

arts & culture

Funny Foursome Extract Comedic Pot O’ Gold

“The Irish Comedy Tour” comes to The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Saturday.

By TAYLOR STRICKLAND  
Daily Sun Senior Writer

A quartet of performers whose comedic roots are firmly planted in the Emerald Isle create the atmosphere of a Dublin pub for audiences across the U.S. in “The Irish Comedy Tour.”

Significant Productions welcomes “The Irish Comedy Tour” to The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center, featuring a merry mix of Irish-American comedians and musicians who simultaneously make fun of and lean into some of the most well-known myths and stereotypes surrounding Irish culture.

Made up of Detroit native Derek Richards, Ohio’s Michael Malone, Nova Scotia’s Damon Leibert and Derrick Keane from Inchicore, Ireland, the show promises to have something for everyone.

“Bringing a touch of the Emerald Isle to The Villages, the Irish Comedy Tour combines Irish charm with clever wit,” said Taylor Adkins, marketing director for Significant Productions, the theater

“THE IRISH COMEDY TOUR”

**When:** 7 p.m. Saturday at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center

**Price:** Tickets are \$30 and up.

**Find Out More:** for more information on the show or to buy tickets, go to [thevillagesentertainment.com](http://thevillagesentertainment.com).

production company that oversees The Sharon and The Studio Theatre Tierra Del Sol. “These comedians share a gift for weaving together hilarious tales, cultural observations and spontaneous interactions, creating an evening of uproarious laughter for all.”

Richards started “The Irish Comedy Tour” in 2006. The way he tells it, he knew a guy who ran a theater over in Jupiter who was in need of an Irish-themed show. Taking the initiative, Richards rounded up a few other Irish-American comics and the resulting show was a huge hit.

Despite the show’s immediate success, Richards wasn’t completely satisfied with the result and felt the show needed something more to achieve its full potential. He wanted it to

have the feel of an Irish pub, but was initially unsure how to achieve the effect.

“I brought in a guitar player and eventually a fiddle player to act as the hosts on the show,” Richards said. “It took a while to get the right mix of personnel, but we have a great crew — so fun and so talented.”

The fiddle and guitar players added that extra dimension to the show, giving it the pub-like feel Richards was bent on achieving. Leibert is the show’s current fiddle player and Keane is the group’s singer and guitarist, and although neither man is technically a comedian, Richards said both are fast with a joke anytime one is needed.



Daily Sun file photo

Damon Leibert, of Canada, wears a leprechaun costume and plays the violin during a duet comedy sketch with Derrick Keane, of Ireland, in 2019, at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. Leibert and Keane are part of “The Irish Comedy Tour.”

Irish love a good drink, good music and some inappropriate jokes.”

Most of the show is about Richards’, Malone’s, Leibert’s and Keane’s personal experiences and how they relate to their Irish-American upbringing. However, Richards said, that this doesn’t mean audiences need to be Irish or Irish-American to enjoy the show — it’s relatable to everyone.

“People can see themselves in these different scenarios that we paint on stage,” Richards said. He owes that to steering clear of the blarney.

“I’ve never been one to create some fictitious crap on stage,” he said. “There’s no need to when real life is so much funnier.”

“The Irish Comedy Tour” comes to The Villages at 7 p.m. Saturday at The Sharon. Tickets are \$30 and up. For more information on the show or to buy tickets, go to [thevillagesentertainment.com](http://thevillagesentertainment.com).

Senior writer Taylor Strickland can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5334, or [taylor.strickland@thevillagesmedia.com](mailto:taylor.strickland@thevillagesmedia.com).

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