

THURSDAY NIGHT
2012 CONFERENCE
KICK-OFF

HUMOR



Wouldn't it be great to see the many talents AATH members use in their personal application of humor? Have you known someone from AATH for years, but never seen what it is they actually do? This is your chance!

WHAT:

The AATH HUMOR JAMS are both an entertaining welcome and networking event as well as an opportunity for members to showcase their talent. The jams will provide an opportunity for attendees to sample humorous songs and spoken word, laughter exercises, clowning techniques, improv, magic and more!

WHY:

The conference committee receives 50-80 proposals to fill fewer than 20 available time slots. Each year we receive multiple proposals from Laughter Club and Laughter Yoga leaders, therapeutic clowns and humorous entertainers. Each year we receive requests for more conference networking. The Humor Jams give members an opportunity to showcase their talent, exchange an exercise or activity, teach a game or song etc. The evening is very informal, experiential, and designed to build relationships.

WHEN:

Thursday April 19th

- 6:30 PM Welcoming Remarks, Kick-Off entertainment, Appetizers, Cash Bar
- 7:30 PM Begin circulating to the Jams
- 9:30 PM Evening concludes. Beauty rest begins. (for most rooms)

WHERE:

Attendees will gather for the Welcoming Remarks, Kick-Off entertainment, appetizers and networking in a common area TBD. The Jams themselves will be hosted by AATH members **in a specific block of hotel rooms. The reception is contracted with the hotel. The Humor Jam activities are not.** We plan to have the reception area open and available for ongoing networking until 9:30 pm.

HOW:

AATH members who would like to perform will contact room hosts to secure a general time slot. There will be approximately 8 -10 rooms with hosting 5-8 presenters per room. The number depends on the type of activity. The room host can keep performers to a schedule or may opt to rotate the talent in a less structured way. For example the music jam host may decide to do a "round robin" where people share one song at a time around the circle. The point is to share and enjoy. We will keep the common area available for those who prefer networking in a quiet environment.

Attendees will move from room to room as they like and stay as long as they like. As the evening winds down, there may be a room or two where hosts opt to continue their jams beyond 9:30. **In all cases, we need to always be aware and respectful of the other hotel guests. Remember the Friday morning sessions begin at 8AM!**

HUMOR JAM PRE-CONFERENCE COORDINATOR **Kathy Keaton**
HUMOR JAM ON-SITE COORDINATOR **Shirley Trout**

BE A COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES (ROLE IS FILLED FOR 2012)

HUMOR JAM PRE-CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

- Work with Ian to coordinate room arrangements and signage for the rooms.
- Be the contact person for members to reply to if they are interested.
- Keep track of interest and determine how many rooms we will need.
- Keep the jam room hosts excited by holding a conference call or sending out e-mails with the details as they emerge
- Help us recruit hosts and filter the replies to the appropriate room host for coordination.

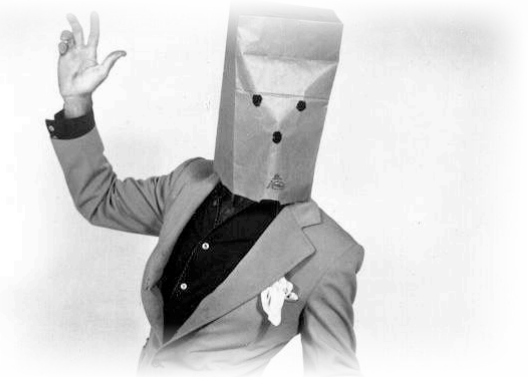
HUMOR JAM ON-SITE COORDINATOR (ROLE IS FILLED FOR 2012)

- Circulate to the various rooms during the humor jams and check in on hosts and their host buddy.
- Be the go-to person for Room hosts, staff, and the hotel team.

SHARE YOUR TALENT

RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

- Sign up for a time slot. (Presenters will be added on a first come, first served basis.)
- Review FAQ's below
- Send promotional information as requested
- Communicate your needs and clarify expectations with your assigned room host
- Market the AATH conference to your contacts!



RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE CONFERENCE

- Stay within the time frame you are given
- Network with people you can inspire and be inspired by!
- Enjoy yourself
- Complete the post event evaluation

If you would like to share your talent during the Humor Jams or have questions, contact Kathy Keaton kpiccolo28@juno.com
(325) 944-GRIN (4746)

HOST A HUMOR JAM ROOM

NOTE:

You can be a host AND a sponsor OR just a host. If you wish to sponsor the room, see the responsibilities and benefits under SPONSOR A ROOM below. There is no charge to be a sponsor, but finger food desserts are encouraged.



RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

- Choose the activity/topic you would like to host.
- Book a room at the Westin O'Hare **indicating you are in the special networking block.**
- Review FAQ's below
- Support Kathy's efforts to sign people up by reaching out to people you know may be interested.
- Pick a host buddy to help you during the Jams.
- Work with the presenters to determine special needs. This is a very low tech, intimate event. We will not be providing AV. Presenters will have access to the electricity in the hotel room and to their adoring fans. That's it.
- Market the AATH conference to your contacts!

RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE CONFERENCE

- Posts signage and sets out any sponsor materials.
- Monitors the time frames for the various performers.
- Arranges the furniture to best accommodate performers.
- Interfaces with the On-site coordinator should there be any questions or needs during the event

If you would like to host a Humor Jam Room or have questions, contact Kathy Keaton kpiccolo28@juno.com
(325) 944-GRIN (4746)

SPONSOR A HUMOR JAM

We are kicking off our 25th anniversary conference with an explosive evening of amazing talent. Following opening remarks, refreshments, and our kick-off entertainment, attendees will have an opportunity to choose from 10 HUMOR JAM rooms where a series of 5-8 presenters will share the talents and methods they use in the application of therapeutic humor!

Presenters will include:

Award winning singer songwriters

Critically acclaimed comedians and improv actors

BENEFITS OF SPONSORS A HUMOR JAM ROOM

Sponsoring a humor jam room is a great opportunity to advertise your business during the Annual Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor Conference. Sponsors will be listed in the conference book and on any materials distributed that evening. Sponsors may set out advertising materials and cards in the room they sponsor. There will be signage on the door.

THERE IS NO CHARGE TO SPONSOR A ROOM but finger food refreshments are encouraged. (Nothing fancy needed, just something like cookies or M&Ms. We can give you a "guestimate" about quantities to purchase as registration numbers become available. Keep in mind the jams follow appetizers and are spread among several rooms, so it won't be huge quantities.)



The sponsor can also facilitate the talent as the room host. (See hosting responsibilities above) Or a sponsor can simply sponsor a room hosted by someone else.

RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

- Choose the room you would like to sponsor
- Send or bring promotional materials as requested
- Spread the news about AATH!
- Communicate and Coordinate with room host

RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE CONFERENCE

- ENJOY the Recognition and the evening!
- Bask in appreciation

If you would like to SPONSOR a Humor Jam Room or have questions, contact Kathy Keaton kpiccicolo28@juno.com (325) 944-GRIN (4746)