

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **POLITICAL PARODY DISCUSSED AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER** *As part of the Constitution Culture Club series*

PHILADELPHIA, PA (June 8, 2006) – Today, a growing number of Americans get their news – as well as some good laughs – from television programs such as “The Daily Show” with Jon Stewart and “The Colbert Report” with anchor Stephen Colbert. On Thursday, June 22 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., the National Constitution Center’s Constitution Culture Club will discuss political parody, its growing role in the national political debate, and its move into the mainstream. Admission is FREE, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700. The Culture Club is limited to 45 people on a first-come, first-served basis.

In the not so distant past, political parody was often relegated to fringe publications such as *The Onion*, the late-night sketches of “Saturday Night Live,” or monologues by Johnny Carson, David Letterman, and Jay Leno. Comedy has always had a role in political discussion, and how a President is depicted has been a bell weather of his public standing. Recently, “The Daily Show” and “The Colbert Report” have brought news parody to the forefront. These immensely popular shows feature news anchors who not only serve as comic relief, but are also considered legitimate commentators.

The Constitution Culture Club meets monthly to discuss the current constitutional issues we encounter in our daily lives through the lens of new books, film, television, theater, and other cultural activities. Similar to a traditional book club, participants will be expected to have experienced the subject of the month before attending. Culture Club events are free of charge and open to the public.

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## ADD ONE/POLITICAL PARODY CULTURE CLUB

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and debates, and is a partner of NPR's "Justice Talking," a program of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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