

Spotlight

on entertainment

Back to his roots

Gilbert Gottfried does stand-up in Blirstown

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Destination: Home Furniture Warehouse

New Jersey Herald

September 14, 2017

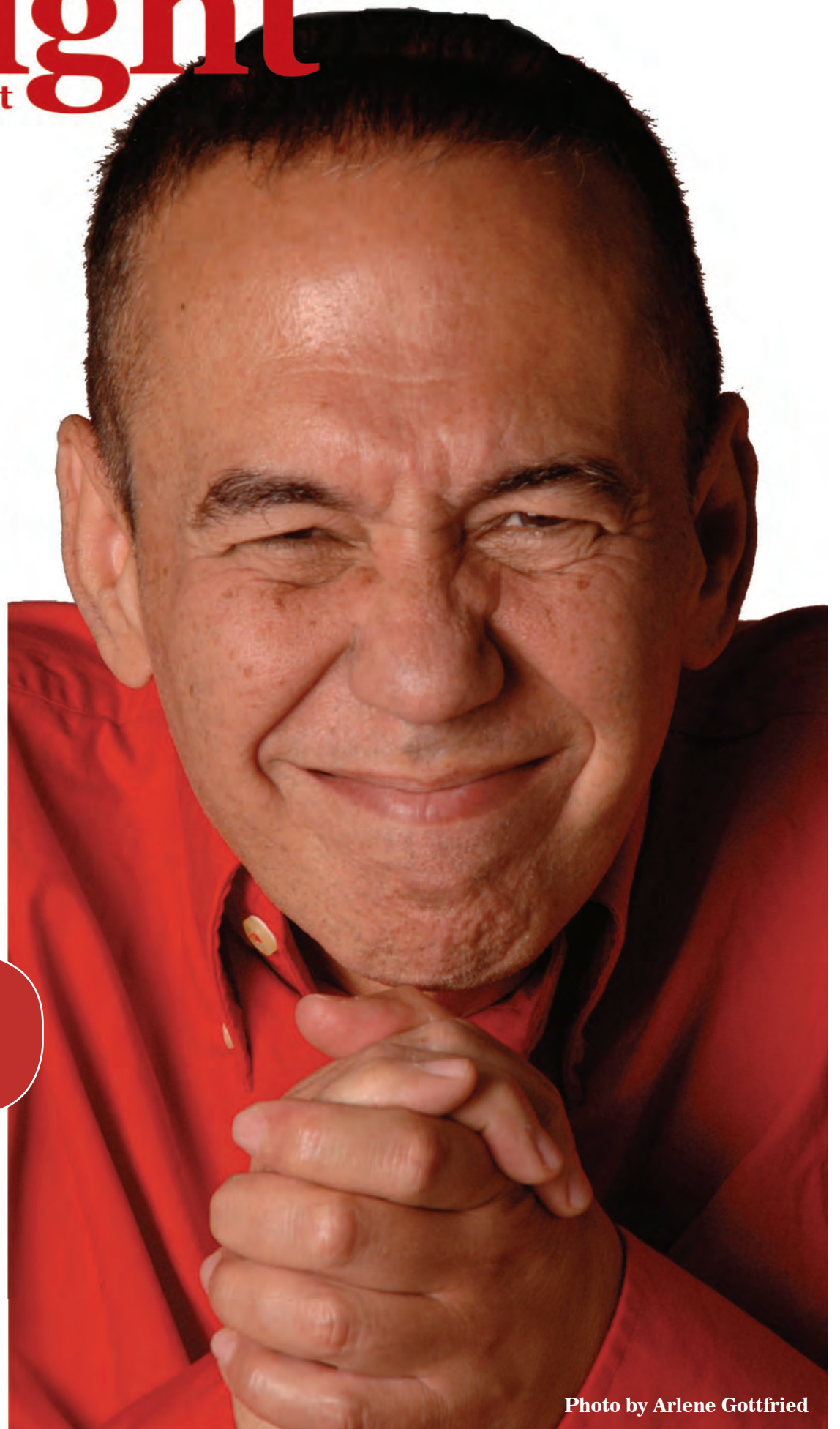


Photo by Arlene Gottfried

4 Jig's never up for Gilbert Gottfried

Thursday, September 14, 2017

'Loud' comedian to perform at Buck Hill Brewery in Blirstown on Sept. 21

By ROBERT PRICE
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A quick scan of Gilbert Gottfried's professional resume suggests he's one of the hardest working people in show business.

Known for his work in "Beverly Hills Cop II," for his voice-overs of Iago (the parrot) in "Aladdin" and of the Aflac duck, and for his early MTV promos, Gottfried's experience in movies and television has run deep and wide since his first break as a cast member in season six of "Saturday Night Live" in 1980.

"It's a funny thing," Gottfried said, over the phone from his home in New York City. "There was never any rhyme or reason to how my career has gone. I don't do that much planning. Most people answer the phone with 'hello.' I answer 'I'll take it.'"

"I'm one of those people who thinks that at any minute the jig will be up. Show business is a party I snuck into, and I'm afraid a guy with a clipboard will come over and tell me my name's not on the list," he said.

Gottfried will return to his comedy roots on Thursday, Sept. 21, when he performs a stand-up show at Buck Hill Brewery and Restaurant in Blirstown.

Gottfried, 62, a lifetime New Yorker, started hanging out at comedy clubs and doing stand-up at open mics when he was 15. Like many comedians who start out in stand-up and morph onto the big and small screens,

Gottfried enjoys the occasional live show.

"I come back to it just because you dance with the one who brought you. Stand-up is where I started," he said.

Gottfried, whose entertainment persona features a loud, irritating voice, is surprisingly subdued in real life.

