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Bobby Bones mixes comedy, country music for tour



Comedian and radio host of iHeartMedia's "The Bobby Bones Show," heard locally on The Wolf 95.7, brings his stand-up show "Bobby Bones: Funny and Alone" to Chico 7:30 p.m. Saturday to the Laxson Auditorium.

Opening the show are musicians Walker Hayes, who fuses pop, rock, rap and country into a "pure southern perspective," and songwriter, guitar player Nikita Karmen. The program is hosted by Chico Performances.

Though Bones, the 36-year-old New York Time's best-selling author of "Bare Bones, I'm Not Lonely If You're Reading This Book" is no longer a lonely bachelor, he is still quite funny.

The audience can expect a variety of muses on stage. Along with humorous tales from Bones' radio show, celebrity stories and anecdotes from his humble and slightly poverish rural Arkansas upbringing, he will also be performing comedic songs where he sheds light and chords on awkward dealing with Uber drivers and other antics he encounters.

"I'm a pretty awkward person," Bones said during a phone interview. "I'm very self-deprecating. I feel like if I make fun of myself then I kind of stop everybody from doing it first. That's usually how it goes."

Kicking off the night of laughs will be musical acts which is unprecedented for comedians on tour.

"Most comedians bring out other comedians, but for me, I'm such a passionate music guy — both of my opening acts are music which is kind of rare for a stand-up comedy show," he said. "I just want the audience to kind of get the whole package."

Bones got his first start in radio at the age of 17, and he knew at a very young age he wanted to be a talk show host.

Amongst his colleagues on The Bobby Bones Show, he is the only one with radio experience, and he said this works in his benefit when connecting with his listeners.

“We don’t sound like a radio show,” he said. “People feel like I’m one of them because I really am.”

He totes he has no extraordinary skill set, but his real charm comes with his hard-working nature that resonates with others.

“I never know when this thing is going to be over,” Bones said. “So, I’m just working as hard as I can so when I finally do get fired, I have money saved up so I can have time to find another job. That’s kind of how I approach this whole thing.”

Growing up, Bones’ father checked out at an early age and his mother wasn’t really present in his life but he always had music as a sound salvation, particularly country music. Hence why music is a focal point for his comedy show.

“I grew up with a really old Conway Twitty type of stuff and I got drawn into that because that’s what I was exposed to,” Bones said. “When the ’90s came along I got into Nirvana and Pearl Jam. I went through all my cycles and I still love hip-hop, but because of where I grew up and my roots — my deepest roots are in country.”

Bones said he has been told he has imposter syndrome, a concept describing accomplished individuals who are unable to internalize their accomplishments because they are haunted with a constant fear of being exposed as a fraud.

“I never thought of it as a syndrome,” he explained. “I just thought I was a poor kid who grew up in Arkansas and felt like this was a nice ride while it was happening and it’s not going to last forever, but I am so appreciative of the people who listen to my show, or go to my shows or buy my book and sometimes I just can’t believe it.”

For him, putting on an entertaining and clean show is his daily goal. Bones prides himself on keeping his content curse-word free.

“People come to these shows and save their money just to escape, and I hope I can be that escape for them,” Bones said.