



Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

Media Release

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Hampton Roads Convention Center Hosts Actress and Comedienne Cocoa Brown June 21 for Laugh Through the Pain Comedy Show Fundraiser for Lupus & Fibromyalgia

Hampton, VA – Living with lupus and/or fibromyalgia is not a joke, but sometimes you have to laugh to keep from crying. Everyone could use a few good laughs to help ease the pain, and what better way to forget about all your problems than an evening of comedy with the hilarious Cocoa Brown.

On Friday, June 21, Newport News, Virginia native, Cocoa Brown, will be coming home to appear at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Virginia where she will

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headline the Laugh Through the Pain Comedy Show hosted by the Social Butterflies Foundation. Undeniably one of the most talented performers of this era, she is a force of nature captivating audiences across the globe with such passion and soul-searching veracity. Ms. Brown boldly draws from painful reminiscences and hard-knocked lessons, bravely weaving humorous tales that uplift, encourage and change everything you thought you knew about comedy. Cocoa Brown is known for her roles on the TV series 9-1-1, Tyler Perry's For Better or Worse, and in the movies The Single Mom's Club and Ted 2. Cocoa Brown headlined the successful "Shaquille O'Neal: All-Star Comedy Jam", on Showtime. She has released her comedy CD "One Funny Momma", which is available on iTunes. What drives the comic that female fans nationwide have nicknamed "The Truth"? The sheer will of a woman who has survived the worst life had to offer and is still standing.

Cocoa Brown is joining forces with Social Butterflies Foundation to raise awareness for lupus and fibromyalgia, two illnesses that receive little to no attention yet devastates many lives.

"When someone in the past heard the word 'lupus,' they immediately thought it was a death sentence. But it's not anymore, and it doesn't have to be!" Brown says. "Having two family members with this disease and seeing what it can do to one's body and mind made me realize this is a cause that I was destined to be a part of and support. I want to let the people who have this disease know you are not alone," she says.

The comedy show is the kickoff event for Butterfly Walk weekend. The Butterfly Walk for Lupus & Fibromyalgia takes place on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at John B Todd Stadium in Newport News, VA. Funds raised from the comedy show and walk are used

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to provide support groups, educational resources, emergency financial assistance, college scholarships, advocacy, and support research. Raising awareness and rallying public support is incredibly important for the estimated 195,000 Virginians living with lupus and/or fibromyalgia. Together we can make a difference!

The Social Butterflies Foundation was founded by lupus survivor, Chastity Corbett. A grassroots organization directly assisting people and families battling lupus and fibromyalgia, their mission is to provide education, support services, and encouragement to empower and uplift those living with these diseases, including emergency financial assistance.

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body (skin, joints, and/or organs) and affects more than 1.5 million Americans. Fibromyalgia is a condition associated with widespread chronic pain, fatigue, memory problems and mood changes. Fibromyalgia affects more than 10 million Americans. The majority of those living with lupus and/or fibromyalgia are women between the ages of 40 and 75, but men and children are also affected.

The Social Butterflies Foundation's first annual Laugh Through the Pain Comedy Show Fundraiser for Lupus & Fibromyalgia provides lupus and fibromyalgia survivors and their families the opportunity to come together for one unified purpose — to make these invisible illnesses visible. Joining Cocoa Brown on the stage is host and comedian Quincy Carr as well as comedians Allison Moore, Derrick Brookes, and Lerone Graham. Guests are guaranteed to laugh the night away.

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Tickets for the Laugh Through the Pain Comedy Show can be purchased online at www.laughthroughthepain.eventbrite.com. Ticket prices range from \$35 to \$70 with a meet and greet option. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and showtime is at 8:00 p.m. Reserve your seats before they're all sold out.

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.

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