



No Mistakes Here

Chicago City Limits create comedy on the fly.

No script. No set. Just lights, fellow actors and an audience. Sounds like a nightmare, doesn't it? But for the New York City-based improvisational comedy team Chicago City Limits (CCL), it's the perfect setting for fun and hilarity.

For more than two decades, the traveling troupe has been doing their thing, getting rave reviews and making people laugh across the country.

Founded in Chicago by George Todisco and by actors participating in a workshop at The Second City, the troupe moved to New York City in 1979. The following year the ensemble opened their own theater and have been performing ever since, racking up more than 7,500 performances.

The show relies heavily on audience participation with the actors getting suggestions, stories and ideas from the audience, then using those as jumping off points for the entire show. For the holidays they've titled their performance "Revenge of the Reindeer." They occasionally use sketches, bare-bones outlines for the comedy, focusing on politics

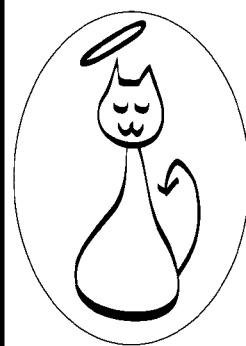
and, of course, the holidays.

"Our political humor is smart and funny," said Bernie Kravitz, one of the members of the troupe. With three years under his belt, he's one of the senior members of the current group. "The show starts with the blues. We get a word suggestion from the audience and then we all improvise a verse."

Another thing CCL does is an improv musical, something you're unlikely to see anywhere else. The whole thing is created on the fly using a suggestion from the audience. Hoooo-eeee!!! That should be interesting.

"The misconception is that we've thought up all this stuff in advance but really, we're just doing it one step at a time," Kravitz said.

Since nothing's set in stone, even a horrific mistake can look like it was intentional, part of the plot. "If someone screws up, there are four other people there making it look like an amazing thing just happened," Kravitz said. "Mistakes make something unexpected happen and in comedy, that's a good thing. There's a saying in what we do, 'There are no mistakes, just gifts.'" **EW**



Freudian Slip
Fine Lingerie & Gifts

870 Pearl Street in Eugene (541) 345-SLIP (7547)
Hours are 11-6 Tuesday to Saturday & 12-5 on Sunday

You define the family . . .
We provide the food!

**THE BEST
OF EUGENE
2004-2005**

Special Dinner Party

FRIDAY, DEC. 17TH • LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE

Join us for the music of
AMERICANISTAN
Saturday, Dec. 18th • 7:30pm

Iraila
Mediterranean Rustica

2435 Hilyard • Eugene, OR 97405 (in the Humble Bagel)
www.iraila.com • Open Wed.-Sun. @ 5pm • 541-684-8400

GO HULT!
For the Holidays

TICKETS and INFO:
HULTCENTER.ORG
682-5000

HULT CENTER PRESENTS

**CHICAGO
City Limits**

FRIDAY+SATURDAY
DEC. 17+18
At 7:30 PM
SORENG THEATER
an intimate setting

"Revenge of the Reindeer"

HILARIOUS SHOW TO RELIEVE
YOUR HOLIDAY STRESS!



THINK FRESH
THE FINEST IN BULK ORGANIC
BOTANICAL PRODUCTS

YOUR DIRECT SOURCE FOR
FINE ORGANIC HERBAL PRODUCTS,
SINCE 1987

OTCO CERTIFIED ORGANIC
16 YEARS EXPERIENCE
AHPA MEMBER
QUALITY CONTROL SUPERVISED
UNITED PLANT
SAVERS CONTRIBUTOR

SHOP ONLINE AT:
WWW.MOUNTAINROSEHERBS.COM
FOR A FREE 64 PAGE CATALOG
PLEASE CALL (800) 879-3337

organic
BULK HERBS • SPICES • TEAS
ESSENTIAL OILS • HERBAL PRODUCTS

mountain rose herbs™
.com