



PARAMOUNT THEATRE

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BILLY GARDELL OF *MIKE & MOLLY* BRINGS HIS ONE-MAN COMEDY SHOW TO AURORA'S PARAMOUNT, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12



Click [ParamountAurora.com/press kits](http://ParamountAurora.com/press_kits) for this photo of Billy Gardell.

AURORA, IL, August 30, 2016 – Whether you know him as the lovable Mike from CBS's 13-million-viewers-per-week *Mike & Molly*, recognize him as Umpire Haze in the baseball comedy *Undrafted*, or remember his, let's say, unforgettable scene with Billy Bob Thornton in *Bad Santa*, actor/comedian **Billy Gardell** knows how to bring funny to the screen – and stage.

Get ready for joke after joke when Gardell takes the spotlight (and stool) Saturday, November 12 at 8 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd., in downtown Aurora. Tickets are \$55–\$65. To purchase, visit ParamountAurora.com, call the box office at (630) 896-6666, or stop by the Paramount Theatre box office, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

On top of his successful acting career, Gardell has toured his one-man stand-up comedy show for years, cracking audiences up with totally relatable stories of childhood, wild teenage years and raising a family. Comedy Central and Showtime both premiered his stand-up specials on air, broadcasting his shows to millions of fans.

About Billy Gardell

Emmy-nominated actor and comedian Billy Gardell starred in the CBS hit television series, *Mike & Molly* as Officer Mike Biggs from 2010–2016. *Mike & Molly* continues to air in syndication to this day. As a follow-up to the hit CBS series, Gardell took a dramatic turn in the CMT series *Million Dollar Quartet* as Colonel Tom Parker, the infamous manager of Elvis Presley. The drama series was inspired by the Broadway musical. In 2016, he received a Daytime Emmy nomination as Best Gameshow Host for *Monopoly Millionaires Club*.

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Before *Mike & Molly*, Gardell co-starred in the acclaimed television series *Lucky*. His other television credits include *Yes Dear*, *Judging Amy*, *My Name is Earl*, *The Practice*, *Monk* and *Gary the Rat*. He made his major motion picture debut alongside Anthony Quinn and Sylvester Stallone in *Avenging Angelo*, and had a memorable scene with Billy Bob Thornton in the Cohen Brother's film *Bad Santa*. He also appeared in *You, Me & Dupree*, played Umpire Haze in the baseball feature, *Undrafted*, and appeared in the Clint Eastwood directed film, *Jersey Boys*.

Gardell took the long road to Hollywood, stopping at every small town lounge, military base and comedy club along the way. His comedy act took him to Los Angeles where his dedication to acting, along with touring as a stand-up comedian, allowed him to grow consistently in both arenas. His stand-up show is a powerhouse. His grounded, down-to-earth point of view strikes a strong chord with American audiences. Stories about his rough childhood, wild adolescence and new family life are executed with the skill of a master craftsman.

As a standup comic, his comedy specials *Billy Gardell: Halftime* premiered on Comedy Central and *Billy Gardell Presents Road Dogs* premiered on Showtime. In addition, he makes regular appearances on *NFL Today* on CBS Sports.

A native of Pittsburgh who currently lives in Los Angeles, Gardell loves Steeler football, stand-up comedy, his wife Patty and son Will. For more, visit billygardell.com.

More about Paramount Theatre's 2016–17 Season

Paramount's 2016–17 season line-up is anchored by its acclaimed Broadway musical series, including *Mamma Mia!* (Sept. 7–Oct. 30, 2016), *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Nov. 23, 2016–Jan. 8, 2017), *Sweeney Todd–The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (Feb. 8–Mar. 19, 2017) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Apr. 19–May 28, 2017). Paramount anticipates more than 30,000 subscribers will take advantage of Paramount's now-familiar Buy Two, Get Two offer, or four Broadway-caliber musicals for no more than \$29.50 per show.

In addition to its Broadway series and **Billy Gardell**, Paramount's 2016–17 general season also includes **Ballet Folklórico Quetzalcoatl** (Nov. 4), **Engelbert Humperdinck** (Nov. 5), **Under the Streetlamp**, (Nov. 6), **Garrison Keillor** (Nov. 13), **The Second City's Nut-Cracking Holiday Revue** (Dec. 2–23, in Paramount's Copley Theatre), **Defending the Caveman** (Jan. 20), **God Save The Queen** (Jan. 21), **Home Free** (Mar. 24), **Madeleine Peyroux and Rickie Lee Jones** (Mar. 25), **Golden Dragon Acrobats** (Mar. 26), **Riverdance: 20 Years** (Mar. 31–Apr. 2, five shows), **Piano Men: A Tribute to Elton John and Billy Joel** (Jun. 10, 2 shows) and **Barbra and Frank: The Concert That Never Was...** (Jun. 11).

Back in 2016–17 is Paramount's popular **Classic Movie Monday** series, presenting everyone's favorite flicks in one of Chicago's top former movie palaces on a two-story screen, for just \$1.

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Paramount also serves the community with low-cost children's shows designed to entertain while they educate: *Jigsaw Jones and the Case of the Class Clown* (Nov. 2), *Doktor Kaboom* (Nov. 3), *Miss Nelson is Missing* (Mar. 22) and *Laura Ingalls Wilder* (Mar. 23).

For subscriptions, single tickets or more information, go to ParamountAurora.com, call (630) 896-6666, or stop by the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd. in Aurora.

Paramount's 2016-17 Broadway Series is sponsored by **BMO Harris Bank, The Dunham Fund, Rush-Copley Medical Center, Gerald Kia and ComEd.**

About The Paramount Theatre

The Paramount Theatre (ParamountAurora.com) is the center for performing arts, entertainment and arts education in Aurora, the second largest city in Illinois. Named "One of Chicago's Top 10 Attended Theatres" by the League of Chicago Theatres, the 1,888-seat Paramount, located in downtown Aurora at 23 E. Galena Blvd., is nationally recognized for the quality and caliber of its presentations, superb acoustics and historic beauty.

The Paramount opened on September 3, 1931. Designed by renowned theater architects C.W. and George L. Rapp, the theater captures a unique Venetian setting portrayed in the art deco influence of the 1930s. The first air-conditioned building outside of Chicago, the Paramount offered the public a variety of entertainment, including "talking pictures," vaudeville, concerts and circus performances for more than 40 years. In 1976, Aurora Civic Center Authority purchased the Paramount and closed the theater for restoration. The \$1.5 million project restored the Paramount to its original grandeur. On April 29, 1978, the Paramount Arts Center opened, offering a variety of theatrical, musical, comedy, dance and family programming. In 2006, a 12,000-square-foot, two-story Grand Gallery lobby was added, with a new, state-of-the-art box office, café and art gallery.

Today, the Paramount self-produces its own Broadway Musical Series, presents an eclectic array of comedy, music, dance and family shows, and on most Mondays, screens a classic movie.

The Paramount Theatre is one of three live performance venues programmed and managed by the Aurora Civic Center Authority (ACCA). ACCA also oversees the Paramount's "sister" stage, the intimate, 173-seat Copley Theatre located directly across the street from the Paramount at 8 E. Galena Blvd., as well as RiverEdge Park, downtown Aurora's summer outdoor concert venue.

The Paramount Theatre continues to expand its artistic and institutional boundaries under the guidance of **Tim Rater**, President and CEO, Aurora Civic Center Authority; **Jim Corti**, Artistic Director, Paramount Theatre; a dedicated Board of Trustees and a devoted staff of live theatre and music professionals.

For tickets and information, go to ParamountAurora.com or call (630) 896-6666.