

# New England Agency opens second Queen City Comedy Venture!

**CHUCKLE ALERT:** North Shore Productions unveils new stand-up comedy club at Manchester's Clarion Hotel.

By **JULIA ANN WEEKES**  
NH Weekend Editor

**A**fter coaxing chuckles from crowds for several years at The Chateau Restaurant on Hanover Street, Rob Steen, owner of North Shore Comedy Productions, is set to expand his comedic Queen-City base with a new venture that will be unveiled this weekend at the Clarion Hotel on Front Street.

The grand opening of the Headliners Comedy Club will take place Saturday at 8 p.m., when Steen, a Manchester native who has performed his stand-up routines on Comedy Central and MTV and appeared on "America's Funniest People" on ABC and "World's Funniest Home Videos" on the Fox Network, will join fellow funnyman Robby Prinz, a Nashua native who has appeared on Comedy Central, NBC, MTV and A&E, on the new downtown stage.

Steen plans on offering comedy shows at the Clarion every Saturday night from September through December, with the hope of adding stand-up acts on Fridays next year, as well as resuming temporarily halted shows at the Chateau.

"I started (offering shows at) the Chateau in 2001," said Steen. "We created a niche and after a couple years, people really came out and supported us. Manchester never really had a comedy club and I think we did a great job giving the patrons a great show."

Calling the fare similar to what audiences would see in bigger cities like Boston — without the traffic and parking nightmares — Steen said North Shore Productions continues to fill a void in Southern New Hampshire.

"Manchester has plenty of places for bands, dancing, movies and concerts," he said. "I know (it) can support a comedy club. You need the right people behind you to make it work. I have been very lucky to have the Chateau, and now, hopefully, the Clarion, too, will serve as a great place to see comedy."

Steen said shows at the Hanover location are on hold while renovations are done to the venue's entertainment room.

"We have a great customer base (that has) really been there from the start, not to mention the owner of

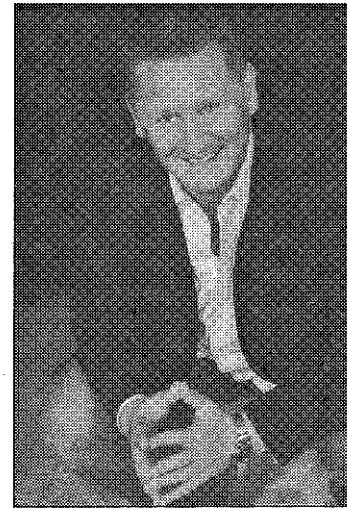
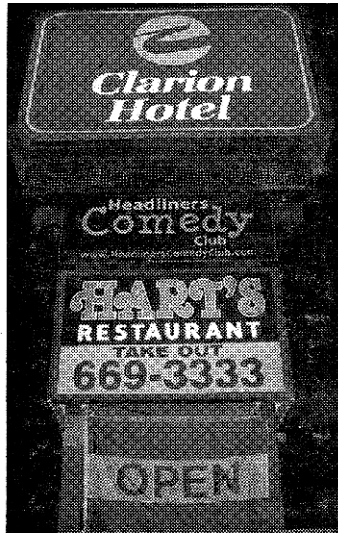


PHOTO COURTESY OF KATE BROWN

**Comedian Rob Steen, who has been offering comedy shows at The Chateau Restaurant on Hanover Street since 2001, will open his latest venture, Headliners Comedy Club, at the Clarion Hotel on Front Street, this weekend.**

the Chateau has always been great to work with," Steen said. "I plan on keeping the Chateau going as well, once the showroom is repaired from a flood we had last spring."

Steen said Headliners Comedy Club, which takes over the space once occupied by Hooter's restaurant, will accommodate a larger crowd than the more intimate Chateau space.

"At the Chateau, the showroom was only 90 seats and this location has 140 to 160 seats, not to mention being right on the Amoskeag rotary in the Clarion Hotel, which has been completely remodeled," he said. "It has Harts Turkey Farm Restaurant as well as great signage. I feel that with all the traffic (passing by) we should do quite well."

"The owners of the Clarion have been working on this with me for about three years now," Steen added. "They really wanted to make use of the function room. I hope to grow into Fridays as well after the New Year and maybe create a full-time comedy club in New

Hampshire, which has never been (done)."

Steen plans to target a wide demographic, with patrons ranging from about 25 to 50.

"This new club's headliners will all have TV credits, which is different that most clubs," he said. "Many of the acts have been on 'Letterman,' Comedy Central, 'Conan O'Brien' and more."

North Shore Comedy Productions has been providing entertainment throughout the Northeast for the past two decades and is one of the longest-running comedy agencies in New England. The company includes a roster of about 300 comics, many of whom have been on such TV Shows as "Late Show With Dave Letterman," MTV and Comedy Central.

"Some of the comedians who have worked in our many clubs include Dane Cook, Anthony Clark, Lenny Clark, Steve Sweeney, Bob Marley, Kevin Meany, Don Gavin, Joe Rogan, George Carlin, Dave Attel, Tom Cotter and Tony V, to name a few," Steen said. "With our main clubs at The Clarion in Manchester and Jokers in Portland, Maine, not to mention nearly 50 other shows per week (booked) at more than 150 locations all over the northeast, North Shore Comedy Inc. and [www.RENTACOMIC.com](http://www.RENTACOMIC.com) has solidified its base and position as the recognized leader among its competition."

For more information, call 669-2660 or log onto [www.HeadlinersComedyClub.com](http://www.HeadlinersComedyClub.com). Cover will vary from \$15 to \$20 for Saturday evening shows.



COMEDIAN ROBBY PRINZ