



*News from the . . .*

***Home of the Seminole Hard Rock  
Winterfest Boat Parade***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Winterfest Announces 2008 Grand Marshal - Jim Belushi**

**FORT LAUDERDALE (Broward County), FL-** The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) set the stage for the announcement of the Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade's 2008 Grand Marshal. With the CVB unveiling their 2009 marketing plan for the Fort Lauderdale area and 500 prominent community figures in attendance, the mood was just right to reveal who will be "Rockin the Night Aweigh" parade night. In celebration of the 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Winterfest, this year's Grand Marshal is Jim Belushi.

After being honored at the Grand Marshal Reception at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on December 12, 2008, Jim Belushi and the Sacred Hearts Band will perform on stage at Hard Rock Live. The following night, Belushi will prepare to lead the Parade along the Fort Lauderdale waterways in true Grand Marshal style. On the night of the Parade, Jim Belushi will be aboard the Glaceau vitaminwater/Choice Environmental Services Grand Marshal Showboat (the Grand Floridian) waving to the one million spectators and millions more at home thanks to WSVN Channel 7 and Comcast television. Why was Jim Belushi chosen to represent the 2008 Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade? The many reasons lie in his many talents...

Born June 15, 1954, Jim was first introduced to acting after a teacher, who was so impressed by his improvisational skills, encouraged him to try out for the school play. After years in the drama club and later graduating from Southern Illinois University, Jim soon found himself in Hollywood starring in television shows and soon after, joined the cast at Saturday Night Live (SNL). From the TV screen to the big screen, Jim's innate acting capabilities soon transferred over onto film, starring in films such as "K-9", "The Principle", "Curly Sue", most recently, voice of Bennie in "Snowbuddies" and many more. In between multiple blockbuster accomplishments and getting back to his SNL roots by performing off-

Broadway theater, Jim somehow found the time to star in his own hit ABC sitcom, According to Jim. After all this you'd think this guy would need a break but "according to Jim" he needed a band. The Sacred Hearts is a 10 person Rhythm and Blues band whose Memphis sound has captured a multitude of fans. Their spicy sounds are set to zest up the Hard Rock Live following the Grand Marshal Reception by concluding with a Sacred Hearts concert. Visit the Hard Rock Live or Ticketmaster websites for concert information.

An all around super talent, it's obvious why the Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade chose Mr. Belushi to "Rock the Night Aweigh". With the excitement brought on by the 2008 Grand Marshal announcement, everyone can't wait to see how he's going to rock the boat. For more information about the 2008 Grand Marshal and all Winterfest events, please contact the Winterfest office at (954) 767-0686 or visit the website at [www.WinterFestParade.com](http://www.WinterFestParade.com).

**About Winterfest, Inc.**

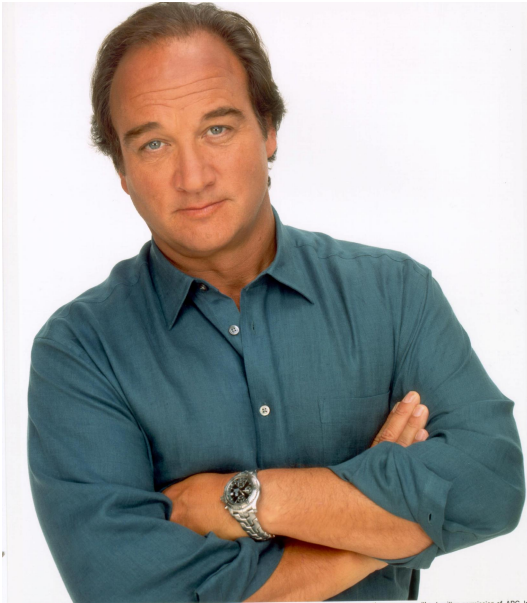
*Winterfest is a Florida not-for-profit organization based in Broward County that produces a variety of events including the free public event known as "The World's Most Watched Boat Parade." Millions via television and approximately one million spectators view the Parade on the 12-mile route. Winterfest also hosts annual events to enhance the community's image and provide unique, wholesome family entertainment. For more information on Winterfest, please contact the office at (954) 767-0686 or their website: [www.winterfestparade.com](http://www.winterfestparade.com).*

