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Thursday, January 7, 2016

Gregory: Life from the front porch

It all started with an open mic, in the comedy clubs of Atlanta, Georgia. James Gregory discovered that he could make people laugh, that he had a natural talent for finding humor in the ridiculous, the common and the simplest events of everyday life.

One might say his success, like his comedy, is a direct result of the Southern values he grew up with. Master storyteller and world-class comedian James Gregory will be returning to the Triad to once again share his zany, rib-tickling reflections of "life from the front porch," for one show only, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, at High Point Theatre.

We all have one. James Gregory is that knee-slapping-hilarious, beloved uncle that everyone gathers around at family reunions, because he tells the best stories. While his routines may include such Southern subjects as covered-dish suppers, road trips to Stuckey's and the healthy aspects of fried foods, it's a mistake to consider him a regional comic.

"To me, Southern comedians are guys who get onstage and talk about pickup trucks, rifle racks and cow-tipping," said Gregory. "I don't talk about the South; I just



JAMES GREGORY

deliver my material with a Southern accent. My comedy is based on real life — the peo-

ple I grew up with.

"My notions about food came from them. They all eat fried foods and many of them are in their 80s. Meanwhile, you read in the news how some health nut kicked the bucket jogging on the way home from the health food store."

Little wonder he has become a favorite on the comedy circuit, as an entertainer at major corporate events, a regular guest on syndicated drive-time morning radio shows including John Boy & Billy, and been featured on TV and in many prominent publications.

"While his artfully crafted stories are free of vulgarity, Gregory's realistic and sometimes politically incorrect perspectives do lean more toward a PG-13 rating," says High Point Theatre Director David Briggs. "If you appreciate the warm-hearted humor that comes from taking an honest look at our lives and the people around us, then you're in for an evening of real fun." Tickets are \$30-\$35, with a very limited number of orchestra pit seats at \$50, available through www.highpointtheatre.com or by calling 887-3001.

THEATRE SCHEDULE

High Point Theatre's first quarter of 2016 offers a variety productions. For more details or to purchase tickets, visit highpointtheatre.com or call 887-3001

Jan. 15, 8 p.m.

It's Doable, Inc. presents

Heavy Hitters of Soul

Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jan. 16, 8 p.m.

High Point Theatre presents: James Gregory: The Funniest Man in America