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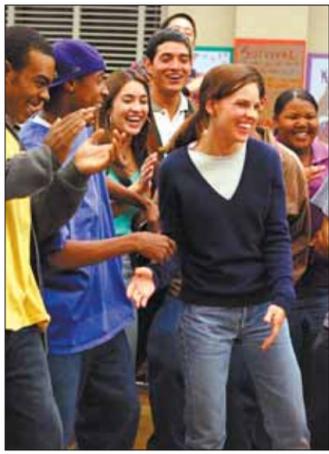


# Go!

Your guide to music, movies, festivals, the arts and anything else that's cool

SECTION **C**

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AP PHOTO  
Hilary Swank, right, stars as inspirational teacher Erin Gruwell in "Freedom Writers."

## You have already read 'Freedom Writers'

By PHIL VILLARREAL  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

In "Freedom Writers," Hilary Swank plays a bright-eyed, enthusiastic teacher who skips into a slummy, scummy school crawling with seemingly impenetrable gangster kids.

Through psychology and bizarre methods, the teacher whips them into academic wizards overnight.

The short-sighted, upstaged administration blocks the teacher's unorthodox methods at every turn but is no match for her intensity.

The predictable story manipulates you at every turn but fills you with so darn much inspiration that you hardly care.

So there you have "Freedom Writers," a movie you've seen plenty of times before but never mind. If the trailer makes you want to watch the whole thing, you'll surely have a good time.

Set in the early 1990s in the Los Angeles area, "Freedom Writers" is a tribute to teacher Erin Gruwell, who, when confronted with dangerous minds in this blackboard jungle, stands and delivers so well that Mr. Chips would be proud. The screenplay is inspired by "The Freedom Writers Diaries," a book compiled from journals kept by Gruwell's students.

Director Richard LaGravenese ("Living Out Loud") presents a straightforward, emotionally blunt drama.

He copies his predecessors while adding a twist or two of his own. For once, the obsessed, triumphant teacher, who is usually single or graced with a patient and supportive significant other, pays consequences in her personal life.

Two-time best actress Oscar winner Swank stars as Gruwell.

She solves all her problems with elbow grease and generosity. When the department head won't lend her books, she buys some on her own. When she runs out of money to buy learning aids and pay for field trips, she takes a second job. When that money is not enough, she gets a third job. And loses a husband (Patrick Dempsey).

She breaks through to the students because she treats them with respect rather than lashing out at them with fear.

**MOVIE REVIEW**

'Freedom Writers'

Rating: PG-13 for violent content, some thematic material and language

Stars: 2½ out of four



SUBMITTED PHOTOS  
Lord Carrett will perform Monday and Wednesday through Sunday at One-Liners Comedy Club. His show is rated R but isn't overly offensive, Carrett says.

# Long live The King

Comedy club marks Elvis' birth with laughs, music

By ANNETTE JONES  
DAILY JOURNAL FEATURES EDITOR  
ajones@thejournalnet.com

**F**ans of The King won't want to miss the All Things Elvis show honoring the icon's birthday at One-Liners Comedy Club in Greenwood.

The show at 7 p.m. Monday, on the 72nd anniversary of Presley's birthday, promises Elvis jokes, Elvis hair and Elvis music.

One-Liners owner Dave "The King" Wilson will provide the Elvis jokes, and comedian Lord Carrett has the hair. Rockabilly band Bigger Than Elvis, fronted by Big Danny Thompson, will supply music at the open and close of the program.

Admission to All Things Elvis is \$11 plus a two-item minimum.

The show will bring together three friends in Wilson, Carrett and Thompson.

"They are my best friends in comedy," Carrett says. "We're like the rat pack."

"All Things Elvis" will mark Carrett's 12th appearance at One-Liners. In addition to Monday's performance, he will take the stage Wednesday through Sunday at the comedy club. His show is rated R.

Carrett describes his act as tasteful.

