



# LILY TOMLIN

## LIVE COMEDY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2010  
8PM, FARTHING AUDITORIUM

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS PRESENTS:

# PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

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## About Lily Tomlin

Think back to when you were a child and “playing pretend” was your favorite pastime. Getting lost in the characters of the make believe world you so wished to be a part of. Comedienne, actress, writer and producer, Lily Tomlin holds fast to that facet of her life and offers her audiences a chance to slip away from the troubles of today and into a moment filled with pure enjoyment and laughter. Throughout her career that spans over an impressive 40 years, Lily has dabbled in many forms of entertainment, including television, theatre and movies. Her outstanding collection of awards includes multiple Emmys, Tonys and even a Grammy. But it is the beloved characters that she portrays that make her a household name.

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Tomlin spent much of her childhood improvising games and putting on shows with her younger brother and the neighbor kids. Although she claims she wasn't funny as a child, Tomlin admits she “knew who was and lifted all their material right off the TV screen.” Perhaps it was these years that gave Lily the inspiration to pursue a career in entertainment. After high school, Tomlin attended Wayne State University to follow a career in medicine, however, she quickly fell in love with her theatre arts classes and left college to move to New York City. Soon after her move, Tomlin began performing at comedy clubs and coffee shops and garnered a following that were charmed by her eccentric personality and contagious laughter.

In 1966, Tomlin made her television debut on The Garry Moore Show. Three years later she joined the cast of Laugh-In and her rise to fame was imminent. Audiences fell in love with her characterizations of Ernestine, the sassy telephone operator and Edith Ann, a spunky six year old. Laugh-In came to an end in 1973, by which time Tomlin was already focusing on her own comedy television specials, co-written with longtime collaborator Jane Wagner. Tomlin's first silver screen appearance came in 1975 with director Robert Altman's Nashville. Her performance as Linnea Reese earned her an Academy Award nomination for best actress in a supporting role.

1977 brought the beginning of Tomlin's successful stint on Broadway. Her first one woman show, *Appearing Nitely*, earned her a Time magazine cover and was later adapted as both an album and a HBO special. Her second Broadway hit, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, won her a Tony Award. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Tomlin appeared in a host of feature films, including favorites such as *9 to 5*, *All of Me*, *Big Business*, *Shadows and Fog*, and *The Beverly Hillbillies*. She also lent her voice to the character Ms. Frizzle, the teacher who took her students on wild, imaginative journeys in the popular animated children's show, *The Magic School Bus*.

Aside from her films and stage performances, Tomlin has also found great success guest starring on popular television programs; some of which include *Will & Grace*, *The Simpsons*, and *The X Files*. Tomlin has held recurring roles on *West Wing*, as the presidential assistant and on *Murphy Brown*, where she portrayed Murphy's boss. Most recently, Tomlin had a six episode appearance on the hit ABC show *Desperate Housewives* and has explored the dramatic side of acting with an appearance on FX's *Damages*.

Once described as "a good hearted observer of American culture," Tomlin easily connects with her audience in a way that is sure to bring laughs to every seat in the house.

## **Performing Arts Series Mission Statement**

The Performing Arts Series supports the teaching mission of Appalachian State University by presenting a diverse array of music, dance and theatre events designed to enrich the cultural landscape of the campus and surrounding region. By creating memorable performance experiences and related educational and outreach activities, the series promotes the power and excitement of the live performance experience; provides a "window on the world" through the artistry of nationally and internationally renowned artists and showcases some of the finest artists of our campus community and our region.

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without being snooty.”

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