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NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

COMEDIAN LEIGHANN LORD TO PERFORM AT EIU

CHARLESTON -- Leighann Lord, recipient of New York City's Black Comedy Award for the Most Thought-Provoking Female Comic, plans to share her talents with an audience on the campus of Eastern Illinois University.

Admission to the performance, scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, in 7th Street Underground (formerly known as the Rathskeller) in Eastern's University Union, is \$1 for the general public and free to EIU students with ID.

Lord has appeared on numerous stand-up comedy shows, including Lifetime's "Girls' Night Out," VH-1's "Stand Up Spotlight," HBO's "Def Comedy All-Star Jam," Comedy Central's "Premium Blend 2" and NBC's "Comedy Showcase," with Louie Anderson. On the big screen, she appeared in the George Lucas film, "RadioLand Murders," along with comedy greats Robert Klein and Bobcat Goldthwaithe.

She performs in clubs and colleges all over the country and abroad. In 1997 and 1998 she represented the United States in Trinidad's International Laugh Festival. In England, she appeared in two episodes of the BBC's wildly popular television show, "Blouse and Skirt," the British version of "Politically Incorrect."

Theatrically, Lord's most recent work includes "Theatre Dreams" and "The Punch and Judy Show" at The Creative Acting Company where she is a company member. Her one-woman show, "The Full Swanky", debuted last year in The Riant Theatre Women's Play Festival, where it was nominated for best play and best director. Lord won the festival award for best actress.

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.