He doesn't go so far as to call himself a clean comic, but good taste is a trend in comedy, according to a Wall Street Journal article that featured Carrett.

"Comedy is theater, and there may be times when I go there," he says of not-so-clean jokes.

But his show isn't overly offensive, he says.

"My act doesn't get watered down on radio," says



Big Danny Thompson is the lead singer of rockabilly band Bigger Than Elvis. The group will perform during the All Things Elvis show at One-Liners Comedy Club in Greenwood.

Carrett who recently made his 16th appearance on the "Bob and Tom Show."

Comedy is tragedy plus time, Carrett says. He calls Johnny Carson one of his biggest influences.

He remembers a Carson joke about the Lincoln assassination. When the audience groaned, Carson said, "What, it's too soon?"

Like Carson, Carrett always has recovery jokes prepared in case a joke falls flat. Many of his shticks stem from his rough childhood and his failed marriages.

In one anecdote, he describes moving to New York years ago to start life with his new wife. He sold everything he owned to finance the move.

After unpacking, his wife insisted that no one stores boxes in New York, so he threw away \$200 worth of packing cartons.

Weeks later when his wife asked for a divorce because she "wanted her life back," he said, "I want my boxes back."

**IF YOU GO**

**All Things Elvis**

When: 7 p.m. Monday

Where: One-Liners Comedy Club, 50 Airport Parkway, Greenwood

Performers: Comedians Dave "The King" Wilson and Lord Carrett and rockabilly band Bigger Than Elvis

Admission: \$11 plus two-item minimum

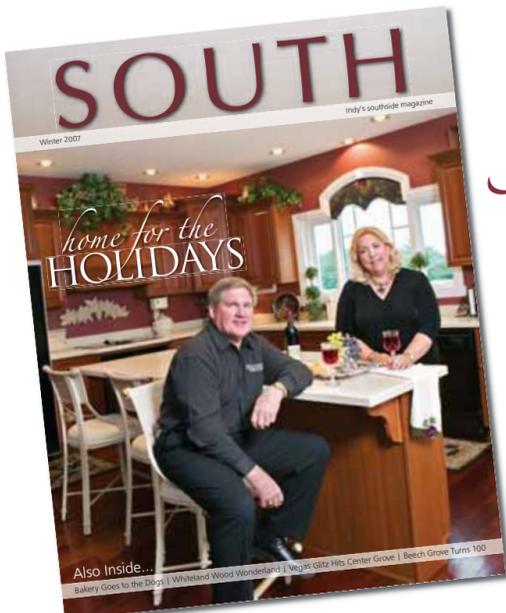
**Lord Carrett**

When: 7 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday, 8 and 10:15 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 6:30 Sunday

Where: One-Liners Comedy Club, 50 Airport Parkway, Greenwood

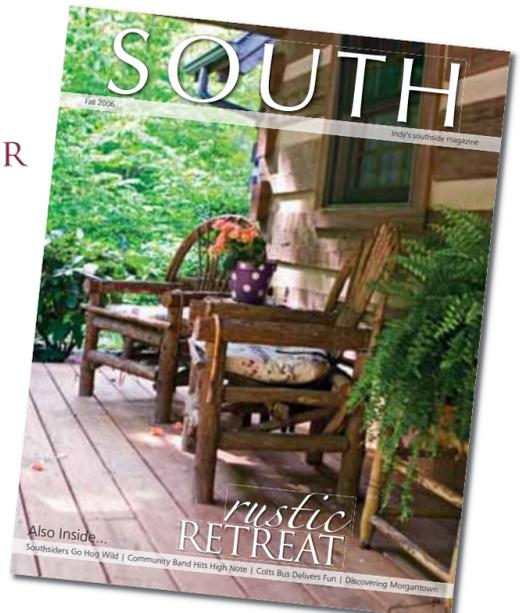
Admission: \$11 plus a two-item minimum



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