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## **Jolly's Returns to Rittenhouse Square!**

### ***Jolly's Dueling Piano Bar, the only live music show of its kind in Philadelphia, to open late October***

October 28, 2009 (Philadelphia, PA) — Jolly Weldon, the man who reminded us “it’s more fun to eat in bar than drink in a restaurant,” announced that Jolly’s Dueling Piano Bar ([www.jollyspianobar.com](http://www.jollyspianobar.com) / 267-687-1161) will open on October 30th. Doors open at 3:00pm, giving you plenty of time to get tuned up for the debut duel, which starts early at 6:00pm. Also making its debut alongside pianists “Tony T” DeCarolis and “Wildman Joe” Marchetti is Philadelphia’s most rocking happy hour, when Jolly will offer \$3 premium well cocktails, \$3 wine from Barefoot Cellars, \$3 domestic beers and \$3 small plates (every Tuesday through Saturday from 6:00-8:00pm). Then on Saturday, Jolly’s goes ghoulish with a non-stop Halloween themed set starting at 8:00pm, drink specials, and lots of treats and tricks. Visit [www.jollyspianobar.com](http://www.jollyspianobar.com) or call 267-687-1161 for more information or to book a table.

#### **About Jolly’s Dueling Piano Bar**

Jolly’s Dueling Piano Bar features the wholly American phenomenon of dueling pianos, but this time for the Rittenhouse Square crowd. The 125-seat venue at 2006 Chestnut Street offers a live, loud and interactive experience in a stylish yet unpretentious atmosphere. And in keeping with the history of dueling pianos—the concept debuted in New Orleans during the Great Depression—Jolly’s offers a recession-friendly happy hour, a small plates menu under \$10, and no cover charge.

Every Tuesday through Saturday, two talented pianists/singers with a 2,000+ song repertoire will spar with songs chosen by audience requests. The house pianists are Anthony “Tony T” DeCarolis and “Wildman Joe” Marchetti, two Philadelphia natives who have been entertaining live audiences for decades. The show is fast-paced, interactive and audience driven, and the “duel” is as much between the audience as the players. Everyone is encouraged to sing along, and audience members and staff are often invited on stage. Doors open at 3:00pm, happy hour runs 6:00-8:00pm, and the dueling pianos show runs approximately 8:00pm until closing.

#### **The Décor**

Designed by Philadelphia’s Tackett and Co. (G Lounge, Tavern 17, Blockley Pourhouse), Jolly’s is a fun and sleek homage to rock-n-roll and retro lounges (think Hard Rock Casino meets Mad Men). Creating the effect is a red, white and black color scheme; a 25-foot custom light block bar; tufted leather and fabric U-shaped booths; custom tiling and mirrors; and chandeliers handmade from antique microphones from the 1940’s on.

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### **The Food & Drink**

Jolly's will feature specialty cocktails, wine and beer, and daily drink specials. Featured cocktails include the "Hound Dog" made with Hound Dog Sweet Tea vodka and fresh lemonade; the "Black Widow," a mojito with fresh raspberries and blackberries; and the 22-ounce "Rocking Hurricane," in honor of the dueling piano show's Big Easy heritage. The American tapas style menu features small plates for sharing, including blue cheese sliders, mini Maryland crab cakes, shrimp cocktail and flatbread pizzas—all under \$10. The chef is Brendan Smith, executive chef/owner of b\*smiths gourmet catering ([www.bsmithscatering.com](http://www.bsmithscatering.com)) and \*smiths restaurant | lounge on 19th Street ([www.smiths-restaurant.com](http://www.smiths-restaurant.com)). Chef Smith also provides catering for private events at Jolly's. Previously, Chef Smith was executive chef at the Academy of Music, the Kimmel Center and Smith & Wollensky.

