

Beautiful SOUL

Margaret Cho Continues

To Redefine The Social Norm

By Heather Turk

Photo by Austin Young



Comedienne Margaret Cho wants her fans to know that they're beautiful.

"Everybody has beauty in them," she told *What's On*. "The way society defines beauty, though, limits (people's perceptions). My new tour opens up the ideas of beauty; everyone is beautiful, and everyone has the right to express their beauty and enjoy it."

Bringing her new tour, appropriately titled *Beautiful*, to The Pearl at the Palms March 29, the satirical comic returns to her roots—stand-up—to open up people's eyes as to what, she says, is actually beautiful.

Cho's latest routine will take on other ugly subjects as well, such as the upcoming presidential election.

"My whole thing now is that I'm undecided," Cho, who's never been one to shy away from politics, replied when asked who she was rooting for to get the Democratic nomination. "Half my friends are cheering for Obama, half of them are rooting for Hillary, so I'll get half my ass kicked no matter what. It's hard to say who you like, though; it's such a delicate thing. So I just like to say I'm in the closet when it comes to who I'm voting for."

Having spent the "last year or so" working on her new routine, Cho said she's been fine-tuning *Beautiful* in between the various other projects that have kept her busy over the past year, including her burlesque variety show "The Sensuous Woman" and the inaugural True Colors Tour which benefited the work of the

Human Rights Campaign. Cho's involvement in various social causes over the years has earned the comedienne a loyal fan following, cementing her place amongst comedy greats like Rosie O'Donnell, Robin Williams, Whoopi Goldberg and even Bobcat Goldthwait, all of whom Cho said she's been inspired by.

"To me, my greatest accomplishment is survival," Cho replied when asked what accolade she holds nearest to her heart. "To still be able to continue to work and write and be inspired."

When she's not making others laugh onstage or online on her blog (margaretcho.com), Cho said she turns to the Internet to keep herself entertained. In particular, Cho admits she is always amused by Perez Hilton or by logging onto dailypuppy.com.

"You get a different dog everyday, so it's like a cute overload," Cho said. "I'm always entertained by animals; they're just so cute!"

While Cho's own three dogs keep her entertained offstage, if there's someone in Cho's family who keeps audiences amused onstage (besides Cho, of course) it's her mother, who the comedienne promised would be making an "appearance" during the *Beautiful* tour. Those who can't make it to the Palms can rest easy knowing that, like Cho's previous stand-up tours *I'm the One That I Want*, *Notorious C.H.O.*, *Revolution* and *Assassin*, *Beautiful* will eventually be turned into a concert film and released on DVD, although Cho admits she isn't exactly sure where the show will be recorded yet. A CD is planned for the tour as well, so whether you can't make it in person or you simply can't get enough, this won't be your only chance to hear the show.

But for those lucky fans with tickets in hand, Cho promises a night they won't soon forget.

"Las Vegas is always interesting," she said. "I always get a lot of people who live there, not necessarily tourists, so it's a different experience. The audience is always full of creative people—dancers, actors—so it's usually pretty rowdy."

And while Cho may be best known as a stand-up comic, after performing in "The Sensuous Woman," the actress/belly dancer said she definitely has a newfound respect for those who work in the Entertainment Capital of the World.

"I realized just how hard it is to dance and perform," Cho concluded. "I'd rather just focus on my stand-up or my comedy and music; it's too strenuous to do both."

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SHOW TIME: 8 p.m., March 29

SHOWROOM: The Pearl at the Palms

SHOW PRICE: \$38, \$48 & \$58

702-474-4000