

CASINO ACTION: Comedy Stop shows off 'Pretty, Funny Women'

By SCOTT CRONICK At The Shore

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The Comedy Stop at the Tropicana always does a great job bringing in very funny comedians. But this week, it's even better.

Owner Bob Kephart was so taken by the show, "**Pretty, Funny Women**," that he reached a little deeper into his pockets than usual and booked the female stand-up comedy show after peak season.

"It was the only open dates we had," Kephart says. "But I really wanted them. So I brought them in. They are great. The way they play off of each other is really funny. They are all women, but they all have conflicting opinions of certain things ... they make fun of each other. They are some of the best female comics working today."

"**Pretty, Funny Women**," which is at the Comedy Stop through Sunday, Sept. 9, is the longest running, all-female stand-up comedy show in the country. Created by Lisa Sundstedt, the show has been running strong in several venues for more than 10 years. The women are edgy, sexy and, most importantly, funny.

The five-woman show features the comedians doing their best 20 minutes. Irreverent and smart, the show appeals to women because it's smart, honest, hysterical and relatable. Men also like it because it's just genuinely funny.

Starring Sundstedt, Heather McDonald, Shawn Pelofsky, Jody Ferdig and Vicki Barbolac, the women's resumes cross all entertainment mediums from the Cartoon Network's "Robot Chicken" to "Malcolm in the Middle" and others. Barbolac was the 2007 winner of Nickelodeon's "Funniest Mom in America."

Showtimes are 10 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, 9 and 11:15 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$23, \$26 for Saturday's shows.

¶ Celebrity sightings It was two weeks of "Entourage" mania at The Pool at Harrah's as three-quarters of the hit show's main characters hosted major soirees.

Two weeks ago, Kevin Dillon (Johnny "Drama" Chase) and Kevin Connolly (Eric "E" Murphy) made a special appearance at The Pool, where they hung out in a cabana, signed autographs and posed for pictures with the crowd. The duo was in major party mode, hanging out very late and eventually going over to the House of Blues' Foundation Room when the sun was coming up.

Adrien Grenier (Vincent Chase) brought his band the Honey Brothers to the Pool over Labor Day weekend as "Entourage" celebrated its season finale. Not as approachable as Dillon and Connolly, Grenier's band showed off some country glam-rock, complete with ukulele and Grenier on drums, before sheltering themselves in a cabana. They also ended up at the Foundation Room in the wee hours of the morning. Before the show, Grenier enjoyed dinner at Harrah's The Steakhouse.

Also at The Pool, Harrah's sent off summer with a performance by Brian Hyland, best known for his memorable No. 1 song, "Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini." As you might expect, Harrah's had a bevy of beauties dressed in yellow bikinis.

The Palm was a hub of celebrity activity, too, as Emmy Award-winner Brad Garrett, of "Everybody Loves Raymond" and "'Til Death" popped in to sign his caricature. Also, Kim Kardashian, daughter of lawyer Robert Kardashian and friend of Paris Hilton, stopped in. Kardashian is set to star in her own reality series.

¶ Hawaiian Tropic girls at Harrah's Pool Even though Labor Day has passed, summer is not over. Need proof? Go to Harrah's Pool 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, for the Hawaiian Tropic International State Finals, where 30 of the most beautiful women in the state will compete in categories that include beauty, figure, personality and poise. Admission is \$20, and the first 1,000 guests receive T-shirts.

¶ Boys & Girls Clubs host black-tie gala The Boys & Girls Clubs in Southern New Jersey will host a black-tie event titled "A Celebration of Champions" at Trump Taj Mahal on Saturday, Sept. 8.

The event, designed to celebrate the achievements of role models to youth in America, will honor celebrities and individuals who have been strong supporters of youth and of the six Boys & Girls Clubs in southern New Jersey.

Celebrity honorees include Gov. Jon S. Corzine, Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Smokey Robinson, local music producer Rodney Jerkins, former Flyer and Stanley Cup champ Bob Kelly, Olympian gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey, former 76er World B. Free and others.

The event will feature a silent auction and cocktail reception.

Visit www.celebrationofchampions.com or call (609) 347-2697.