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Not so silent: Director Kevin Smith performs in Crystal Lake

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jkolkey@nwherald.com CRYSTAL LAKE - Silent Bob had plenty to talk about Sunday night at the Raue Center for the Arts during a decidedly R-rated show.

Kevin Smith, the **director** of "Clerks," "Dogma," and "Chasing Amy," who also plays the character Silent Bob in several of his movies, performed a stand-up comedy routine that played off questions from the audience.

Clad in a long trench coat, knee-length blue jean shorts, a navy-blue baseball jersey, and gym shoes without socks, **Smith** began his act with a dedication to a "man of peace."

"Because he fed the people and proved one little bald man could make a difference," **Smith** joked, "I would like to dedicate this show to Frank Purdue - the chicken magnate, without whom I wouldn't be here. Or, at least, I would be thinner."

McHenry resident Judy Irwin, who works in the marketing department for Centegra Health System, is the 34-year-old New Jersey native's aunt and was credited with recruiting her nephew for the show.

Irwin told the audience that the show would benefit the Raue Center and enable it to buy a \$20,000 commercial DVD player that could be used to show movies it otherwise would not have access to.

"So few of them are available on 35 millimeter these days," Irwin said. "We will be able to see wonderful films the way **directors** meant them to be seen. It is a great step forward for the Raue, and a step forward for film preservation."

In response to a question about his views on downloaded music and movies, **Smith** said he was not worried about the impact on his industry.

People who get a sneak peek at his movies usually also go to see them at the theater and still will buy his DVDs, he said.

"I'm not like that dude from Metallica," **Smith** said. "Only really a handful [download movies]. If everyone here downloaded 'Jersey Girl,' the movie still would have flopped."

He said "Jersey Girl," which starred Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez, could not overcome the immense failure of their other movie, "Gigli," and the cancellation of actors' wedding.

"It was like telling people, 'Hey, remember that movie that came out two months ago that you hated? Here's another one,'" **Smith** said.

Smith said he was working on a "Clerks" sequel, the independent movie that launched his career.

Much of his act focused on adult and sexual themes, that while mostly funny, probably was not for children.

"It was very educational for them - maybe too much," said Crystal Lake resident Ellen Morton who left the show with her husband and two sons about two hours into **Smith's** show. "It was pretty body."

Phil and Teresa Bellah made what they said was more than an hour-long trek to the Raue Center for the show from Crest Hill.

Phil Bellah said he identified with **Smith's** unique sense of humor, while his wife said she liked his comedic take on religious issues.

"A lot of people don't understand where he is coming from," Teresa Bellah said. "No religion has it all right. It is more of a combination."

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