



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Georgia Berkovich

gberkovich@midnightmission.org

(213) 624-4588

LAUGHTER WITH A MISSION - HEALING THROUGH LAUGHTER SINCE 2012

WHAT: Laughter With A Mission (LWAM) – OPEN MIC

WHEN: Thursday – April 21, 2016 - 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

WHERE: The Midnight Mission, 601 S. San Pedro St., LA, CA 90014

WHO: **Our homeless community and guest comedians. . .**

Grant Cotter: Cotter burst onto the comedy scene with his eclectic brand of humor, quick wit, and rapid-fire delivery. His comedy has a remarkably broad range and is filled with tightly written jokes and spot on observations. His wild off-the-cuff style and attitude have made him a crowd favorite at comedy clubs across the country. Stepping off of the stand-up stage, Cotter has made appearances on MTV's "RetroMania," was featured in the Dr Pepper "One of a Kind" campaign, and in 2013, was named one of OC Weekly's "Top Five Comics to Watch." Cotter is Currently a cast member on MTV's "Jerks With Cameras," in 2014 Cotter made his TV stand-up debut on BounceTV's "Off the Chain," completed work on the documentary "Dying Laughing," and wrapped a supporting role in the Jonathan Talbert directed feature "Spare Change." As a writer, Grant created the pilot "Taken For Granted" which is a two hander based on his life.

AMIR K: AMIR K is currently on the cast of the MTV prank show, "Jerks With Cameras." Last year, Amir made his foray into film with roles in Ben Affleck's ARGO and Alexandre Aja's SITE (for Fox), where he stars as the love interest opposite Ashley Hinshaw. In addition to acting, Amir is an accomplished comedian who can often be seen headlining LA comedy venues such as The Comedy Store, Laugh Factory and The Improv. Born in Tehran, Iran and raised in Southern California, his comedy is a blend of character work, storytelling and improvisation shaped by a multi-cultural upbringing. Amir is fluent in Farsi, Spanish and is known for his incredible accents and impressions.

WHY: Laughter With A Mission (LWAM) aims to entertain and inspire those living on Skid Row. The open mic format allows individuals to showcase talents that would normally go unnoticed in our day to day community. Like all of our With A Mission events, LWAM is meant to bring our community together. Our guest comedians host and provide laughter while our homeless and near-homeless guests perform anything from a stand-up routine to a stirring spoken word piece. It is an intimate setting, which provides an opportunity for performers to answer questions and/or talk about their performance. We encourage performers to invite their fan base so they can engage and enjoy a special performance with individuals they would not normally encounter in their daily lives.

We are currently looking for sponsors for this ever-growing community event. If you are interested, please contact Georgia Berkovich at 213-624-4588 or gberkovich@midnightmission.org.

About The Midnight Mission: Founded in 1914, The Midnight Mission offers paths to self-sufficiency to men, women and children who have lost direction. Our emergency services and 12-step recovery, family living, job training, education and workforce development programs offer a compassionate bridge to achieve and maintain healthy, productive lives. We remove obstacles and provide the accountability and structure that people who are experiencing homelessness need to be productive in their communities. Our conviction and commitment to their success define us. For additional information, please visit www.midnightmission.org.