

# Billy Gardell

## Star Of The CBS Hit Comedy Mike And Molly

The Fall Season 2011 for TIPAFA at the Clayton Opera House continues on Friday, October 14, 2011 at 7:30 with Billy Gardell: Halftime. Tickets are \$35 reserved and \$30 for general admission.

Gardell's live stand-up comedy performances play off his rough childhood, wild adolescence and new family life. His routine is executed with the skill of a master craftsman and serves as a continuation of his dedication to acting. This stand-up tour has allowed him to grow as a comedian and strengthen his acting skills at the same time. His grounded, down-to-earth point of view hits a strong chord with American audiences.

In addition to Gardell's success on the CBS hit comedy Mike and Molly, where he plays Officer Mike Biggs, his recent special on Comedy Central aired his debut of Billy Gardell: Halftime. Born and bred in Pittsburgh, Pa., Gardell built a name for himself the old-fashioned way, stopping at any small town honky-tonk, military base or comedy club where he could find a live audience. His career flourished early, headlining some clubs before he was legal at the door. His Hollywood career began with regular guest appearances on My Name is Earl, The Practice, Yes Dear, Monk, Judging Amy and Desperate Housewives, as well as a co-starring role in the critically acclaimed FX series Lucky. On the big screen, Gardell made his film debut alongside Anthony Quinn and Sylvester Stallone in Avenging Angelo and afterwards scored a rather memorable scene with Billy Bob Thornton in the Cohen Brother's Bad Santa. TIPAFA-sponsored performances continue through the fall with folk pop legend Jonathan Edwards on

November 11 and "Charlie Brown Christmas" jazz pianist David Benoit on December 15.

For ticket information and details about how TIPAFA Patrons get the best seats in the house, call the Clayton Opera House box office at 315-686-2200. Further information is also available at claytonoperahouse.com.



Billy Gardell



### TOP DVD RENTALS AND SALES

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#### Top 10 DVD Sales

1. **Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG-13)** (Lions Gate)
2. **Sons of Anarchy: Season Three (NR)** (Fox)
3. **Laugh to Keep From Crying (NR)** (Lions Gate)
4. **Rio (PG)** (Fox)
5. **Vampire Diaries: The Complete Second Season (NR)** (Warner)
6. **Soul Surfer (PG)** (Sony)
7. **House: Season Seven (NR)** (Universal)
8. **Phineas and Ferb The Movie: Across the 2nd Dimension (G)** (Buena Vista)
9. **Dexter: The Fifth Season (N/R)** (Showtime)
10. **Priest (PG-13)** (Sony)

#### Top 10 VIDEO Rentals

1. **Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG-13)** Tyler Perry
2. **Priest (PG-13)** Paul Bettany
3. **Something Borrowed (PG-13)** Ginnifer Goodwin
4. **Rio (PG)** animated
5. **Paul (R)** Simon Pegg
6. **Limitless (PG-13)** Bradley Cooper
7. **Blitz (R)** Jason Statham
8. **Your Highness (R)** Danny McBride
9. **Soul Surfer (PG)** AnnaSophia Robb
10. **The Lincoln Lawyer (R)** Matthew McConaughey

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# GAME CONNOISSEUR

## VIDEO GAMES AND MUSIC

---CONNOR PELKEY

I'm Connor. I'm a college student. I have almost no money, one console (a Wii) and a subpar computer to game with. But I am still a gamer, and I will have my gaming! I am also a musician, so I am attracted to games with good music. Recently I've come across a few inexpensive games on Steam (a digital distribution service for games) that have pretty awesome music to go with great game-play. The only thing that sometimes suffers is the graphics, but when you're on a tight budget, gameplay and music are the deciding force.

The first game I would like to highlight, Terraria, was released in May 2010. It's not exactly new, but the way the developers constantly update it, it feels new every few months. Graphically, it looks like a 16-bit era side-scroller. The sprites themselves look like the battle sprites from Final Fantasy II and III for the good old Super NES.

Nostalgia aside, the soundtrack is quite outstanding. It combines synthetic "bleeps and bloops" with a more modern orchestra sound, and for each of the "biomes" there is a unique theme. For instance, in this game you can dig yourself a hole down to "hell", and as you dig deeper the music gets more mysterious. Soon you're running for your less-than-well-gear'd digital life, fleeing from demons who want nothing more than to see you burn in the oceans of lava while the creepiest orchestra you've ever heard plays.

You can also get some friends involved by running your own server, which extends play time and makes raiding the dungeon a lot more fun! Best part: it's \$9.99 on Steam. Though, you have to find a wrapper-program to play it on Mac, sorry Mac-users!

Spiral Knights was released around the same time as Terraria and is equally addicting, free-to-play (no subscription fees here!) and Mac-friendly.

This game is even more retro in some respects than Terraria. It offers a Massively Multiplayer Online RPG (MMORPG) format with "hack-'n'-slash" gameplay. Those familiar with the Legend of Zelda or Gauntlet series can draw comparisons.

The soundtrack is a lot more nostalgic than Terraria in the way it makes you feel, as it doesn't have the quirkiness that Terraria's offers. It's basically an old console-era soundtrack with added realistic orchestration that just hooks onto your brain and refuses to leave, and also makes the boss battles amazingly epic.

The GUI (graphical user interface) is isometric 3D, so you need a bit of a better computer to run it, but if you have a computer that's less than two years old (even with stock graphics cards) then you should be able to play it just fine.

One thing you must be aware about Spiral Knights if you choose to play is that the world changes in real time, and every 24 hours you get 100 Mist Energy, which is required to do a lot of things in the world. This restricts your playtime unless you are willing to pay for it, which is good and bad. I like this aspect because I sometimes lose myself in games with a social aspect like Spiral Knights, so the restricted game play per day is quite welcome!

That's all from me for this month, even if you don't get to play either of these games, do some YouTube searching for their soundtracks to listen to you just may find yourself drawn in.

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Connor Pelkey is this month's guest reviewer. He is a Senior "Business Administration" major and "Music Business" minor at SUNY Potsdam. He is working on the sound for an indie iOS (iPhone Operating System) game and a contributing "Re-Mixer" for OverClocked ReMix, a community dedicated to promoting the art of video game music.

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