

Sunday, April 15, 2007, 7pm
Zellerbach Hall

An Evening with Michael McKean



Reality at Arm's Length

Cal Performances' 2006–2007 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

About the Artist

Michael McKean

Michael McKean is a multi-talented actor, writer and director who has been associated with some of most iconographic popular films and television programs of the last three decades. He has appeared in dozens of movies and TV shows, creating a rogue's gallery of unusual and durable characters.

McKean studied acting at Carnegie Mellon University and New York University (with Olympia Dukakis) before traveling to Los Angeles to join Harry Shearer and David L. Lander in the satirical comedy troupe, *The Credibility Gap*.

In 1976, McKean and Lander achieved notoriety as Lenny and Squiggy on the hit TV series, *Laverne & Shirley*. Their extravagant behavior persisted for seven years, whereupon McKean segued into films.

McKean has shared screenwriting and composing credits for Steven Spielberg's *1941*, *Used Cars*, *Young Doctors in Love* and Rob Reiner's *This Is Spinal Tap*. His other film credits include *Clue*, *Light of Day*, *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*, *Coneheads*, *The Brady Bunch Movie*, *Jack*, *True Crime* and about 70 others, including Christopher Guest's *The Big Picture* (which he also co-wrote), *Best in Show*, *A Mighty Wind*, *For Your Consideration* and the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival gala film, *The Grand*.

On television, McKean has appeared as a regular on *Saturday Night Live*, *Dream On*, *Sessions* and *Tracey Takes On*, and acted as bandleader/straight man for Martin Short's *Primetime Glick* on Comedy Central.

Among his many TV guest appearances are *Friends*, *Murphy Brown*, *The Simpsons*, *The X-Files*, *Law & Order*, *Smallville* (as Perry White) and, most recently, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.

In 1999, Michael had the good sense to marry actress Annette O'Toole, with whom he wrote the Oscar-nominated song, "A Kiss at the End of the Rainbow," for *A Mighty Wind*. He also collaborated with Guest and Eugene Levy on the title song of that film, which won a Grammy Award.

McKean made his Broadway debut in 1990 in Rupert Holmes's *Accomplice*, which netted him a Theater World Award. After this, McKean made his Broadway musical debut in *Hairspray*, followed by Woody Allen's original stage production, *A Second Hand Memory*. Next came his debut at the Williamstown Theatre Festival's Main Stage in Tom Stoppard's *On the Razzle*. McKean then appeared in the successful Broadway revival of *The Pajama Game* with Harry Connick, Jr. before starring on London's West End in a new comedy, *Love Song*.