

Nashville comedy troupe aims to break Guinness record

James Nitz, MTSU Seigenthaler News Service 1:42 p.m. CDT April 6, 2015



(Photo: Philip Murphy Photography)

Organizers are hoping for non-stop laughs as the NashvilleStandUp.com comedy troupe aims to shatter the Guinness World Record for longest standup comedy show as part of the upcoming second annual Wild West Comedy Festival.

"It's the greatest, dumbest thing we've ever done," says comedian and organizer Chad Riden of NashvilleStandUp.com.

The Broken Record Comedy Show marathon is set to begin at noon Sunday, April 12, at The East Room and last until 8 p.m. the following Sunday, April 19. Guest comedians of varying degrees of fame are set to perform during the week, from local up-and-comers to national touring acts such as Jon Reep and Nashville natives Keith Alberstadt and Billy Wayne.

Also, Riden says, unannounced "secret shows" will feature antics ranging from performances in underwear, to catered biscuits and gravy for the crowd, to surprise guest comics, potentially coming from the star-packed Wild

West Comedy Festival.

"There's wiggle room," Riden says. "We'll make room for big names."

The Wild West Comedy Festival is scheduled for April 14-19 at a host of venues, from nightclubs to Bridgestone Arena. Big-name performers include comedians Kevin Hart, Joel McHale, Hannibal Buress, Lewis Black, Tig Notaro, Ralphie May, and Nick Kroll and John Mulaney.

The current marathon standup comedy record was earned at the Laugh Factory in Hollywood, Calif., from Dec. 6-9, 2010 after 170 acts with 150 comedians held the stage for 80 hours. NashvilleStandUp is aiming to shatter that record with its eight-day event, the brainchild of Nashville-based comedian D.J. Buckley.

"Everybody loves the idea," Riden says, "but they think it's crazy."

Riden began doing stand-up comedy in 2000 at an open mic night at a Cummins Station nightclub. During the set, he miscalculated his time, turning his allotted five minutes into a 12-minute performance.

"It was a rookie mistake, but it went really well," Riden recalls.

Now a full-time comic, Riden has performed shows across the South and has been featured on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show."

He hopes the marathon event, combined with the Wild West Comedy Festival, will help increase Nashville's stature on the national comedy scene. In any case, where else will you be able to see live standup comedy during the breakfast hours?

"It will be interesting to see," Riden says, "how people play at 8 a.m."

While only loosely partnered with the Wild West Comedy Festival, NashvilleStandUp.com will honor festival tickets for the marathon shows at The East Room, allowing admittance for VIP ticket holders for the entire week or for individual-performance ticket holders for 24 hours after a particular show.

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If you go

What: Broken Record Comedy Show

When: Noon April 12 through 8 p.m. April 19

Where: The East Room, 2421 Gallatin Pike

Tickets: \$10 day pass, \$25 three-day pass, \$60 all-access pass, \$100 VIP pass.

Details: For more information on the marathon, go to www.nashvillestandup.com (<http://www.nashvillestandup.com/>). For details on the Wild West Comedy Festival, go to www.wildwestcomedyfestival.com (<http://www.wildwestcomedyfestival.com/>).

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