

# Cartoon comedian to perform at Barry's

By Robert Richardson  
Senior Reporter

If you've ever wondered what weird mind was behind those "Ozzy Fudd" comedy bits that have played on local radio stations, the answer can be found in Lincoln tonight.

Mark McCollum, the comedian who crossed Elmer Fudd with Ozzy Osbourne in order to "kill all the wabbits," will perform at Barry's Bar and Grill, 235 N. 9th St., tonight.

McCollum is a "Star Search" champion, a comedian with his own Showtime special and has appeared on the "Tonight Show."

For McCollum, a fifth-generation San Franciscan, entertaining came at a young age. He performed in a family band at weddings and bar mitzvahs before taking to another kind of stage — comedy.

Starting out at San Francisco comedy club The Holy City Zoo with the likes of Robin Williams and Dana Carvey, McCollum gained experience early. But there was something even more attractive about the atmosphere.



"There was no money involved, there was no big picture involved," McCollum said. "It was, wow, a stage, a stage. The first five minutes were magical. It was like, I found a

place where I'm not crazy. I just needed a place to vent. I'll never forget it, those were magical times."

Those were also early beginnings for McCollum. The comedy industry has changed and so has McCollum's act, which now includes music mixed with cartoon characters like Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Marvin the Martian and Elmer Fudd.

"It's kind of a climax of using the perspective that you can take something that's been around like Elmer Fudd and what would it be like if Elmer had a punk son," McCollum wondered. "And let's say he had a hit video on MTV: Ozzy Fudd, the Rabbit Slayer."

McCollum said he uses cartoon characters in his act because, for him, it's what works.

"Trying to be totally different doesn't really work," McCollum said. "What really works in



Courtesy of the Funny Bone Comedy Club  
Mark McCollum

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Natasha Richardson (left) and Rupert Everett (right) play vacationing lovers who meet a wealthy sociopath played by Christopher Walken in "The Comfort of Strangers."

## F/X sequel hits; Hawk takes dive

By Anne Steyer  
Senior Reporter

It's a hit-and-miss week for new releases. Bruce Willis' "Hudson Hawk" limps in to video stores, as does another brain-dead action flick from Steven Seagal.

Luckily, there are two movies worth watching this week.

"F/X 2" (PG-13) Bryan Brown and Brian Dennehy reprise their roles as movie special effects (F/X) wizard Rollie Tyler and cantankerous cop Leo McCarthy, respectively.

It's five years and 15 million dollars later from the first film. Tyler, now retired from his "F/X" business, spends his time designing and creating fantastic toys.

He is coaxed out of retirement by his girlfriend's ex-husband, who needs Tyler's special talents for an undercover police operation. As in the first film, things hit a snag and someone ends up dead.

Again following the original, McCarthy comes to the rescue, and together they work to outwit the mob. This time, the Vatican and some priceless gold coins are involved.

Throw in a psychotic hit man and an incredible, life-size, remote-control Clown, and "F/X 2" has a good mix of comedy and adventure.

Though not as original as the first film, "F/X 2" does have its moments. The special effects are good, and the story is interesting, albeit familiar. Dennehy and Brown work well together, and their relationship still is entertaining.

The critics unfairly panned it, but as pure escapist adventure, "F/X 2" fits the bill. (Available Thursday)

"Hudson Hawk" (R) Bruce Willis is the title character, a smirking, singing, thieving ex-con.

Hawk is a cat burglar who has recently been released from prison. He is hired by rich siblings to steal artworks by Leonardo Da Vinci and help them build a machine that will turn lead into gold.

Assisting Willis in these adventures is his pal Danny Aiello ("Moonstruck"), who even breaks into a schmaltzy song during one of the heists. Andie MacDowell ("Green Card") is the undercover agent from the Vatican.

A \$50 million flop, "Hudson

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## Violence, sex blanket film



"Comfort of Strangers"



By Mark Baldridge  
Staff Reporter

Though it's set in Italy, nearsighted viewers will be relieved to learn that "The Comfort of Strangers" (Ross) has no tiny subtitles to read. The film is in the very best English.

Harold Pinter is responsible for that. It's his screenplay, coupled with the beautiful settings of Venice, that makes the film fly. Pinter is well-known as a playwright ("The Dumbwaiter") with a masterful command of the language. If that makes you think of stuffy "classics," think again: Pinter's characters are the most inter-

esting and three-dimensional around. The film also boasts a powerful cast.

Christopher Walken plays Robert, a sinister Italian sociopath. Walken is an old hand at making audiences squirm. He's well within his forté here and operating with all the considerable resources at his command.

Natasha Richardson ("The Handmaid's Tale") plays Mary, a beautiful English actress on holiday with her handsome lover Colin (Rupert Everett). The two are trying to put their relationship in perspective to decide if it is worth continuing.

The young lovers meet — and eventually come to stay with — two strangers, Robert and his wife Caroline, played by Hellen Mirren. Robert and Caroline form a bizarre couple, bound by rituals of sex and violence.

The young Colin, perhaps vaguely aware of his hosts' attentions, becomes fascinated with the older couple. They are both magnetic in their own way, and seem strangely drawn to Colin and Mary.

The film is full of dark sexuality and violent non-sequesters. It is the

fault of Hollywood that violence is so often taken to mean a shotgun blast to the head. There is a violence in the world, and here in "The Comfort of Strangers," that has little to do with the ends of violence, death or pain. However, that is here as well.

There is more to sex here as well. Certainly more than Hollywood tells. Sexuality here has little to do with the act. Just as rape has nothing to do with sensuality, the sex in this movie is rather a symptom of something else.

The movie has some flaws. Characters are well-developed individually, but it is difficult to see what keeps Colin and Mary together, except, of course, sex.

Their growing fascination with the bizarre Robert lacks conviction. Sure, he's an interesting person, but Colin is disturbed far beyond what we are shown good reason for.

Still, "Comfort" is a beautiful film. It is beautiful with a slow-motion, underwater feel.

Violence lies heavy like a blanket in "The Comfort of Strangers," just beneath the surface of every action, every thought.

### Top Weekend Movies

November 15-17  
grosses nationwide

- 1 "Cape Fear" \$10.3 million
- 2 "Curly Sue" \$4.2 million
- 3 "All I Want For Christmas" \$3.3 million
- 4 "The People Under the Stairs" \$3 million
- 5 "Little Man Tate" \$2.2 million
- 6 "Billy Bathgate" \$1.9 million
- 7 "Other People's Money" \$1.8 million
- 8 "Highlander 2: The Quickening" \$1.58 million
- 9 "Strictly Business" \$1.57 million
- 10 "House Party 2" \$1.3 million