

INTERNATIONAL OKTOBERFEST!

NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND



COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND
OCTOBER 11 & 12

SATURDAY NOON - 8PM | SUNDAY NOON - 6PM
at the Newport Yachting Center

SAVORY, AUTHENTIC
AUSTRO-GERMAN CUISINE

TWO WATERFRONT BIERGARTENS
OVERFLOWING WITH DOMESTIC &
INTERNATIONAL BREWS

TWO STAGES OF STOMPIN'
BAVARIAN ENTERTAINMENT
FEATURING SPITZE!, DIE SCHLAUBERGER & MORE

SAT. \$20 Adv. / \$25 Day-Of | Kids 11 & Under \$12 Adv. / \$12 Day-Of
SUN. \$17 Adv. / \$20 Day-Of | Kids 11 & Under FREE with an Adult
2-Day Weekender Pass \$30 Advance / \$40 Day-Of

Get The PROST! Pass

An exclusive ticket granting you all-day-and-night admission, access to open-air Prost Private Lounge with private bar and restrooms, cocktail service, a flight sampling of 4 Oktoberfest brews, the official Oktoberfest mug, and a bratwurst from the Brat Bar for an authentic German treat with all the fixings.

Prost! Passes are \$85 while they last - quantities limited!

Tickets available at the Box Office, via
Ticketmaster at 800.745.3000, or online at
NEWPORTWATERFRONTEVENTS.COM

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4 Commercial Wharf / America's Cup Ave. | Newport, Rhode Island

This Just In

Laugh Track

A COMEDY SUPERSTAR – AND CANCER SURVIVOR – HITS TOWN

When comedian Tig Notaro was diagnosed with cancer in 2012, she cancelled her upcoming gigs — her mind was too preoccupied to tell jokes with any real conviction. A week later, she turned that predicament on its head by getting on stage at Largo nightclub in Los Angeles and delivering what would become one of the most celebrated standup sets in recent history.

“Good evening, hello. I have cancer. Hi, how are you? Is everybody having a good time? I have cancer. How are you?”

So begins the set, in which Notaro details — devastatingly, hilariously — a series of awful events, of which a stage-two cancer diagnosis was only the most recent. She'd also been hospitalized for a severe intestinal infection, lost her mother in a tragic accident, and suffered through a breakup, within a span of four months. The set was lauded by fellow comedian Louis C.K.

as one of the most “truly great, masterful standup sets” he's ever witnessed. The complete recording of the half-hour set, titled *Live*, was nominated for a Grammy earlier this year.

In anticipation of her upcoming show at the Columbus Theatre, Notaro spoke with us this week about life and work after cancer. The interview has been edited and condensed.

YOU'D BEEN DOING COMEDY FOR YEARS BEFORE THAT SET AT LARGO. HAVE YOUR ROUTINES OR WRITING PROCESSES CHANGED MARKEDLY SINCE THEN? DOES CANCER JUST MAKE EVERYTHING ELSE SEEM TRIVIAL? It hasn't changed my approach to stand-up or my writing process all that much. I try to approach my comedy and writing from a

place of wanting to do what's authentic to me as a person and a comic. I try to do material that excites me. And that set at Largo happened to be my reality at that time, which is what prompted me to stray from my jokes about getting passed on the highway in traffic by a bee, and discuss all that I had been going through.

But since then, while I've still had to deal with the fallout from those difficult four months, my life is in great shape, and I have so much to be thankful for. So much of my new material is me approaching comedy the same exact way I did before my life fell apart. It's new but it's consistent with who I was as a standup before those four months. I include some more personal topics now, which I hadn't done before.

THE CROWD'S REACTION DURING THAT SET IS PRETTY REMARKABLE. AT ONE POINT AN AUDIENCE MEMBER YELLS, VERY SINCERELY, “THIS IS FUCKING AMAZING.” DID YOU KNOW RIGHT THEN THAT THAT PERFORMANCE WAS KIND OF A BIG DEAL? DID YOU GO INTO IT WITH THAT MINDSET? I was trying to work out another story for *This American Life* before this performance. So I was looking to really get all of this stuff off my chest, and maybe have some audio that [would be] usable to send to Ira Glass. I knew the audience was right there with me and insanely supportive. But I did not anticipate people tak-

ing to Twitter, and blogging, and press outlets reaching out the following day. That was not my intent, nor was it where my head was at. I actually thought that could've been my last time performing stand-up. If anything, I felt relieved that it went over so well.

SINCE THEN, YOU'VE PERFORMED AT A WIDE VARIETY OF VENUES — FROM YOUR UPCOMING SHOWTIME SPECIAL, *KNOCK KNOCK, IT'S TIG NOTARO*, TO *CONAN*, TO GUEST SPOTS ON VARIOUS TV SHOWS AND RADIO PODCASTS. IS THERE A VENUE OR CONTEXT IN WHICH YOU FEEL MOST COMFORTABLE, CONFIDENT, OR EXCITED TO PERFORM? I like them all. Conan was super supportive of me very early on and has been a huge help — and they really champion comedic ideas I pitch to do on the show, so those appearances have always been so much fun. I love really intimate venues, but being



AUTHENTIC Notaro.

able to perform in 1000-seat venues has also been exhilarating. My Showtime project was super fun, because many of those venues are off the beaten path — like barns, and a fan's living room. It's as intimate as it gets, and really breaks down and explores the barrier between artists and their fans.

YOU PERFORMED A PRETTY HILARIOUS BIT ON *CONAN* EARLIER THIS YEAR IN WHICH YOU THEORIZE THAT, AFTER YEARS OF MAKING JOKES ABOUT YOUR FLAT CHEST, YOUR BREASTS DECIDED TO GIVE YOU CANCER AS AN ACT OF VENGEANCE. ARE YOU EVER SURPRISED AT PEOPLES' CAPACITY FOR FINDING HUMOR IN PAIN AND TRAGEDY? Not surprised.

I think audiences who show up to laugh and are comedy fans will do so as long as something is smart and funny. I think their focus is less on the topic and more on if they think you're funny.

ARE THERE ANY INTERVIEW QUESTIONS THAT REPORTERS NEVER ASK YOU AND YOU WISH THEY WOULD? They never ask if I've been treated unfairly as a female comic. That topic never comes up.

Tig Notaro will perform at the Columbus Theatre (270 Broadway, Providence) on September 28 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. For more info, go to columbus theatre.com/event/tig-notaro.

—Liz Lee