

RUTH ECKERD HALL

RICHARD B. BAUMGARDNER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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**WANDA SYKES
TO BRING HER STAND-UP COMEDY ACT TO
RUTH ECKERD HALL FOR ONE PERFORMANCE
WITH SPECIAL GUEST KEITH ROBINSON
ON THURSDAY, JUNE 4 AT 8 PM**

For mature audiences

Tickets go on sale this Friday, April 10 at 10 am

April 7, 2009, Clearwater, FL – Comedian Wanda Sykes comes to Ruth Eckerd Hall for one performance only on Thursday, June 4 at 8 pm. Special guest Keith Robinson will open the show. Tickets go on sale this Friday, April 4 at 10 am.

Wanda is known for her role as Barb on *The New Adventures of Old Christine*, her roles on HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and *Evan Almighty*. Her blunt observations on current events, the differences between the sexes, races and life in general, has earned her the distinction as one of the 25 funniest people in America according to *Entertainment Weekly*.

Sykes spent 5 years as part of the HBO's critically acclaimed *Chris Rock Show*. As a performer and writer on the show, she was nominated for three Primetime Emmy's® and in 1999 won the Emmy® for "Outstanding Writing for a Variety, Music or Comedy Special." In 2001, she won the American Comedy Award for "Outstanding Female Stand Up Comic". She won three more Emmy's®, in 2002, 2004 and 2005, for her work on *Inside the NFL* for "Outstanding Studio Show - Weekly- Inside The NFL". In 2009 she was nominated for a 2009 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series.

Reserved tickets priced at \$37.50 will be available at the Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office located at 1111 McMullen Booth Road in Clearwater, by calling 727.791.7400 or by logging onto www.rutherfordhall.com. The Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 am to 6 pm and one hour prior to showtime. A limited number of VIP tickets priced at \$55.00 will also be available.

Designed by the prestigious Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Ruth Eckerd Hall celebrates its 26th season as the number six ranked venue in the world, according to the entertainment industry trade publication Billboard Magazine. Known for its 2,180-seat acoustically perfect auditorium, artists from America and around the world, ranging from classical, rock, opera, Broadway, Jazz, pop and more are included in the stellar lineup of more than 200 performances a year.

Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Ruth Eckerd Hall Foundation are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.

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