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Happy Holidayze
Utility Players Host 2nd Annual 420 Show

[April 20th, 2010] Reno, Nevada: The Utility Players, voted one of Reno's best comedians in 2009 [RN&R], is Reno's premiere comedy troupe. A live version of *Whose Line is it Anyway?*, the Utility Players infuse improv with musical comedy, sketch comedy, stand-up, and more to create a true variety show. As part of their *Homefield Advantage Tour*, the Utility Players are hosting a show dedicated to everybody's favorite lady in green - Miss Mary Jane. March may have had its own madness, but April is alive with Reefer Madness and 420 celebrations throughout the country. The Utility Players decided to commemorate the occasion by bringing back their successful 420 Holidayze Show.

The first annual 420 show occurred in Studio on 4th with a number of special comedic guests throughout the night. "We wanted to go bigger this time around for the show" relates producer and director for the Utility Players Jessica Levity. Levity goes on to say that "we had an amazing show last year but wanted a bigger venue, more community involvement, and more variety to the show". The show – which is scheduled for April 20th from 7:30pm to 9:30pm – this year is going to be held in the Laxalt Theater.

Finding comedic gold and value in marijuana and pot smokers is nothing new. Whether we start with classic examples like *Cheech & Chong* or turn to more modern examples like *Harold & Kumar* or the television series *Weeds*, marijuana has held and continues to hold a prominent place in our culture and society. Conservatives and Anti-Drug campaigners paint a picture that smoking weed will invariably ruin your life, make you lazy & unmotivated, and cause a host of physical and mental symptoms and side effects. Pro-smokers say that weed is natural, has medicinal benefits, and claim that the world would be a better place if everyone just smoked up from time to time. Regardless of your stance on weed & pot, the cannon of stoner jokes are limitless, and the Utility Players intend to deliver their own spin of it.

What can audience members expect from the show? "A little bit of everything" states manager of the Utility Players Christopher Daniels, "the show will feature special comedic headliners John Ager and Christian Reyes, a number of HIGH-larious comedy sketches, and of course everyone's favorite improv games". The show is also set to premiere Utility Player's Family Feud featuring the Smot Pokers versus the Non-Tokers. "This is a long anticipated battle between the Smot Pokers and the Non-Tokers" jokes Levity. The Utility Players – who are holding open auditions for the troupe on April 11th – are changing the lineup a bit for this upcoming show. "Our newest members have brought a renewed energy and focus to the troupe and immediately brighten our day" relates Daniels – who sometimes steps in to perform in shows. Some of those newest changes include the addition of local actress Amanda Alvey and local singer/songwriter Ariel Lea. Alvey is a fantastic performer and has a commanding stage presence who has performed in such productions as Nevada Rep's *Romeo & Juliet* and Theatreworks' *Doubt*. She is excited for the opportunity to take her experience in the theater and apply it to comedy. Local singer/songwriter Ariel Lea – who moved all the way from Ohio in order to achieve her dreams of fame and success – is joining the troupe to really step up the musical comedy. Analogous to Lauren Hall from *Whose Line is It Anyway?*, Lea will be on her keyboard for such games as "Song Ballad", "The Utility Players Hoedown", and "Film Noir". In the future Lea will work sound effects and other improv musical effects to enhance the overall show.

On top of the move to a larger venue, the Utility Players also sought out community sponsorship for the event. “We knew that for many shops in Reno this was going to be their busiest day of the season” relates Levity, “we thought it would be a great to cross-promote different events/businesses and reach out to the community”. The 2nd Annual 420 Holiday Show received sponsorship from such amazing local businesses as Art Dogs & Grace, Melting Pot World Emporium, and Hippies Pipes & Incense. The week leading up to the show and on the day of, these businesses will be handing out quarter sheets with a dollar off coupon for two people to attend the show. “Make sure to enjoy their 420 sales and specials and then come laugh and geek out with a great comedy show” asserts Daniels.

The 2nd Annual 420 Show will be very reminiscent of the weekly Comedy Cabaret show the Utility Players use to host at the Studio on 4th. The 420 show will be full of witty sketches, amazing special guests, musical interludes and more. Admission to the 420 show is \$6 and starts at 7:30pm. The Laxalt Theater is located at 401 West Second Street between Ralston and Arlington. For more information about the 420 show or the Utility Players make sure to check out their website at www.utilityplayerscomedy.com.