

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**2011 Women in Comedy Festival Announced for March 9 to March 13  
Featuring Headliners Kristen Schaal, Kurt Braunohler, Jen Kirkman, Morgan Murphy,  
and Rachel Dratch**

**Second Annual Friars Club Audience Award to be Presented**

**Boston, MA**—The 2011 **Women in Comedy Festival** (WICF) will take place March 9 to March 13 in Boston. This year's headliners include sketch duo **Kristen Schaal** (*The Daily Show, Flight of the Conchords*) and **Kurt Braunohler** (*Aspen Comedy Festival, Edinburgh Fringe*), **Jen Kirkman** (*Chelsea Lately, HBO's Drunk History*) and **Morgan Murphy** (*Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel Live*), and, newly added, **Rachel Dratch** (*Saturday Night Live*).

Venues for the festival include **ImprovBoston** in Central Square, Cambridge, **Mottley's Comedy Club** in Boston's historic Faneuil Hall, and the **Brattle Theatre** in Harvard Square.

The festival is co-produced by women in comedy **Michelle Barbera, Maria Ciampa, and Elyse Schuerman**. WICF's mission is to create a forum for people to experience the comedic expression of women, see strong female performers while being inclusive to male performers, and, most importantly, to entertain. To further their mission, WICF is sponsoring several workshops on different comedy styles and topics and a free panel discussion open to the public.

This year, the festival will host Executive Consultant for the Just For Laughs International Comedy Festival, Jeff Singer. Jeff will be teaching his workshop, **Step Up Your Stand Up**. The first two sessions of the workshop are already sold out, so WICF has added a third opportunity to take his workshop on Sunday, March 13th. The festival will also feature nine other workshops in improv, storytelling, physical comedy, comedy writing, and more, including **Power Improv**, with festival headliner **Kurt Braunohler**.

Last year's panel played to a packed house and featured **Edie McClurg** (*Ferris Bueller's Day Off, Planes, Trains and Automobiles*), **Jane Morris** (*Second City Etc. founder*), and **Jackie Kashian** (*WICF 2010*). This year, WICF will host two free panels featuring the festival headliners, as well as comedy writers and experts in the field, who will discuss both the creative aspects of comedy and the challenges of breaking into comedy professionally and maintaining a career. The main panel will be held at 3 pm at the Brattle Theatre. The second panel will be a roundtable discussion hosted by **Women Action Media (WAM)** at the Brattle.

WICF is honored to present the second annual **Friars Club Audience Award** to one act performing at the 2011 festival. The winning act will have the opportunity to perform at the historic **Friars Club** and **The World Comedy Club**, both in New York City. In 2010, WICF performers All Girl Revue received the award, which is determined by audience votes.

Last year, the festival hosted over 150 artists from all over the US, including **Maria Bamford, Jackie Kashian, and Edie McClurg**.

For tickets and detailed information about the festival, please visit [www.womenincomedyfestival.com](http://www.womenincomedyfestival.com).

**Please contact Hillary Buckholtz (buckholtzh@plannedtvarts.com) if you would like to arrange**

**interviews with festival comedians or producers. B roll, audio files and press photos are available upon request.**