

ADRIAN BOHM & JUST FOR LAUGHS PRESENT



AUSTRALIAN TOUR 2011

"One of the funniest comedians in America!"

The NY Times

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The undisputed queen of transgressive humour and not-so-subtle subversion, **Margaret Cho**, returns to Australia with a show based on her Grammy nominated album *Cho Dependent* as part of the inaugural Just For Laughs at Sydney Opera House Festival and will also perform shows in Brisbane and Melbourne. Combining Stand up with Musical Comedy, the star of *All American Girl*, *Drop Dead Diva*, *The Rug Rats Movie* and *Dancing with the Stars* – is one very funny, talented and unique performer. Multi-talented, multi-cultural and multi-sexual, Cho has become a gay and lesbian icon and talks about her encounters from both sides of the fence in hilarious detail. The show features her socially relevant and politically-charged comedy as well as an opportunity to see her perform tracks from her Grammy-nominated album. With tracks entitled *My Puss*, *Eat Shit and Die* and *Lesbian Escalation* it's safe to assume Cho will bring her trademark raunchy, outrageous charm, interspersed with moments of introspection.

Born in 1968 and raised in San Francisco. "It was different than any other place on Earth," she says. "I grew up and went to grammar school on Haight Street during the '70s. There were old hippies, ex-druggies, burnouts from the '60s, drag queens, and Chinese people. To say it was a melting pot – that's the least of it. It was a really confusing, enlightening, wonderful time."

Margaret didn't love being a kid. Racing toward adulthood to escape bullying, she began writing jokes for stand up at 14 and performing at age 16. Getting picked on, and feeling disenfranchised, is a subject that's very near to her heart. "Being bullied influenced my adult life because I grew up too fast. I was in such a hurry to escape that I cheated myself out of a childhood. I didn't want to go to school any more, didn't want to be around those people any more."

Soon after starting her Stand Up career, Margaret won a comedy contest where first prize was opening for **Jerry Seinfeld**. She moved to Los Angeles in the early '90s, still in her early 20's, hit the college circuit, and immediately became the most booked act in the market and garnered a nomination for "**Campus Comedian of the Year**." She performed over 300 concerts within two years. **Arsenio Hall** introduced her to late night audiences, **Bob Hope** put her on a prime time special and, seemingly overnight, Margaret Cho became a national celebrity.

In 1999, her groundbreaking, **off Broadway one-woman show, I'm The One That I Want**, toured to national acclaim

and was made into a best-selling book and feature film of the same name. The concert film, which garnered incredible reviews, broke records for most money grossed per print in movie history. In 2001, after the success of her first tour, Cho launched **Notorious C.H.O.**, a smash-hit national tour that culminated in a sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall. *Notorious C.H.O.* was recorded and released as a feature film, hailed by the New York Times as “Brilliant!”

In 2007, Margaret hit the road with **Cyndi Lauper, Debbie Harry and Erasure**, to host the **True Colors Tour**, benefiting the Human Rights Campaign. A true entertainment pioneer, Margaret also created and starred in **The Sensuous Woman**, a live variety show featuring vaudevillian burlesque and comedy, which she took for an extended off-Broadway run.

Never one to shy away from a challenge, Margaret stepped right up to the proverbial plate when asked to do Season 11 of the #1 rated **Dancing with the Stars**. Paired with pro **Louie Van Amstel**, Margaret was on one of the show’s most controversial seasons, dancing alongside **Mike “The Situation” Sorrentino, David Hasselhoff, Jennifer Grey and Bristol Palin** among others. “I really wanted to do **DWTS** so much. I love the show and I love dancing. It seemed like it would be very exciting, which it was. It was also very difficult because I was touring as well. Louie and I would travel all week, rehearse during the day, drive back on Sunday nights and sleep in the parking lot of CBS where they filmed the show! It was a very stressful experience but I’d love to do it again.”

2010 culminated with a **second Grammy Award nomination** for **Comedy Album of the Year** for **Cho Dependent**, her incredibly funny collection of music featuring collaborations including **Fiona Apple, Andrew Bird, Grant Lee Phillips, Tegan & Sarah and Ben Lee**. The album received critical acclaim, with *The Oregonian* stating, “This was a chance to see and hear an already drop-dead funny diva growing, flexing new musical muscle, and fearlessly mature.” The album is funny, yes, but also quite musical, featuring not only her surprisingly strong singing voice, but her skill on the guitar, banjo and dulcimer. “I was inspired to make beautiful music with a comic edge. Growing up, music was an escape, but also something I was always curious about as an art form. I had a decent amount of musical ability, but also have great musician friends who were very willing to help me. I took this very seriously, taking vocal and guitar lessons while I was touring.

“It’s a wonderful thing to be known as a ‘safe haven’ for people. A lot of people who come to my shows don’t necessarily consider themselves traditional comedy fans. I seem to be a safe alternative for people who don’t think they’re being represented in society. They come because my point of view satisfies a lot of what needs to be said out there, and that makes me really proud.”

Margaret self released **Cho Dependent** on her own Clownery Records, and was very heartened by the acclaim as there are only a handful of people putting out albums of comedy music: **“Weird” Al Yankovic, Flight of the Conchords, The Lonely Island**, to name a few, but no women.

Along with the two Grammy nods, Margaret has been recognized in many other areas as well. She received the First Amendment Award from the ACLU of Southern California, and the Intrepid Award from the National Organization for Women (NOW). Throughout her career, she has been honored by GLAAD, American Women in Radio and Television, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), and PFLAG for making a significant difference in promoting equal rights for all, regardless of race, sexual orientation or gender identity. In June of 2011, Margaret was honored by LA Pride, receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award. This award *recognizes an individual whose lifetime body of work has left a lasting major imprint on the LGBT community.*

Margaret last toured Australia in 2008 which included a string of sell out Mardi Gras Shows, and was the 2008 Chief of Mardi Gras Parade. Her much anticipated return is sure to please her legion of Australian fans.

www.abpresents.com.au

www.margaretcho.com

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