

CULTURE

TV's Dr. Lori brings appraisal expertise to Novi show

By Malissa Martin
For Digital First Media

Lori Verderame fell in love with antiques at a young age. As a child, she would spend weekends visiting yard sales, antique shops and flea markets with her father, who encouraged her to understand the art of antique appraisals. She took that love all the way to a doctorate in art history, museum studies, antiques and appraisals, which she earned at Penn State University. Now she appears on TV as Dr. Lori, an expert for Fox Business Network and Discovery Channel's "Auction Kings."

The famed antique appraiser brings her skills to the Novi Home Improvement Show this weekend at the Suburban Collection Showplace.

The author of "An Amer-

ican Sculptor" and the upcoming title "Don't Host a Yard Sale" has been appraising items for decades, and appraises 20,000 objects a year at 150 events worldwide annually. What she loves most is the stories she hears and learning about the items with her audience, she said in an email interview last week.

Ever the show-woman, she will host "Dr. Lori's Antiques Appraisal Comedy Show" on the Inspiration stage in Novi, and says is excited to return to this year's show. For guests, she will appraise one item for free, with additional appraisals at \$25 per item. She recommends bringing pictures if an item cannot be physically brought to the show.

Dr. Lori uses many factors to determine an item's worth. The most important



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. LORI VERDERAME

Antiques appraiser Dr. Lori Verderame of Discovery Channel's "Auction Kings" will bring her skills to the Novi Home Improvement Show.

item is a sales record of the price someone else paid for a similar object. She says an object isn't valuable until someone swipes a credit

IF YOU GO

- Novi Home Improvement Show
- Jan. 29-31
- Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi.
- Dr. Lori's Antique Appraisal Show on Inspiration stage.
- Dr. Lori's show times: 3 and 6 p.m. Friday; 1 and 4 p.m. Saturday; and noon and 3 p.m. Sunday.
- Adult admission \$10, senior citizens \$9, children 12 and younger free (parking extra).
- Online: drlori.com, novihomeshow.com.

card, writes a check or pays cash for that object.

"I don't toss around numbers like other appraisers do, I tell you the truth and show

you how to sell your stuff at top dollar," Dr. Lori said.

She can authenticate objects dating back to ancient times. She helps collectors learn more about the history of rare things and their values.

Determining value can be tricky if the item is one of a kind. For example, the most unusual item Dr. Lori ever had to authentic was President George Washington's wallet. She appraised the wallet's value at \$100,000. The highest value appraisal Dr. Lori has ever given was \$2 million for Napoleon Bonaparte's gem-encrusted good luck charm from the Battle of Waterloo. The owner at that time had traded it for a set of golf clubs. Not only will Dr. Lori give free appraisals at the home show, she also will share valuable tips on selling

and maintaining antiques.

"In addition to the free appraisals, I will teach you many tricks of the trade at my appraisal event," she said. "I will teach you how to sell for top dollar, how to avoid antique scams, how to identify valuable antiques, art, collectibles from all places and all time periods, show you how to preserve all types of items, etc."

The Pennsylvania resident is no stranger to Michigan. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in history and remains a proud Wolverine. Besides her regular gigs appearing on "Auction Kings" and FOX Business Network, she has been featured on "The Tonight Show," "Anderson LIVE," "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and a host of other shows.

Gibbons

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ing those Afro-Cuban flavors with his razor-sharp rock guitar, blues and R&B — not to mention the ZZ Top sense of humor on songs such as "You're What's Happenin', Baby," "Pickin' Up Chicks on Downing Street" and the title track. He also covers Slim Harpo ("Got Love If You Want It") and Lightnin' Hopkins ("Baby Please Don't Go") and jams out with pals such as Mike Flanigan, Martin Guigui, Chino Pons and the Cubano Nationale Beat Generator percussion troupe.

"It was kind of refreshing to actually be stepping beyond the trio that everyone knows as ZZ Top," Gibbons says. "All of the different musicians played a big part in creating something very different."

Now he's doing that on the road with his group,

The BFGs. Though he had to postpone the start of the tour, Gibbons is out and about, even making good on that Havana Jazz Festival invitation during December. And while "Perfectamundo" is the star of the show, fans will certainly get their dose of ZZ Top, too.

"I spoke to Jimmy Page. I said, 'Well, when Robert Plant went out and when you went out, how heavy was the demand for Led Zeppelin tunes?'" Gibbons says. "And Jimmy goes, 'Put on your seat belt. It's gonna be there.' So I think just to have some fun we'll give ZZ another peculiar twist, this time taking it toward the straits of Florida or something."

And what of ZZ Top? Gibbons is already planning more solo releases, but he promises that lil' ol' band from Texas is alive and well, too, and will deliver a follow-up to 2012's Rick Rubin-produced "La Futura" in, well, the near future.

ENTERTAINMENT

Meadow Brook Music Festival renamed Amphitheatre

By Nicole M. Robertson
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The Meadow Brook Music Festival in Rochester Hills has been renamed Meadow Brook Amphitheatre in keeping with its nature.

"The venue has great history and has played host to some of the best emerging superstar talent," Dennis Mannion, president and CEO of Palace Sports & Entertainment, said in a media release. "This rebrand further defines its true identity as one of the premier, intimate venues in the region."

On the campus of Oakland University, the amphitheater's small size and bucolic setting make it a favorite spot to see an outdoor concert, hosting such diverse fare as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, folk



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS SCHWEGLER

Meadow Brook Music Festival has been renamed Meadow Brook Amphitheatre.

acts such as The Chieftans, rockers Robert Plant and Lenny Kravitz, comedians such as Jim Gaffigan and the legendary jazz pairing last year of Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga.

Among confirmed artists

for the 2016 summer concert season are British rock band The 1975 (May 21) and Canadian rocker Bryan Adams (July 23) — both on sale now — and Grammy winner Ray LaMontagne on July 26. Tickets go on sale March 4.

Emerging talents selling out last year included Irish singer-songwriter Hozier, violinist Lindsey Stirling and Twenty One Pilots, which brings its "EMOTIONAL ROADSHOW" tour this summer to DTE Energy Music Theatre on June 3.

Also, singer-songwriter Andy Grammer will headline the OU Student Program Board's spring concert April 15, with Brooklyn-based indie pop band Oh Honey, and '90s alternative revival band COIN.

PS&E has managed the 7,700-capacity amphitheatre since 1994 and recently renewed a 10-year operational and management agreement with Oakland University. The company has invested in the facilities, adding more seats and building a new concessions facility as well as improving the sound system.

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