



To purchase Reggie Watts' new CD/DVD set, "Reggie Watts: A Live at Central Park," visit reggiewatts.com.

Oddities take center stage on Reggie Watts' live CD/DVD

By JAKE SORICH
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Nationally heralded comedian and Great Falls native Reggie Watts is no stranger to the absurd, and his newest CD/DVD release is a perfect example.

"Half what I do is all about confusing people so the more people who are confused, I'm certain about what I'm doing and the better it is for me," Watts said.

"Reggie Watts: A Live at Central Park" was recorded at Summerstage in Manhattan's Central Park in 2011 and contains his best new songs and comedic stories. Using nothing but his voice, a keyboard and a looping machine, Watts creates impromptu songs on topics ranging from reggae to sex.

The CD features 13 tracks and the DVD includes many of those same tracks with a skit interwoven between stage sets. During that skit, Watts tries to determine if his performance in the park was real or just a dream.

This release features many of the oddities Watts' fans have come to expect — vocal gyrations, looping, dancing and beatboxing.

The Great Falls High grad recently finished up a solo spring tour through 13 U.S. cities. Watts said he was pleased with the turnout and is looking forward to performing at several larger festivals this summer.

"(The tour) was about 94 percent sold out so it felt really good to do it," he said. "I'm very happy to be a part of something that was an idea that actually turned out all right. That's not always the case."

He has worked with a wide variety of comedians, musicians and actors such as Jon Stewart, Ben Stiller, Conan O'Brien, Coldplay and Regina Spektor.

In his "Reggie Makes Music" online video series, he's appeared with Jon Hamm, Michael Cera, Zach Galifianakis and Will Forte.

Watts said he enjoys working with other creative people because it allows them to learn from one another while sharing their talents.

"It's amazing because you get to learn new things, and you have to be open to new ideas and communicate ideas you have," he said. "That's always a great feeling — to build something with a team of people."

One of Watts' calling cards is his large afro, featured in graphic styling on the cover of his new album. Wearing his hair in unique ways has long been a part of his personality, going all the way back to his days at Great Falls High.

Also the former front man for Seattle rock outfit Mak-tub, Watts and his band have released five albums.

Watts said he will come back to Great Falls for some family time this winter. He said he's proud to call Great Falls home and tries to get back as much as he can.

"It's the perfect city to be from," he said.