

Drew the Draw: 14,000 tickets not enough

Carey show to pass out 5,000 more tomorrow

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PLAIN DEALER TELEVISION AND RADIO CRITIC

About 14,000 free tickets were given away Monday and Tuesday for this Sunday's filming of a "Drew Carey Show" episode at the Browns' new stadium. It wasn't enough.

There were still plenty of fans clamoring to go to Drew's party. So, starting at 1 p.m. tomorrow,

5,000 more free tickets will be available at the stadium's Northern Enclosure Lakeside ticket windows.

And when these are gone, that's all, folks. No tickets will be available at the stadium when filming starts Sunday morning.

"People were camping out at 8



Carey

a.m. Monday morning," said Tina Kerr, extras casting director for "The Drew Carey Show."

"And we didn't start giving tickets away until 1 p.m. That's how crazy it was. We had people calling from Tennessee and West Virginia for tickets.

"We felt bad turning people away Tuesday evening, so we wanted to give them one more chance. Once again, tickets will be limited to five per person."

A native of Old Brooklyn, Carey

is bringing his hit situation comedy to Cleveland for an episode about the return of the Browns. Open to all ages, filming at the stadium will begin at 8 a.m. Sunday and continue until about 8 that night.

Doors open at 7 in the morning, and filming will take place rain or shine. Ticket holders are being asked to dress in "their Browns best."

"We want to capture the feel of an actual game," Kerr said.

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Dawgs run ahead of pack for chance to see Drew

CAREY FROM 1-A

"Tickets are required to get in, but nobody has to plan on being there all day. They can show up when they want and stay for as long as they want."

Kerr and the Drew crew were hoping that they could give away 5,000 free tickets Monday and Tuesday from 1-8 p.m., at the stadium, 1085 W. 3rd St. The lesson was: Never underestimate the draw of Drew.

All 5,000 tickets were gone by 4 p.m. Monday. Rather than disappoint the hundreds of fans still in line, the extras casting office printed 5,000 more tickets. These were gone shortly after the stadium box office opened Tuesday.

Back to the printer they went for 4,000 more tickets. These were gone by 7 p.m. Tuesday. Kerr believes the next 5,000 will disappear quickly tomorrow.

Entering its fifth season, "The Drew Carey Show" is ABC's highest-rated comedy (No. 13 among all series for two years in a row). The bespectacled comedian plays "a single every-guy" who works at a fictional Cleveland department store.

Carey, who began his standup career at the Cleveland Improv in 1986, also is the host of another ABC series, the improv hit "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"

In addition to being part of a "Drew Carey Show" episode, stadium visitors will be entered into a sweepstakes for such prizes as concert tickets, hotel packages, admission to area attractions and, the grand prize, the iMac computer that sits on Mimi's desk (autographed by actress Kathy Kinney).

A lunch will be provided free to the first 3,000 people who show up.

For information about the event call (216) 615-3345.

The stadium shoot is one of about 10 scenes Carey and his crew will be filming in Cleveland tomorrow through Monday. The only part of the work open to the public is Sunday's stadium shoot.

Paid extras were hired for the filming, but all of those positions have been filled.