**About The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino**

*Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino is South Florida's only real casino and leading entertainment destination featuring 71 tables offering Blackjack, Baccarat, Mini-Baccarat, Pai Gow Poker, Three Card Poker, and Let it Ride. More than 2,500 of the most popular Vegas-style slots and games are available to play on its 145,000-square-foot casino floor including Multi-Area Progressive Jackpots and Mega Jackpots. The Poker Room at Seminole Paradise is a 12,000-square-foot private room offering no-limit Texas Hold 'em, limit Texas Hold 'em, Seven Card Stud and two dollar and four dollar limit Omaha Hi Lo games. Our casino offers a non-smoking room and a high-limit gaming room with a cashier booth, check cashing services, and safe deposit boxes. The high-limit room also includes a VIP Plum Lounge exclusive area for loyal Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Players Club members and a celebrity show kitchen. This Four Diamond, AAA-rated, 500-room hotel offers 16 restaurants and lounges, 40,000 square-feet of meeting room space, a full-service, European-style spa, and 23 retail shops, 11 nightclubs, and Paradise Live - a 600 seat venue with classic music album performances in Seminole Paradise. Entertainment aficionados can enjoy national and international musical acts, comedic performances, and more in Hard Rock Live - a state-of-the art and acoustically-sound arena located on property. Lucky Street parking garage offers guests an additional 2,300 spaces for parking. The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino is located on State Road 7 (U.S. 441) in Hollywood, Florida. From I-95, exit Stirling Rd. and travel west to 1 Seminole Way. For more information, call (954) 327-ROCK, 1-800-937-0010 or visit us online at [www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com](http://www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com).*

Photo and biography from <http://www.jimbelushi.ws/jim-sacredhearts.htm> on next page

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## JIM BELUSHI

The first thing you need to know about Jim Belushi is that he's a performer. Not an actor, not a comedian, not a singer, but a performer. Which is pretty much all those things put together and multiplied by two or five or something. The second thing you need to know- and this is in some ways more important than the first thing- is that he has absolutely no shame. None. Zip. Zero.

Add those two things together and you have a pretty good working definition of that most indescribable of qualities known as presence. And, as anyone who's spent two minutes with the guy knows, Jim's got it. Big time!

So here's this guy, this presence, disregarding any and all warning signs and diving into life headfirst. From the live stages of Second City and Saturday Night Live, to the soundstages of "About Last Night", "K-9", "Mr. Destiny", "Return to Me," and, most recently, starring in ABC TV's breakout comedy series of 2002 "According to Jim", he has taken everything life's thrown at him and hit it out of the park. And, by the way, he's been having a blast.

Speaking of "According to Jim", the hit series happens to be very heavily influenced by the Sacred Hearts. Jim and the boys wrote and recorded the music for the show, and John and Tony are regular members of the cast. Who the hell are John and Tony? We'll get to that later.

So anyway, one day Dan Aykroyd asks him to join the Blues Brothers Band as Brother Zee- a possibly daunting proposition, even for Jim. Sure, he'd been on stage for years, but comedy and theatre are one thing (well, two things) but it's not like he'd ever fronted a blues band before.

However, in order to be completely shameless, one is required to be completely fearless, which Jim, of course, is, so he takes a beat, looks at Aykroyd and says the same thing he's been saying all his life. "Yeah, what the hell...why not? Sounds like a whole lotta fun!"

So, to get ready to play with the Blues Brothers, Belushi crashes rehearsals of the House of Blues' own band, The Sacred Hearts. He sits in with the band, laughing, acting, singing, dancing, in a word - performing. As it turns out, Jim was right because those rehearsals were "a whole lotta fun." So much fun, in fact, that for the last seven years the band has been Jim Belushi and the Sacred Hearts.

They've played for Al Gore, Governor Gray Davis and many other politicians. President Clinton is a really big fan and since one of these days he's going to be out of a day job, he'll probably want to sit in (Jim says he'll consider it). They play all the House of Blues venues, all the casinos, many benefits and hundreds of corporate events for the Fortune 500 companies. Word on the street is if it's going to be a tough audience, get Jim Belushi and the Sacred Hearts . . . a butt hasn't been born that can stay in a chair through their first set.

For those who like their Rhythm & Blues seasoned with a lot 'o soul with a Memphis sound, but who aren't on the White House guest list, the music is now available on the band's first CD, "36 x 22 x 36" (Platinum Records).

Belushi sings, talks, flirts (again, completely shameless), dances on table tops and does at least one back flip every show.

### **JOHN BELUSHI / SECOND CITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The John Belushi/Second City Scholarship Fund was established in 1983 in the name and memory of John Belushi -- actor, comedian, and entertainer -- and Second City, the Chicago-based comedic theatre group. This memorial scholarship, in honor of College of DuPage's former student, provides recipients with full tuition and fees at the College of DuPage, and is available to both acting and technical theatre students. Acting applicants should prepare a 1-2 minute monologue of contemporary theatre, either comedic or dramatic, as well as file a complete application with the Student Financial Aid Office. Technical theatre applicants should also file a complete application, and will then interview with theatre faculty at the college. All applicants must include two recommendations from an educator and/or employer, to be included with the application.

Candidates must have sufficient experience and background in the performing arts or technical theatre by which talent or potential talent can be determined, and

- be a high school graduate
- reside in District 502
- show financial need.

Taken from <http://www.jimbelushi.ws/jim-sacredhearts.htm>