

# Introducing...Robin Williams Live!

## ROBIN WILLIAMS — BIOGRAPHY

While Detroit car plants were raising consumer consciousness about the best car to own in the 1950s, Mr. and Mrs. Williams were raising a son who would become one of the best comedic actors in the business today.

The son of a Ford Motor Company executive, Robin Williams was destined to entertain...extravagantly and outrageously. As a boy, he'd invent and act out all the parts of make-believe characters, spending most of his time in the basement with 2,000 toy soldiers, creating voices and sound effects for all-out battles.

When he was upstairs, he would tape-record and mimic the comedy routines of television comedians, particularly his idol, Jonathan Winters.

As early as high school, Williams was bringing his loony, witty talent out into the world, prompting his classmates to seriously vote him "Funniest" and, humorously, "Less Likely to Succeed."

Before Williams could complete high school in Detroit, his father retired and moved his family to Marin County, California. Not built in any way for the "laid-back" California lifestyle of the 60s, Williams set his sights on political science at Claremont Men's College. That plan, however, was not long for this world because theatre found Williams at Claremont, and he was sidetracked forever. That detour led to studying Shakespeare at Marin College. But, staying at Marin wasn't meant to be either: New York beckoned. With a full

scholarship to The Julliard, Williams trained under acting great, John Houseman for three years. And, even when he wasn't in class, Williams had to entertain. He'd perform improvisational comedy on the steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, using "everything in New York as material."

After creating and developing what he calls "legalized insanity," i.e., stand-up comedy routines, in San Francisco nightclubs, Williams headed for Los Angeles in 1976 and took up residence at various clubs, but not for long. Within six months of landing in L.A., Robin was a regular on the "Laugh-In" revival.



Robin Williams, comedian (photo provided)

Landing on the covers of *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Rolling Stone*, *People*, and *TV Guide*, Robin Williams was a household word at 26. "But Robin," wrote *Time*, "is not so much lucky as talented." In his stand-up nightclub act, which he does to keep in touch with live audiences and to try out new material, he displays a range that encompasses Jonathan Winters, Danny Kaye and Daffy Duck." And the range can still be seen when Williams pops into comedy clubs unexpectedly, regardless of the city he finds himself in. In 1980, he made the film

debut as the title character in "Popeye"; "The World According to Garp" followed in 1982; then, "The Survivors" in 1983, and "Moscow On The Hudson" in 1984.

Williams' feature film average was upped to two in 1985, with starring roles in "The Best of Times" and "Club Paradise", both of which opened in 1986. As far as the small screen goes, Williams will be returning to it in 1986, but Williams never does the same thing twice. This time out, he stars in his first television film role for the PBS production of Saul Bellows' "Seize the Day."

Concert stages. Television. Celluloid. Even vinyl isn't denied Williams talents. His one-man show recorded under the title of "Reality...What A Concept", won him two Grammy Award nominations, and the award itself as Comedy Album of the Year. His second album, "Throbbing Python of Love," also received a Grammy nomination the same month as his HBO comedy special aired, the latter receiving an ACE Award nomination.

Robin Williams' childhood fascination with outrageous entertainment hasn't changed in the least. And with the upcoming releases of his two films and made-for-television movie, 1986 promises to be a great year for Robin and his fans.

Robin Williams will be performing on Monday, April 21 at 8 p.m. at the Fieldhouse. Special musical guest is two-time Grammy Award winner Bobby McFerrin, jazz improviser and innovative vocalist.

Tickets for this concert are available now at the College Center Desk, Record Town, Peacock Records, UVM Campus Ticket Store and Clarkson University.

Advance ticket prices are \$6 PSUC S.A. members, \$12 General Public. Ticket prices on the day of the show are more expensive (\$8 PSUC S.A. members, \$14 General Public), so buy them now!