

Tulane 'stands up' for Tig Notaro's stand-up

October 07, 2015 12:00 PM Claire Davenport
newwave@tulane.edu



Tig Notaro shot to stardom as a comedian after she was blindsided by a health crisis and the death of her mother, a New Orleanian, in 2012. The documentary *Tig* (2015) chronicles the surprising results that ensued when she chose to confront “the worst four months of her life” head-on through her comedy. An HBO comedy special called “Tig Notaro: Boyish Girl Interrupted” was released in August 2015. She got laughs and cheers from Tulane students and community members during her performance in McAlister Auditorium on Tuesday (Oct. 6). (Photo by Scott McDermott/HBO)

Tig Notaro is not the type of comedian to stick to a script during her stand-up. For most of her show in McAlister Auditorium on the Tulane University uptown campus Tuesday (Oct. 6), she interacted with the audience.

“Is the girl from Whole Foods in the audience?” Notaro shouted at one point into the crowd. “Thanks for letting me know where to go for my performance.”

At the end of her show, she shook her head and laughed at the standing ovation she received.

“Sit down guys please, I’m just a normal person â? here, you can touch my arm,” she said, reaching out into the crowd.

Notaro may call herself “just a normal person,” but she has achieved national recognition as a comedian. She is on *Rolling Stone*’s “List of 50 Funniest People in America,” and appeared on many comedy shows including “The Sarah Silverman Project” and “Conan O’Brien.”

While known for her stand-up, she is known for addressing heavier topics through humor. In her Grammy-nominated recording “Live,” Notaro jokes about the roughest month of her life, when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in both breasts and her mother died. Instead of acting like these events weren’t happening, she openly talks about them in her comedy show.

Notaro connects to people by being an open person and making fun of herself. If the continuous laughter and cheering was any indication, it seems Notaro connected with the Tulane audience. In one story she told on the Tulane stage, she talked about her debut on a show when she was accidentally introduced as a man.

The [Forum Tulane](#) event was sponsored by Tulane University Campus Programming, the Newcomb-Tulane College Office of Cocurricular Programs, Newcomb College Institute, the Office of Gender and Sexual Diversity, and the Center for Public Service.

Claire Davenport is a sophomore at Tulane University, majoring in English and political science.