



For Immediate Release
October 8, 2021

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Henry Cho to Perform Stand-Up Comedy at App Theatre on Oct. 24 Asian-American, Appalachian Native Share Unique, Relatable Humor

By Laura Voytko

BOONE, NC - The Appalachian Theatre of the High Country (ATHC) will be hosting Asian-American comedian **Henry Cho** for an evening of stand-up comedy and laughter on Saturday, October 23. This Appalachian-native has been a regular entertainer onstage at the Grand Ole Opry, and will be performing in Boone along his tour throughout the southeast. His brand of "edgy, but clean" humor is guaranteed to delight audience members of all ages.

Hailing from Knoxville, Tennessee, a mecca of Appalachian culture, the region holds a special place for Cho. Kickstarting his career at a Monday night competition at a Knoxville comedy club, Cho has received an overwhelmingly positive reception of his unique brand of humor. Three decades later, this performer has made his mark in the world of comedy.

Cho's television credits include hosting NBC's "Friday Night Videos," and he has had several guest appearances across many TV shows. He also co-wrote, co-produced, and co-created "The Henry Cho Show," presented on the Great American Comedy (GAC) channel. His 2006 one-hour Comedy Central special, "What's That Clicking Noise?" is currently available for streaming on both AppleTV and Spotify. One can also be delighted by Cho's musings on Sirius XM's Blue Collar radio, and Pandora Radio's PG Comedy Radio Channel. Notable film credits include Universal's "McHale's Navy," "Say It Isn't So," and "Material Girls," alongside Hillary Duff and Angelica Huston.

Having acted as the keynote entertainer for the 59th Annual Radio and Television Correspondents Dinner, Cho has received national recognition for his comedic talents. He has worked extensively alongside acts such as Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Willie Nelson, Carrie Underwood, Reba McEntire, etc. He has also been revered as one of the few Asian acts known to frequent the stage of the Grand Ole Opry, sharing his unique perspective as a Asian-American raised in the south across the board: "I'm an Asian with a Southern accent. To a lot of people, that right there is funny," Cho has said.

Born to Korean parents who made their home in the Blue Ridge mountains, Henry Cho places a certain pride in his upbringing, according to an interview with GoldSea Magazine, a publication dedicated to sharing Asian-American achievements: “I love the fact that I was born and raised in Tennessee. It defines me as a guy.” Despite his unique background, Henry Cho has made it a point to avoid two things in his comedy career- adult language, and centering his material around race. “I’ve always wanted people to leave my show saying that I was funny, not that I was funny but all I did was that one theme...I’ve never cussed on stage..EVER! That’s me, that’s who I am and if that helps or hurts I don’t really care, as long as I get to stay in my own skin. I’m fine.”

This fresh and authentic perspective as a performer is informed not only by not wanting to be defined by one singular characteristic, but also Henry Cho’s faith. As a Christian, clean comedy is important to Mr. Cho. He co-produced and co-starred in the Indy film, “Saving Faith,” which was released by Lions Gate in 2018. He has been nominated for Best Supporting Actor in a Feature Film by the International Christian Film Festival. Following this nomination, Cho has appeared in Hallmark’s, “The Farmer and the Belle: Saving Santaland” (2020), as well as TV series, “Double Occupancy.”

Henry Cho’s clean comedy is so versatile that he can headline Vegas and then tour with Michael W. Smith. ATHC welcomes the general public to join in on the fun of this stand-up comedy performance on Saturday, October 24. Tickets are available online through the theatre’s touchless ticketing system at www.apptheatre.org.

The Appalachian Theatre is firmly committed to the safety and well-being of its community and particularly its audience members, and will continue to follow the guidance of health and governmental officials in the development and implementation of COVID related policies.

For more information on this event, or to join the theatre’s eblast list, get tickets, or purchase memberships, please visit the ATHC website at www.apptheatre.org.

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About the Appalachian Theatre

The mission of the Appalachian Theatre of the High Country is to revitalize and sustain this historic community touchstone as a quality home for diverse artists and audiences with a special focus on programs that celebrate our distinctive Appalachian heritage and enhance our capacity to serve as an economic catalyst for Boone and the High Country. Once a gorgeous 999-seat Art Deco movie house, the building closed in 2007 and sat empty and gutted for years. On October 14, 2019, the Appalachian Theatre reopened its doors after a \$10 million renovation that brought the distinctive Art Deco details back to this historic theatre and created a new 629-seat, state-of-the-art, acoustically fabulous venue for live concerts, films, plays, and dance performances. The historic Appalachian Theatre has entertained regional audiences in the heart of downtown Boone, North Carolina since 1938. www.apptheatre.org