



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Strathmore & AM Productions Present
Wanda Sykes**

“One of the 25 funniest people in America!” returns to her first love, stand-up, on Music Center stage

NORTH BETHESDA, MD – Wanda Sykes’ fearlessly funny style and smart wit has lead her from the comedy stage to a rich career as a television and film actor, writer and voice artist—and on Friday, February 10, 2012 at 8 p.m. she’ll return to her first love, stand-up comedy, in the city where she got her start as she makes her debut at Strathmore. Due to strong language, adults should use their best judgment when deciding to take children to this performance. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (301) 581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Named “one of the 25 funniest people in America!” by *Entertainment Weekly*, Sykes got her start in stand-up at a 1987 Coors Light Super Talent Showcase in Washington, D.C., where she performed for the first time in front of a live audience in 1987. She continued to hone her talents at local venues while working at the NSA until she moved to New York City in 1992.

Her career in television began with HBO's critically acclaimed “Chris Rock Show.” As a performer and writer on the program, she was nominated for three Emmy's and in 1999 won the Emmy for Outstanding Writing for a Variety, Music or Comedy Special. In 2001, she won the American Comedy Award for Outstanding Female Stand Up Comic. She won three more Emmy's, in 2002, 2004 and 2005, for her work on “Inside the NFL.”

She is well known for her role as Barbara Baran on “The New Adventures of Old Christine,” now in its fifth season, and for her appearances on HBO's “Curb Your Enthusiasm.” She also wrote, produced and starred in FOX’s “Wanda at Large,” and also starred and produced the Comedy Central show “Wanda Does It,” where she tried various non-showbiz jobs. Sykes also voiced the character of Gladys Murphy on Comedy Central’s “Crank Yankers.”

Sykes has also voiced in characters in films such as Dreamwork’s *Over the Hedge*, Paramount Pictures’ *Barnyard*, *Brother Bear 2*, *Rio* and *Ice Age: Continental Drift*. She has also acted in the feature films *Evan Almighty* in which she co-starred with Steve Carell; the New Line feature *Monster-In-Law*

starring opposite Jennifer Lopez and Jane Fonda; and the romantic comedy *My Super Ex-Girlfriend*, co-starring with Luke Wilson and Uma Thurman.

The brassy comedian took to late night with “The Wanda Sykes Show” on FOX, and has been featured in two HBO stand up specials, the Emmy-nominated “WANDA SYKES: SICK & TIRED” and “I’m a Be Me.” She also has a one hour Comedy Central special called “Wanda Sykes: Tongue Untied.”

Her first book, *Yeah, I Said It*, was released in 2004, and is a collection of essays touching on life, family and current events.

About Strathmore

Strathmore is an established arts presenter and cultural destination that nurtures art, artists and community through creative and diverse programming of the highest quality, and is home to the Music Center at Strathmore, a 1,976-seat concert hall and education complex. The Music Center at Strathmore is located at 5301 Tuckerman Lane in North Bethesda, MD, one half-mile north of the Capital Beltway and immediately adjacent to the Grosvenor-Strathmore station on Metro’s Red Line. For those attending a ticketed performance at the Music Center at Strathmore, parking in the Metro garage is complimentary with your ticket.

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Strathmore is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. An agency of the Department of Business & Economic Development, MSAC provides financial support and technical assistance to non-profit organizations, units of government, colleges and universities for arts activities. Strathmore is also supported in part by the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

Strathmore Presents

Wanda Sykes

Friday, February 10, 2012

8 p.m.

Tickets: \$39-\$99 (Stars Price \$35.10-\$89.10)

Music Center at Strathmore
5301 Tuckerman Lane
North Bethesda, MD 20852

For additional information or to purchase tickets, visit www.strathmore.org or call (301) 581-5100.