



Parkite starts monthly standup night

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Most of the time, Kathleen McCann does her comedy act from the driver's seat of her taxi cab as she drives around Park City. She tries new jokes on family and friends during long-distance phone calls and dreams up one-liners about being a single girl, a redhead and an avid skier.

"As far as I'm concerned, everyone is an audience," McCann said Wednesday. People fall out of her cab laughing, she said, leaving hotel valets and passersby wondering how people can have so much fun in a car.

One can guess the punch line.

McCann, who is also a server at NYPC Pizza Company in Quarry Village, started a comedy night in Heber City two months ago. She will perform Saturday at 8:30 p.m. at the Spicy Lady with Laura Hayden, a comedian from Los Angeles, and Utah native Lydia Knudsen. The cover charge is \$10 per person.

Bringing standup Utah hasn't been easy, McCann said, but the reception at The Spicy Lady has been warm and well attended.

McCann does tell the occasional demure joke, but most of her material is decidedly for adults. "Here's my G-rated act," McCann said. "Hello. Thank you and goodnight. It's more fun for me to live on the edge. All my material comes from my own life, especially if it's bad."

Not to say McCann indulges in sympathy laughs. Instead, she finds humor in tragedy. Her friends insist that she is funniest when angry.

What at first appears to be a banal cliché among comics that they make light of sad situations actually turns out to be true of McCann.

Three years ago, a jet ski collided into McCann on the coastline of Santa Barbara, Calif. Among other injuries, McCann seriously fractured her pelvis. "I was broken in half," she said.

After more than a decade working the standup circuit in Los Angeles, McCann was unable to perform. She spent time in a wheelchair and eventually graduated to a walker, which she decorated with battery-operated disco lights.

It was like putting glitter on dung, McCann recalled.

"No one wants to date the hot girl with the walker," she said.

When McCann returned to the stage nine months after the accident, she did so with the help of a cane, worried that the audience would think her a prop comic.

Typically a frenetic performer known for bouncing around the stage, McCann remained stationary for most of the show.

The important part, McCann said, was that she could stand. "It's hard to do standup when you can't stand up," she said.

McCann moved to Park City shortly after her accident. She had to choose between comedy and her legs.

"I promised myself if I could walk, I would ski," she said.

McCann has done just that. She reported skiing 100 days last winter and trots around in high heels for nights on the town.

The accident has changed her attitude toward life and comedy. For one, her act now includes ski jokes.

Reservations are required for Saturday's show at the Spicy Lady, 139 Main St. in Heber City. Call 654-4288. McCann is providing free transportation in a limousine for people in Park City who are attending. To reserve a seat, call Dave at 640-7910. For more information on McCann, visit [laughartist.com](#).

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