"I guess people talk about how quiet and shy I am in person," he said. "I don't know that I was ever the class clown. Those are the people who come up to me and say they're the funniest guy in the office."

But that voice does define Gottfried's career. "It certainly helps, especially after 'Aladdin.' Then I started getting more and more voice-over work," he said.

What should have been Gottfried's big break — the "SNL" gig — turned into a disaster. During his 12-episode stint, he was given very little airtime and seldom used in sketches.

"My experience was the worst time to be on 'SNL,'" Gottfried said. "It was right when the original cast and Lorne Michaels were leaving. It's kinda like in the middle of Beatlemania, John, Paul, George and Ringo left and they got four strangers to play The Beatles. Or if 'Friends' changed the entire cast. People were panning us even before we made it to air."

But his hilarious promos for MTV in 1981 led to several television appearances on "The Cosby Show" and "Late Night with David

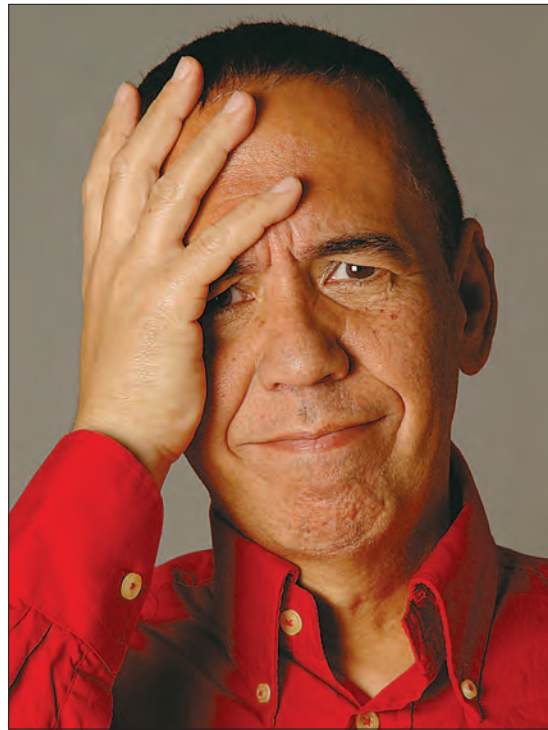


Photo courtesy of Arlene Gottfried

Comedian Gilbert Gottfried will perform his stand-up routine at Buck Hill Brewery in Blirstown Sept. 21.

Letterman," which led to his role as Sidney Bernstein in the hit sequel "Beverly Hills Cop II."

More film roles followed, in such movies as "Problem Child," "Problem Child II," "Look Who's Talking II" and "The Adventures of Ford Fairlane."

After his stellar performance as the wise-cracking parrot, Iago, in the Disney classic "Aladdin," Gottfried became one of the most recognizable voiceover talents,

lending his voice to several commercials, cartoons and movies, including the frustrated duck in the Aflac Insurance commercials.

Gottfried has made numerous memorable appearances on Comedy Central roasts and the Comedy Central series, "The Burn with Jeff Ross." Gottfried's "Fifty Shades of Grey" reading received over 5 million views on YouTube.

He has been a guest on "The Tonight Show with Jay

If you go ...

What: Gilbert Gottfried, stand-up comedy
When: Thursday, Sept. 21, at 9 p.m. (doors 7 p.m.)
Where: Buck Hill Brewery and Restaurant, 45 Route 94, Blirstown
Admission: \$35, plus \$25 food/drink minimum
Tickets, information: www.buckhillbrewery.com, 908-854-5300

Leno," "The Late Show with Seth Meyers", "@Midnight with Chris Hardwick" and numerous appearances on "The Howard Stern Show." He also has had a recurring role on "Law and Order" SVU.

All told, Gottfried has appeared in more than 50 films and hundreds of TV shows.

Lately, Gottfried has branched out even more, with the DVD/CD release of "Gilbert Gottfried Dirty Jokes," a book ("Rubber Balls and Liquor") that's part memoir, part twisted social commentary; reality shows (ABC's "Celebrity Wife Swap" and NBC's "Celebrity Apprentice"), and "Gilbert Gottfried's Amazing Colossal Podcast!" featuring casual talks with Hollywood icons.

This year, "Gilbert," a documentary about Gottfried, premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. Director Neil Berkeley's "Gilbert" reveals an unexpected, personal side to the iconic comedian.

"Neil said he always wanted to do a Gilbert Gottfried documentary. I said 'you should really set your dreams higher,'" Gottfried said.

"Gilbert" premieres this fall on Hulu.

Larry Keel Experience at Fountain House on Saturday

FREDON — It's All About the Music presents The Larry Keel Experience at the Fountain House on Saturday, Sept. 16 at 6 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets cost \$25.

Visit Facebook page at It's All About the Music for ticket link and information.

Larry Keel is described by music critics and reviewers as the most powerful, innovative and all-out exhilarating acoustic flat-picking guitarist performing today. Keel has absorbed the best lessons

from his bluegrass family upbringing, both sides deeply steeped in the rich mountain music culture and heritage of southwest Virginia.

Throughout his career, Keel has released 15 albums and is featured on 10 others. The most recent release, March 2016, is "Experienced" (March 2016), an entirely original work that showcases Keel's and banjo virtuoso Will Lee's exceptional songwriting, singing and jaw-dropping instrumental performances,

accompanied by Keel's equally talented wife, Jenny Keel, on upright bass and harmony vocals. This Americana radio charting album exemplifies the raw sophistication of Keel's progressive acoustic style, and features musician-friends who appear as guests on various tracks — Sam Bush, Del McCoury, Peter Rowan, Keller Williams, Jason Carter (Del McCoury Band), Mike Guggino (Steep Canyon Rangers) and Anders Beck (Greensky Bluegrass).



THE LARRY KEEL EXPERIENCE