HBO funnyguy in lineup

Boston Calling’s lineup of funny folks for its Comedy Experience in May has some familiar faces taking the stage at the Harvard Athletic Complex on Memorial Day weekend.

“I used to think cities were for special people,” said comic Pete Holmes, who’s behind the HBO show “Crashing” and set to perform at Boston Calling. “I like to have an apartment in Allston meant that you were special.”

Now, he’s being shown up in Allston as a pretty special person himself. The Lexington native will be joining other notable comics, such as Comedy Central sensation Hannah Gadsby, who will be hosting the event, as well as Phoebe Robinson and Jordan Rock — Chris Rock’s brother.

For Holmes, the Boston Calling performance will be a welcomed homecoming.

“When I was 15 or 16, I’d wait for the bus — I think it was the 62. I’d take it down Main, Ave to Alewife and then take the T to Harvard Square — just to go to Harvard Square.”

There, he’d hang out at Newbury Comics and the HI. All the while, he said, he’d picture himself as Matt Damon from “Good Will Hunting,” fantasizing that Minnie Driver was going to come along and discover he was a band-aid genius.

It was also in the Boston area that Holmes tested his standup skills for the first time.

“It was a while to be funny where you’re from,” Holmes said. “Boston is where I started off doing open mics. I was really, really new, and it was embarrassing.”

Since those early days of performing at the old Comedy Connection in Faneuil Hall and Hong Kong (the real one in Cambridge), Holmes has refined his comedic craft, especially for our local audience.

“They know the references I know,” he told the Track. “I’ve been elevated audience. We know how to make fun of ourselves. We know we’re gruff, that we grew up driving down roads that were made for a horse and carriage. We can tease ourselves about all that.”

ELEVATOR SOX:
You’ll never guess what. Red Sox players have been doing in an elevator at the Hotel Commonwealth, signing their names. The Kenmore Square hotel (aka the “Official Hotel of the Boston Red Sox”) has a designated baseball elevator. Current and former Sox players have been scrawling their signatures on this lift’s walls, which boosts a Green Monster motif. In the past week alone, left-hander Andrew Benintendi and former catcher Jason Varitek left their John Hancock at the hotel. Jackie Bradley Jr. did the deed in January, and others who have gone before him include pitcher Chris Sale, right fielder Mookie Betts and former boomer-bossman turned-broadcaster Jerry Remy.

HERE COMES THE CASTING: Dating got you down? You’re in luck, because TV show “Married at First Sight” is now casting singles in Boston who want to walk down the aisle.

ASAP: So if you appear to be aged 23 to 35, are down for marrying a total stranger and are willing to have your newly weds ... um, bits? ... broadcast to the whole country, apply online at MAFS.Boston.castingone.com.

HEY, MR. DJ: Boston’s DJ Joe Hernandez, whose song “Sunshine” topped the Billboard dance chart last year, is releasing his new single, “Showering,” on April 17. March goes Monday. The song’s lyrics are a little too real for anyone who’s dated in the past five years, but if you’re left wanting more, look out for Joe’s upcoming album, “2779 Miles to Go.”

GIVING BOCH: Ernie Boch Jr.’s Music Drives Us has given a $25,000 grant to the House of Blues Music Forward Foundation to underwrite the Boston Blues School House program in Boston. The program, which will now be, by the name of Boston Blues School House presented by Music Drives Us, has students revive the history of the Blues and shows them how music can promote social change.