taken within 48 hours of event) are accepted, PCR tests are preferred (taken within 72 hours of

event). Our position on vaccine mandates for children under the age of 5 may change as the larger population gets vaccinated.

This policy is subject to change based upon guidance from the CDC and local health authorities. For more information on our [Safe & Clean Commitment](#) and the most up-to-date information about our policies, please visit [kimmelculturalcampus.org](http://kimmelculturalcampus.org).

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### **LIVE NATION ENTERTAINMENT**

Live Nation Entertainment (NYSE: LYV) is the world's leading live entertainment company comprised of global market leaders: Ticketmaster, Live Nation Concerts, and Live Nation Sponsorship. For additional information, visit [www.livenationentertainment.com](http://www.livenationentertainment.com).

### **KIMMEL CULTURAL CAMPUS**

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, our mission is to engage the region's diverse communities with art through performance and education. Our Cultural Campus serves more than 1-million guests per year and includes Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (Verizon Hall, Perelman Theater, and SEI Innovation Studio), the Academy of Music, and the Merriam Theater – representing more than 160 years of rich history for the performing arts along Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts. We are home to The Philadelphia Orchestra and seven esteemed Resident Companies: Opera Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet, The Philly POPS, PHILADANCO, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and Curtis Institute of Music. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, we are the region's most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. Our Cultural Campus serves as a preeminent and inclusive place to enjoy exceptional experiences that reflect the spirit of our region by cultivating a creative and socially responsible environment where our community shares experiences that are delivered with pride, integrity, and respect. As a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization, we collaborate on, present, and produce a broad range of relevant and meaningful events, we serve as an active gathering space for social and community events, we educate the region's young people through access to quality arts experiences, and we provide support to artists in the creation of new work. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is the proud Kimmel Cultural Campus Season Sponsor. Read Kimmel Cultural Campus' vision statement, world view, and mission statement [here](#). Learn more about our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and how it encompasses our mission, co-workers, and programs [here](#).

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For photography, please visit <https://kcccpress.smugmug.com>