COMEDY REVIEW

Sykes hard charging and hilarious at Peace Center

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As the zesty Fall for Greenville festival was winding down outside the Peace Center Sunday night, wildly witty Wanda Sykes was cranking up the laughs inside the concert hall.

Sykes, a veteran standup comedienne and TV/film actress, entertained a near-capacity crowd with risque tales drawn from her own life as the wife of a French woman with young twins.

Sykes, with bountiful energy and snarky confidence, breezed through an 80-minute set, touching on topics ranging from politics to tattoos, relationships, racial stereotypes, growing older, digestive challenges, beleaguered parenthood and learning French.

Through it all, Sykes was a ball of fire.

She spent a few minutes arguing with her own belly — a gruff-voiced entity known as Esther — over the ethics of patronizing Chick-fil-A.

An ardent Barack Obama supporter, Sykes suggested that many of the president's opponents simply don't like his unusual name. But she pointed out that Obama's ideological adversaries have equally odd names — like Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney.

"I'm 48 and I've never met a Mitt," Sykes said. "A Mitt Romney sounds like a drink for a wealthy businessman. Bartender, I'll have a Mitt Romney."

Comedian Keith Robinson, opening for Sykes in smooth fashion, said something's wrong in a country where "it's easier to get an assault rifle than it is to get some Claritin-D."

He warned the crowd that the evening's entertainment would be blue and politically incorrect: "Don't be sensitive," he said.

He needn't have worried. The diverse, youngish crowd was primed for fun — and found it in abundance.

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