

Students revive comedy on campus

Patty Salazar
Editor-in-Chief

Spending money on extra entertainment is not on the top of the priority list for many Clackamas Community College students. Thankfully, a group of very talented comedians has created a way for students to sit back, relax and laugh until they cry — all for free.

CCC's very own students have revived the Clackamas Comedy Club. While there was a comedy club on campus before, students moved on and the club dismantled. That was until Chris Whitten, a CCC theater professor, told a couple of his students they could revamp the club and host open mics.

The comedy club has been active on campus since the beginning of fall term. They have been putting on the open mics since the beginning of the term, and they are continuing to set up open mics through spring term.

Rico Starr, who has been doing stand-up comedy professionally for six years, is currently the vice president of the club.

Starr, who is in the process of changing his major to theater, is one of students who joined and revived the club.

"It has snowballed from a class, to a club to an actual article," Starr said. "We actually have outside people coming in, not only coming to see the show but also doing comedy as well."

While attendance is steadily growing at the open mic,

Starr is seeing a wide variety of comedians getting up and trying out their hand at stand up.

"We may only have six comics a night," Starr said. "But two or three of those comics may be totally different comics we might have never seen before."

During the Jan. 28 show, there were seven comics with sets lasting up to 15 minutes who all had the auditorium laughing. The comics who are quick on their feet interact with their audience and play off their vibes.

What Starr is really looking forward to is giving students a chance to unwind by enjoying the show and letting them network with people who they might not have met otherwise.

He also encourages students to join the comedy club, saying you don't have to be a comedian

to join. "We would love for people to join the club," Starr said.

First-time attendee and performer, Jordan Rustad, was nervous before they called him on stage. He had only learned about the show via one of the club member and decided to give stand up a shot.

"I didn't really know what to expect," said Rustad. "That's why I didn't invite many people, just in case I bombed."

Rustad especially enjoyed that the open mic was free for everybody. "It was hilarious," Rustad said. "I can't believe it's free."

Current club president, Dalton Camosso, is very excited to see the growth in the comedians who have become regulars to perform at the show.

"Tommy Olson, the treasure of our group, had a very nice

set his first day," said Camosso. "But since then he's really gotten his comfortability on stage down and his delivery down."

Although Dalton was comfortable with public speaking before the open mics he finds himself craving to be up on the stage to perform in front of an audience.

"The reason I love comedy is because when you have a lot of laughter it's almost like a drug in a sense," Camosso said. "You just love that people love you."

Open mics are every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in McLoughlin Auditorium at the Oregon City campus. Doors open at 7 p.m. and comics can sign up to do a set and all who attend can enter a drawing to win door prizes. Although the show is open to all, the comedy is not child friendly.



Denise Shelton The Clackamas Print

Top Left: Comedian Thommie Olson prances and stalks around the stage, channelling his inner majestic deer during his set.

Top Right: Jayme Hall shows no fear in bringing the laughs, dropping his pants for a joke about public restrooms.

Bottom: Rico Starr, a past CCC student showcase director, brings the crowd to tears with his unique style of comedy.



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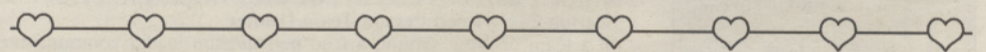
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