

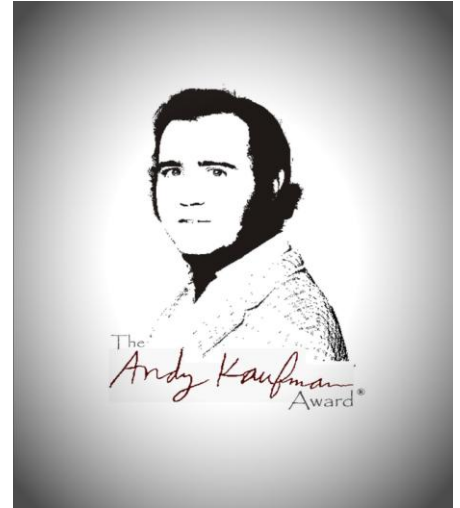
News Release: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Andy Kaufman Award
4 Beaverbook Road, Suite 135 Lincoln Park, NJ 07035

Contact:

Al Parinello, Executive Director
201-784-9526
www.theandykaufmanaward.com

Larry M. Weiner, APR
201-712-0019
www.larrymweiner.com



THE ANDY KAUFMAN AWARD™ ANNOUNCES 2009 WINNER

Blaine Kneece Receives Award for Outstanding Comedy Performance

(Saddle Brook, November 3) – After evaluating more than 100 comedy submissions from around the country, The Andy Kaufman Award announces the 2009 winner of its prestigious award. In a live performance held on November 3 at Carolines Comedy Club in New York, Blaine Kneece distinguished himself from a total of six finalists to secure the unique award.

Kneece's winning performance synthesized the use of surrealist video footage of himself, blurring the distinction between present moment reality and past tense. Kneece says of winning The Andy Kaufman Award, "I'm overwhelmed. Though I love many comedians, it was Andy Kaufman who pushed me into comedy." The winning comedian is 31 years old and a native of Philadelphia. He attended the Art Institute of Philadelphia and The Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute before joining Second City. "My artistic focus is to push the boundaries of what we accept as comedy," Kneece explains. "*Alternative comedy* is something that is not automatically funny. The term means to me someone who *is* being funny, but not in the usual preconceived format." As a result of winning The Andy Kaufman Award, Kneece hopes to pursue creative projects in film and television.

Blaine Kneece's performance was evaluated by a panel of judges including George Shapiro - Andy Kaufman's manager, and executive producer of "Seinfeld" and the biopic "Man on the Moon," Carol Kane - theater and film actress and Emmy Award winning star of "Taxi," Kristen Schaal, star of HBO's "Flight of the Conchords," correspondent for "The Daily Show" and previous winner of The Andy Kaufman Award, and Michael Kaufman, brother of Andy Kaufman.

The award criteria include scoring based on originality, creativity, execution and spirit. The criteria for winning are based on the uniqueness of Andy Kaufman's performance art. The criteria encourage comedians to take risks with an audience and to explore the definition of comedy from outside conventional thinking.

The announcement is made by Al Parinello, Executive Director of The Andy Kaufman Award. Parinello explains, "Many award shows present trophies to neophyte comics, but only The Andy Kaufman Award is coveted as the quintessential prize by serious contenders. The Andy Kaufman Award annual talent competition is defining and shaping the alternative comedy movement and the future of comedy. Andy Kaufman's legacy of creative genius is alive and permanently embedded in the movement."

Previous winners of The Andy Kaufman Award include Kristen Schaal, Reggie Watts, Brent Weinbach and Suzanne Whang. According to Parinello, "Our winners do more than put their trophies on coffee tables. They proudly show them off and talk about the personal meaning the award has for them. Winning this award bonds them with their comedy hero, Andy Kaufman."

Blaine Kneece and Al Parinello are available for interviews and further information. Photographs of Blaine Kneece are available for reproduction at www.theandykaufmanaward.com/pressroom

#