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California Polytechnic State University

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### **Comedy Favorite Ellen DeGeneres Coming to Cal Poly June 3**

On tour with an evening of hilarious comic musings and outrageous observations about everyday life, Cal Poly Arts presents Center Stage artist Ellen DeGeneres in Concert on Monday, June 3, at 8 p.m. at the Christopher Cohan Center. Tickets for the performance go on sale April 13.

DeGeneres gained national recognition in 1982 when her videotaped club performances won Showtime's "Funniest Person In America." She then performed at comedy clubs across the country and when DeGeneres moved to Los Angeles, she filmed her first of many HBO specials; in 1989, her "Command Performance: One Night Stand" received a Cable Ace nomination. DeGeneres was also named Best Female Stand-Up at the 1991 American Comedy Awards.

DeGeneres began her TV career in Fox's "Open House," moved on to ABC's "Laurie Hill," and then was offered ABC's "These Friends of Mine," which after its first season, became the hit comedy "Ellen." The show garnered record ratings, with DeGeneres receiving Emmy nominations each season in the Best Actress category.

In 1997, DeGeneres was the recipient of the coveted Peabody Award as well as earning an Emmy for writing the critically-acclaimed "Puppy Episode," in which her character came out as a gay woman to a record 46 million viewers.

In the course of producing and starring in "Ellen," DeGeneres received numerous honors, including The People's Choice Award in 1995, two Golden Globe nominations, and two Screen Actors Guild nominations. Her other television credits include Executive Producing and starring with Sharon Stone in the Emmy-nominated, "If These Walls Could Talk II" for HBO, as well as a guest appearance on the "Larry Sanders Show" for which she received another Emmy nomination.

DeGeneres' success in feature films includes "EDTV" for director Ron Howard, "The Love Letter" for DreamWorks, New Regency's "Goodbye Lover,"

"Coneheads" and "Mr. Wrong," in which she starred with Bill Pullman.

DeGeneres has also served as host for several industry events including the 38th and 39th Annual Grammy Awards, for which she earned an Emmy nomination; the 46th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards, receiving an American Comedy Award; and the VH1 Honors, which garnered her a Cable Ace Award.

In 1995, her first book, "My Point.And I Do Have One" debuted at #1 on the New York Times bestseller list and in 1997, she released her comedy CD, Taste This. In July, 2000, DeGeneres returned to stand-up with a three-month tour that culminated in her critically-acclaimed and Emmy-nominated special, "The Beginning."

Tickets go on sale for this Center Stage performance on Saturday, April 13, at 10 a.m. and range from \$32 to \$44. All tickets may be purchased at Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/SLO-ARTS (756-2787); to order by fax: (805) 756-6088.

For audio and video samples of Cal Poly Arts events, visit [www.calpolyarts.org](http://www.calpolyarts.org).

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