

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 15, 2011

Jeff Gerbino  
New Years Eve Farewell to Minnesota  
December 31, 2010 at 8:00Pm  
Apple Valley American Legion  
14521 Granada Dr. • Apple Valley, MN  
\$20 in advance • \$25 Day of show  
952-431-1776  
www.comedygallery.com



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## FOUNDER OF MINNESOTA STANDUP COMEDY FAREWELL PERFORMANCE

**"Jeff Gerbino is very funny! But not as funny as I am." • Al Franken**

In the late 1970's Jeff Gerbino moved from his boyhood home in Long Island, New York to Minneapolis, MN. The reason for the move was common among young men of the '70's: love of a woman. He also had a love for comedy. He could hardly predict that his new home would provide for both.

The love of a woman provided a 29 year marriage and two children. The love of comedy provided the spark to a new, national comedy industry that was still a laugh embryo.



When a small bar in Nordeast Minneapolis advertised a comedy contest, Jeff was the first to sign up for the event. When the event was over he convinced the bar owner to let him do weekly shows in the blue collar room. Jeff got on the phone to the contestants and organized shows. He got the owner to place small ads in tabloids. He contacted media which garnered interest in the shows. Jeff hosted the first few shows with the fellow contestants struggling to fill the time of a full show.

Comedians Bill Bauer and Scott Hansen helped Jeff build a show. Jeff and Scott did weekly news updates. Hansen and Bauer wrote and produced sketches to help provide a full night of laughs. After a few months comedians starting burrowing their way out of the paneled walls of the dingy nightclub. Alex Cole, Louie Anderson and others began getting weekly slots. Before long a dozen comedians were battling for the stage.

When a columnist gave the show a plug in a "credible" newspaper, the small club was wall-to-wall comedy patrons. It was determined that a \$1.00 cover charge was mandated by the new popularity. After deliberation, the comics agreed. They would forego their amateur status and turn pro. A buck it would be.

Minnesota served as fertile ground for the Jeff Gerbino. Between trips to visit his fiancée in Melrose, Minnesota and various day jobs, Jeff Gerbino straddled careers and his art at a time when comedy was just a glow in a few young comedians eyes. With a \$1 cover charge, and a hand drawn logo, Jeff championed the newborn comedy industry with a handful of smart-alecs that included Louie Anderson, Scott Hansen and a blue collar bar named Mickey Finns.



The St. Paul Pioneer Press called Jeff the "founding father" of the Twin Cities comedy scene as Mickey Finn's quickly became "the place to be" on Friday and Saturday nights.

Now we say farewell to Jeff...once again.

In the 1980's, after developing his trademark combination of political impersonations and current event material, Jeff headed to Los Angeles. Jeff was a finalist in the Los Angeles Comedy Contest hosted by Jay Leno and was chosen as one of Hollywood's hottest new comedy stars by the L.A. Weekly.

Jeff quickly became a nationally touring headliner at clubs all over the US. He made numerous appearances on national TV including CBS Morning Show, HBO's Comic Relief, A&E's Comedy On The Road and PBS's Almanac.

But as we all know, Minnesota never leaves the rear view mirror of most that depart. Jeff returned to Minnesota with his family. While here Jeff has hosted his own radio and television shows while performing at clubs and developing a strong corporate act including his famous consultant imposter along with motivational comedy speeches.

Jeff has raised his two children to adulthood and is now single. He survived a near fatal health scare last year. All these factors (which include Minnesota winters and two crappy pro teams) have helped Jeff make a decision to move to warmer, new ground.

Like many before him...Jeff is headed for Florida.

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