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**LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES**

**NEW RODNEY DANGERFIELD INSTITUTE**

(May 31, 2017) – Los Angeles City College is pleased to announce the creation of the Rodney Dangerfield Institute (RDI) in honor of the late comedian, Rodney Dangerfield. Initially offering four classes including a stand-up workshop, joke writing, improvisational comedy and an American film comedy genre class, the RDI is the only comedy institute in the country based within a community college. Additionally, the Institute will develop a filmed speaker series, guest lectures, performances, mentor programs and partnerships with Hollywood comedy clubs.

“Rodney’s comedy personified the down-on-his-luck everyman,” said Rodney’s widow, Joan Dangerfield. “Los Angeles City College is the perfect choice to house this innovative institute. Now students will have the opportunity to study comedy at an affordable cost in the heart of Hollywood.”

Dangerfield will serve as the honorary chair of the RDI Advisory Board. “I am honored to be on the Advisory Board for the Rodney Dangerfield Institute at LACC. I was fortunate enough to get my break in the comedy business working as a screenwriter, producer, or director, on five of Rodney Dangerfield's films, as well as touring with him for 17 years as his exclusive opening act,” said Harry Basil, comedian, partner and general manager of the Laugh Factory. “Rodney was the Albert Einstein of comedy! To witness his creative process in writing and performing original comedy material, developing screenplays and comedy specials from a single joke or silly idea was a master class in comedy. I can think of no other legendary comedian in history, who's career path is a lesson in how to succeed in all levels of a tough industry where comedians usually, "don't get no respect". The RDI is an amazing new institute!”

On Thursday, September 7, 2017, Los Angeles City College will produce a staged reading of Rodney Dangerfield’s hit movie, “Back to School.” Comedian Brad Garrett, of “Everybody Loves Raymond” and “’Till Death” fame, will reprise Dangerfield’s lead role of Thornton Melon. Other well-known comedic actors will appear with Garrett at the event, which will also include a Q&A with members of the original cast. All proceeds will benefit the Rodney Dangerfield Institute.

“We are honored to celebrate Rodney Dangerfield’s legacy with this new institute and we are excited to be able to share his comedy with new generations of students,” said Reneé D. Martinez, President, Los Angeles City College. For more information about the Rodney Dangerfield Institute, visit <http://lacitycollege.edu/academic/rodneydangerfield.html>.

**About Rodney Dangerfield**

Rodney Dangerfield appeared in 22 films, 20 commercials and as a guest on “The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson” a record 70 times. Dangerfield’s success came relatively late in his life after spending years working as an aluminum siding salesman. In 1970, he opened Dangerfield’s comedy club which served as the starting ground for dozens of comedians including Jim Carrey, Jerry Seinfeld, Tim Allen, Rosanne Barr, Andrew Dice Clay and Jay Leno. Dangerfield's career peaked during the early 1980s, when he began acting in hit comedy movies including *Caddyshack*, *Easy Money* and *Back to School*. His 1980 comedy album, *No Respect*, won a Grammy Award. Dangerfield received the Lifetime Creative Achievement Award from the American Comedy Awards in 1994. Known for his iconic “I don’t get no respect” line, his signature black suit and red tie are part of a permanent collection at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.

**About Joan Dangerfield**

Joan Dangerfield is chairman of ROCKDOME, a highly immersive multi-use entertainment performance venue with patented technology presenting and capturing content in an unprecedented format to create revolutionary music, film, nightlife and electronic entertainment experiences. Projects in various stages of development are located in the US, Asia and Middle East.  Joan also provides exclusive consulting services, securing well-known artists and branded interactive exhibitions to premiere entertainment promotion and technology companies in China.

**About Los Angeles City College**

Established in 1929, Los Angeles City College is the flagship institution of the Los Angeles Community Colleges. Located in the heart of Hollywood, LACC provides a dynamic innovative learning environment offering more than 100 vocational and professional programs including degrees, transfer programs and certificates to more than 18,000 students. LACC is home to one of the most successful Cinema/TV programs in the country, as well as The LACC Theatre Academy, the oldest theatre academy in Los Angeles. The College’s many famous alumni include Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman, Mark Hamill, and Cindy Williams among others. In 2019, LACC will celebrate its 90th anniversary.