

2 February 2009

To Whom It May Concern:


Having been a talent buyer and promoter for nineteen years, I think I have a fair idea of what venue managers and talent bookers look for in the way of shows for their seasons. That's why it is a pleasure for me to recommend Barry Smith both as a person and a performer for your consideration.

I first met Barry shortly after taking over the top position at the Wheeler in October 2005. Since then, we have worked with Barry on three occasions, and always look forward to the next one. Barry travels the globe with his one-man shows (Jesus In Montana, American Squatter, Barry Smith's Baby Book), and in doing so has the wit to observe what we as buyers and marketers of talent have to deal with every day, on every show. Besides always being sure to put the very best craft possible on the stage, Barry knows that he has to be a partner with the venue and make it easy for all concerned – tech, publicity, media, and administration.

Some people like to think of Barry as the Spalding Gray for this generation. I don't think that does credit to either man, but they do share an ability to probe into some of the weirder corners of life, make it hugely identifiable and laugh-out-loud funny, and leave you looking forward to the artist's next visit to your town. Barry's world view is his very own, and once you tap into it, you'll understand why he's traveled so far as a performer in so short a time. But you have to tap into it, and that means you have to see it – and trust me, it truly is worth the time.

As you can by now tell, it's easy for me to put Barry forward from all facets of live event presenting. In my experience that's a rarity, and I truly believe making an investment in this artist now will pay big dividends in your presenting future.

Sincerely,



Gram Slaton  
Executive Director