

# Mendel Center comes alive

Peter Frampton and Jim Belushi top LMC's 2014-15 season

By JEREMY D. BONFIGLIO  
HP Features Writer

**BENTON HARBOR** — Peter Frampton is coming to Benton Harbor. Jim Belushi will be here, too.

The Grammy Award-winning musician and the actor/comedian top the list of performers for Lake Michigan College's 2014-15 Mendel Center Mainstage Theatre season, which was announced late Wednesday.

Frampton, the English rocker best known for his 1976 breakthrough album,

**"Frampton Comes Alive!"** opens the season with an Aug. 7 concert. Belushi, an alum of *The Second City* who played the title role on the long-running

sitcom *"According to Jim,"* brings his Board of Comedy improv troupe to the theater on Feb. 5, 2015.

"We're making a big statement here," Mendel Center director Mike Nardolski says. "This is a new beginning for the Mendel Center. We're stepping it up in terms of the acts that we're going to go after. We want to show people we know how to do entertainment on a large scale here. That all starts with Peter Frampton, who is a phenomenal performer who also happens to have this iconic album. For a certain age group, that album was the soundtrack of their life."

Frampton, whose hits include *"Breaking All The Rules,"* *"Show Me the Way,"*



FRAMPTON

See MENDEL, page D5

## MENDEL

From page D1

"Baby, I Love Your Way," "Do You Feel Like We Do" and "I'm in You," remains one of the most celebrated guitarists in rock history. At 16, he was lead singer and guitarist for the British band The Herd. At 18, he cofounded seminal rock band Humble Pie. His fifth solo album, "Frampton Comes Alive!," is one of the top-selling live records of all time, and "Fingerprints" was awarded the 2007 Grammy Award for Best Pop Instrumental Album.

Belushi, the younger brother of late comic actor



BELUSHI

John Belushi, trained with The Second City and followed his brother as a cast member on "Saturday Night Live." As a character actor, he has been in the films "The Man with One Red Shoe," "About Last Night," "Homer and Eddie," "Only the Lonely" and "Curly Sue." His ABC sitcom, "According to Jim," ran for eight seasons from 2001-09.

Nadolski, who got into improv comedy himself as a high school student after meeting Belushi, is looking forward to seeing him on the Mendel Center stage.

"I'm kind of excited about it," Nadolski says. "I haven't seen Jim personally in many years. I knew him really well in the old days with the touring company at The Second City so it's great to see him still doing

## Lake Michigan College Mendel Center's 2014-15 lineup

Here's the lineup for the 1,517-seat Mendel Center Mainstage Theatre season at Lake Michigan College, 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor.

Single show tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. July 1. For series ticket information and pricing, call 927-1221 or visit [www.lmcmainsstage.org](http://www.lmcmainsstage.org):

**AUG. 7:** Peter Frampton, 8 p.m., \$55-\$200

**SEPT. 27:** Air Supply, 8 p.m., \$39-\$56

**OCT. 11:** Casey Abrams, 8 p.m., \$25-\$34

**OCT. 25:** "Smokey Joe's Cafe," 8 p.m., \$48-\$60

**NOV. 2:** Senegal St. Joseph Gospel Choir, 4 p.m., \$15-\$25

**NOV. 8:** Jim Henson's "Sid the Science Kid Live!," 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., \$16-\$26

**NOV. 29:** Second annual Nobodies of Comedy, 8 p.m., \$25-\$28

**DEC. 14:** Kathy Mattea: Songs and the Season, 4 p.m., \$32-\$48

**JAN. 10, 2015:** The Russian National Ballet

Theatre presents "Don Quixote," 4 p.m., \$34-\$45

**FEB. 5, 2015:** Jim Belushi and the Board of Comedy, 7:30 p.m., \$36-\$55

**FEB. 14, 2015:** "The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favorites," 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., \$14-\$18

**FEB. 26, 2015:** Rain: A Tribute to The Beatles, 7 p.m., \$48-\$60

**MARCH 14, 2015:** The Acting Company presents Mark Twain's "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," 8 p.m., \$25-\$30

**APRIL 25, 2015:** Wild Kratts' Live!, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., \$20-\$32

Here's the lineup for the 246-seat Hanson Theatre Living Room Series at LMC:

**DEC. 19:** Ha! Ha! Holidays Show: A Comedy Extravaganza, 7 p.m., \$15

**JAN. 23, 2015:** Wild Ponies, 7 p.m., \$15

**FEB. 13, 2015:** Lindsay Lou and The Flatbellys, 7 p.m., \$15

this because he's a great improv artist."

Frampton and Belushi, however, aren't the only recognizable names on the schedule.

The Australian soft rock duo Air Supply, known for '80s hits such as "Lost in Love" and "All Out of Love," performs Sept. 27; former "American Idol" finalist Casey Abrams returns to Southwest Michigan on Oct. 11; and country artist Kathy Mattea, known for songs such as "Where've You Been?" and "Eighteen Wheels and a Dozen Roses," brings her holiday show to the Mendel Center on Dec. 14.

The children and family series continues with Jim Henson's "Sid the Science Kid Live!" on Nov. 8, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Fa-

vorites" on Feb. 14, 2015, and "Wild Kratts' Live!" on April 25, 2015.

Other theatrical offerings include the 20th anniversary Broadway touring production of "Smokey Joe's Cafe" on Oct. 25; The Russian National Ballet Theatre's "Don Quixote" on Jan. 10, 2015; and The Acting Company's "Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" on March 14, 2015.

Rounding out the mainstage schedule is the Senegal St. Joseph Gospel Choir on Nov. 2; the second annual Nobodies of Comedy on Nov. 29; and Rain: A Tribute to The Beatles on Feb. 26, 2015.

The Mendel Center also announced a new Hanson Theatre Living Room Series for up-and-coming regional musicians and com-

ics in the 246-seat Hanson Theatre. That series opens Dec. 19 with stand-up and improvisational comedy in the Ha! Ha! Holidays Show. The Americana band Wild Ponies, fronted by Doug and Telisha Williams, returns on Jan. 23, 2015; and regional favorites Lindsay Lou and The Flatbellys perform Feb. 13, 2015.

"We are at a crossroads here in terms of our demographic," Nadolski says. "We want to connect to a younger audience and with dorms being on campus these are shows that should appeal to our student population. We're creating a little different vibe here that we hope is going to become a feeder stream into broadening our Mainstage membership."

Contact: [jbongiglio@TheHP.com](mailto:jbongiglio@TheHP.com), 932-0364, Twitter: @HPBongiglio