

THE KANSAS CITY STAR | WWW.KANSASCITY.COM | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2013 3

The weekend starts here

KC class clown is now a comic

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Justin Williams returns home to record his first comedy album.

Justin Williams is the lifelong new kid. He grew up with divorced parents, bouncing back and forth between new schools and neighborhoods in Kansas City and Lee's Summit. Laughter was his ice breaker.

"Class clown," he says. "It was an easy way to make friends. I used to get in trouble for talking in class, but people like to laugh."

Those jokes led to a comedy career, and on Saturday he'll record his first album, "Justin Williams: Kansas City Masterpiece," at the RecordBar.

As a teen, he lived across the street from Southeast High School in Kansas City but attended Lee's Summit North. He never felt he had one place where he belonged. He found a comfort zone in comedy.

"It's an important experience," he says. "I come from a family of funny women; my aunts are hilarious. And I observe everyone and get a sense of what makes people tick. I can understand someone who lives in Raymore the same way I understand someone on 39th and Prospect."

His inspirations aren't new-school comics like Kevin Hart. He studies Richard Pryor and

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Saturday

Justin Williams will perform his stand-up act from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday at the RecordBar, 1020 Westport Road. Tickets are \$7 at therecordbar.com.

For more, visit justinwilliamscomedy.com.

FROM THE ARTIST

NO-GUARANTEED FORECAST

FRIDAY
▲ 39 ▼ 30

Sunny

SATURDAY
▲ 45 ▼ 26

Partly cloudy

SUNDAY
▲ 31 ▼ 15

Mostly cloudy

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