

COMEDY FOR A CAUSE  
20 7 & 10 PM  
CAMP DROSCOSKI 8-21  
NIGHT FACEOFF

## For laughs

Comedian Paul Anthony's mission is to bring comedy back to the Island. **A11**



PHOTO BY JOEL CAIRO

Comedian Paul Anthony hopes a comedy festival at Theater Three in Port Jefferson will help re-energize comedy on Long Island.

# Standing up for stand-up

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When it comes to stand-up comedy on Long Island, Paul Anthony thinks it's no laughing matter.

The Massapequa resident and stand-up comedian has watched local comedy clubs slowly disappear. In an effort to re-ignite the comedy circuit, Anthony has helped put together Comedy for a Cause, a comedy festival and fundraiser Saturday night in Port Jefferson featuring six local comedians.

"It's my mission to bring

said Anthony, who will be hosting and performing in two 90-minute shows which will take place at Theater Three on Main Street at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. The event is sponsored by WALK/97.5 FM and benefits both the theater and six charities in the WALK Kids' Campaign. Tickets cost \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door.

It may seem strange that Long Island, which has spawned an impressive gaggle of comedic talent ranging from Alan King to Jerry Seinfeld to Eddie Murphy, would suddenly find itself with a dearth of com-

edians. Clubs such as Chuckles in Mineola are long gone and few are moving in to take their place.

Only a handful of comedy clubs, such as Governor's in Levittown and The Brokerage in Bellmore, remain, Anthony said. Theaters across the Island have tested the waters of stand-up, hosting occasional comedy nights, but these type of events can't compare to having an established comedy venue, Anthony said. "It's sporadic, there's a low commitment," he said. "It's not the same as having an actual club that regularly has shows."

The closing of clubs has been a trend that began in the

early 1990s, said veteran comedian Janette Barber, when cable shows began regularly broadcasting stand-up and comedy burned itself out. "Back then the club itself was the draw," said Barber, former head writer and supervising producer for Rosie O'Donnell's talk show. "You didn't need a big name, you just needed someone who was funny."

Now Anthony is working to help reverse that trend. "Hopefully, comedy is still alive here," he said. "I know there are a lot of performers who are talented and just long for an opportunity on Long Island."