By Jim Knowles

San Leandro Times

Coming up next week will be the biggest comedy show to ever hit San Leandro, not counting the city council meetings.

San Leandran Brian Copeland is just the beginning of a cast of comedy stars who will take the stage at the Bal Theatre on the night of Friday, Oct. 12. Veterans comedians Will Durst, Johnny Steele, Bob Sarlatte and Arroyo High grad Mark Pitta will perform, and a surprise guest will take the stage, who the promoters say they are required to keep secret, but they promise it's a big star in the comedy world.

The "Stand Up for Davis Street" show is a benefit for the Davis Street Family Resource Center, a family service agency on Teagarden Street.

Durst is a political satirist with a blue-collar outlook who has a knack for finding the absurdities in politics and human nature. The native of Milwaukee, who has performed in front of presidents

Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush, had a one-man show off-Broadway that got rave reviews in the *New York Times.*

Bob Sarlatte has appeared numerous times on Letterman where he originally worked as a comedy writer. He's done radio and TV work and appeared in several films, and was the 49ers on-field announcer.

Sarlatte is a mainstay as the host of many Bay Area charity events and annual banquets, and he's one of the original members of the musical-comedy group Butch Whacks and the Glass Packs.

Johnny Steele comments on social issues in the vein of Mort Sahl or Lenny Bruce. The East Bay native hails from Pittsburg and he changed his name from Lopez to Steele in homage to the town's steel mill.

Steele had a one-man show a few years ago, a 70-minute monologue to appeal to an audience that appreciates a more thoughtful approach to comedy, not the typical genital jokes that have become routine at suburban comedy clubs.

Copeland's successful show, "Not a Genuine Black Man," was based on his experiences growing up in San Leandro in the '70s and became the longest-running one-man show in San Francisco, playing for over two years at the Marsh Theater. Copeland is also a radio talk-show host and author.

Tickets for the show at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 12, are $40 for general admission, or $100 for VIP seating, which includes admission to the after-party with the comedians. Tickets are available at the Davis Street Family Resource Center, 3081 Teagarden St., or the Bal Theatre box office, 14808 East 14th St., website www.baltheatre.com.

CAPTION: Comedian Mark Pitta, an Arroyo High grad, will be one of the performers at the comedy show for Davis Street.