### **The History of Dueling Pianos**

Like rock and roll itself, the "dueling piano sing-a-long" is an American phenomenon. Its origins are found in Depression-era New Orleans, where Pat O'Brien first introduced dueling pianos at his eponymous bar in 1933. The concept spread in the 1950's as rock and roll found an audience and pianists like Jerry Lee Lewis introduced a brash, fun and exciting style of play. Later, singer/songwriters like Neil Diamond, Elton John and Billy Joel wrote the great melodic songs so popular in dueling piano shows. (And Billy Joel and Elton John still "duel" with their Face to Face tour, one of the best-selling concerts of all time.) Today, dueling pianos are as popular as ever, offering a loud, rocking, clap-along, sing-along good time.

### **Special Events & Private Parties**

Jolly's Dueling Piano Bar offers private party and corporate packages for events from five to 125 guests. "Jolly's is a great venue for bachelorette parties, birthdays, holiday parties, business meetings, and anything else worth celebrating ... or forgetting," says Weldon. "No where else can you find such a unique and fun experience for your guests." Jolly's will even bring the music to you, providing catering and the dueling piano show at your location.

### **About Jolly's Dueling Piano Bar**

Every Tuesday through Saturday at 2006 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia, Jolly's Dueling Piano Bar offers a live dueling pianos show in an intimate, 125-seat venue. The fun begins when our entertainers take a seat behind two baby grand pianos and combine music, comedy and audience participation to create a fast-paced, high-energy show that's unlike anything else. You'll let loose, have fun and meet new friends, while enjoying unique specialty cocktails, happy hour specials, a sharable menu and no cover. Premium seating and private parties available. For more information, visit [www.jollyspianobar.com](http://www.jollyspianobar.com) or contact 267-687-1161.

NOTE: Electronic photographs available upon request. Contact Stacey Himes at 215-990-0619 or [Stacey@staceyhimes.com](mailto:Stacey@staceyhimes.com)

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## About Jolly Weldon

Many Philadelphians have eaten and imbibed (probably too much) in his establishments, but they may not know that there is an actual person behind Jolly's, and that it is, in fact, his real name.



He is Jolly Weldon, a long-time South Philadelphia resident, who came to Philadelphia in 1997 to open the Prime Rib at 1701 Locust Street. "Jolly" came from Jolyon, the name of a character in the novels *The Forsyte Saga*. (His four brothers also have literary names).

Mr. Weldon was born in Washington, D.C., where he grew up in the restaurant business. He began his career as a bus boy at age 15, and then spent the next decade learning all he could about the hospitality industry while also pursuing a degree in business from Georgetown University. After 15 years running The Prime Rib in D.C., he and his brother Garth opened the Prime Rib in Philadelphia in 1997. In 2001,

Mr. Weldon opened Jolly's American Bar, his first eponymous restaurant, in the Latham Hotel at 17<sup>th</sup> and Walnut. Jolly's quickly became a place where both tourists and locals escaped every evening to a relaxed environment and great happy hour specials. He later expanded across the lobby with the RedHead Piano Lounge in 2003.

In 2005, after his relationship with the Latham Hotel ended, he moved his establishment to 19<sup>th</sup> Street as Jolly's Piano Joint. In 2007, he focused on finding a larger space for a more exciting concept. He found it in 2006 Chestnut Street, a 2,000-square-foot former electronics store, which will open as Jolly's Dueling Piano Bar in October 2009. Visit [www.jollyspianobar.com](http://www.jollyspianobar.com) for current specials and more information.

## About Tony T and Wildman Joe

Jolly's Dueling Piano Bar features Anthony "Tony T" DeCarolis (on right) and "Wildman Joe" Marchetti, two local musicians who have been entertaining Philadelphians for almost 20 years. Tony began playing piano and guitar at age 8, and later studied music composition and piano at the Philadelphia Musical Academy (now the University of the Arts). Joe also began his music career early, teaching himself the piano, accordion, guitar and harmonica in grade school before pursuing a degree in electronics. The duo played in various original, club and "Top 40" bands before joining forces as a dueling piano act in 1991. Since then, they have played thousands of gigs at clubs throughout the mid-Atlantic area. They also perform for private parties and special events, and are a regular act at the Bethlehem Musikfest. Tony and Joe are known for their expansive song repertoire, musical dexterity and South Philly swagger. After years on the road, they are happy to be back home in Philadelphia, where "people are not afraid to let loose and have fun."



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