

Time Out

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THE
**OUTDOOR
DINING**
ISSUE



CONAN O'BRIEN

TAKES A STAB AT LATE NIGHT
IN THE WINDY CITY



Cover Price \$2.50



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**DON'T HATE
THESE PLAYERS**

Hip-Hop Theater
Festival builds a new
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COMEDY

Listings

IF YOU WANT TO BE LISTED

Submit information by mail, e-mail (comedy@timeoutchicago.com) or fax (312-924-9350) to **Kevin Aeh**. Include details of event, dates, times, address of venue with cross streets, nearest El station and bus routes, telephone number and admission price, if any. **Deadline is 6pm Monday, ten days before publication date.** Incomplete submissions will not be included, and listings information will not be accepted over the phone. Listings are free but, as space is limited, inclusion is not guaranteed.

★=Recommended or notable

Thursday 4

Computer Geek

I.O. Del Close Theater, 3541 N Clark St between Cornelia and Eddy Sts (773-880-0199). El: Red to Addison. Bus: 22 Clark (24 hrs), 152 Addison. 8pm, \$14. Professional geek Scott Rose—a spokesman for Apple Computers—offers audience members free tech support for life if they can help him find his soul mate. That (so far) fruitless search is also the subject of his one-man show.

Harold

I.O. Cabaret, 3541 N Clark St between Cornelia and Eddy Sts (773-880-0199). El: Red to Addison. Bus: 22 Clark (24 hrs), 152 Addison. 8pm; \$14, Thu, Sun \$12. This is I.O.'s signature long-form improvisation show, in which teams create a cohesive series of scenes from an audience suggestion.

★Immaculate Deception

The Second City e.t.c., 1608 N Wells St at North Ave (312-337-3992). El: Brown, Purple (rush hrs) to Sedgwick. Bus: 11, 22 (24 hrs), 36, 72, 156. 8pm; Thu and Sun \$18, Fri and Sat \$24. The best moments of this thoroughly funny revue come when the cast takes risks. Niki Lindgren induces prickly squirms as the severe proprietor of a Chinese restaurant, and a scene in which the Rat Pack is reimagined as a group of bitter veterans handily balances pathos and ferocious wit.

Iraqtile Dysfunction

The Second City Mainstage, 1616 N Wells St at North Ave (312-337-3992). El: Brown, Purple (rush hrs) to Sedgwick. Bus: 11, 22 (24 hrs), 36, 72, 156. 8pm; Tue-Thu, Sun \$18, Fri, Sat \$24. The extremely talented Mainstage cast brings a heck of a lot of laughs out of some pretty pedestrian material in this new revue. The topical humor is funny, but doesn't cut very deep.

★The Lincoln Lodge

Lincoln Restaurant, 4008 N Lincoln Ave at Irving Park Rd (www.thelincolnlodge.com). El: Brown to Irving Park. Bus: 11, 50, 80. 9pm, \$8 plus one-drink minimum. Enjoy the comedy stylings of Sean Gardner, Mike Olson and George Tracy.

Special Affect

Improv Kitchen, 3419 N Clark St between Roscoe St and Newport Ave (773-868-6423). El: Red to Addison. Bus: 22 Clark (24 hrs), 152 Addison. 7, 9pm, \$10. At this restaurant and high-tech theater, every table comes equipped with a plasma TV broadcasting live, short-form improv. Actors performing out of sight, and employ green screens and other geekery to aid the gags.

Friday 5

Alex Thomas

Jokes & Notes, 4641 S King Dr between 46th and 47th Sts (773-373-3390). El: Green to 47th. Bus: 3 King Drive, 4747th.

8, 10:30pm; \$20 plus two-drink minimum. He's guest-starred on just about every comedy on UPN, but don't expect Alex Thomas' stand-up set to be so sit-com friendly. Anticipate him to drop the F-bomb. A lot.

★Baby Wants Candy: The Rock Opera

I.O. Del Close Theater, 3541 N Clark St between Cornelia and Eddy Sts (773-880-0199). El: Red to Addison. Bus: 22 Clark (24 hrs), 152 Addison. 10:30pm, \$14. The talented players in this I.O. house ensemble improvise a one-act musical, accompanied by a live band.

★Best of Second City

The Black Orchid, 230 W North Ave, third floor, at Wells St (312-944-2200). El: Brown, Purple (rush hrs) to Sedgwick. Bus: 11, 22 (24 hrs), 36, 72, 156. 8pm; Mon \$12, Fri, Sat \$19.50. Members of the Second City's three traveling companies, collectively known as TourCo, mix classic bits from past revues with new sketches.

Cook County Social Club

I.O. Cabaret, 3541 N Clark St between Cornelia and Eddy Sts (773-880-0199). El: Red to Addison. Bus: 22 Clark (24 hrs), 152 Addison. Midnight, \$5. The young improvisers of Cook County Social Club make some rookie mistakes, but when they find a fresh comedy vein, they mine it skillfully. A rotating cast of local stand-ups opens the show.

Danger Karaoke

Fizz, 3220 N Lincoln Ave at Belmont and Ashland Aves (773-348-6000). El: Brown to Paulina. Bus: 9, 11, 77 (24 hrs). Midnight, \$5. It's the ComedySportz twist on karaoke. Audience members will be able to sing their favorite song or take the top-secret Danger Karaoke musical challenge to win prizes. Trust us, the prizes are worth it.

★Dirty Water

Town Hall Pub, 3340 N Halsted St at Buckingham Pl (773-472-4405). El: Red, Brown, Purple (rush hrs) to Belmont. Bus: 8 Halsted, 77 Belmont (24 hrs). 8pm, \$10. Four real-life Bostonians (and one outsider) play five guys from Boston in this improvised long-form set. At each show, the same characters (a bartender, GE lineworker, university professor, etc.) sit around discussing politics, morality and the lousy Red Sox bull pen.

Disconnectron

Donny's Skybox, 1608 N Wells St at North Ave (312-337-3992). El: Brown, Purple (rush hrs) to Sedgwick. Bus: 11, 22 (24 hrs), 36, 72, 156. 10:30pm; \$10, students \$8. Mostly eschewing dialogue, this troupe will try to show what goes on inside your brain when you're having sex, getting high and experiencing other less-R-rated emotions.

Harold

8, 10:30pm; \$14, Thu, Sun \$12. See Thu 4.

★Holy Shit!

Apollo Theater, 2540 N Lincoln Ave at Lill St (773-935-6100). El: Red, Brown, Purple (rush hrs) to Fullerton. Bus: 8, 11, 74. 10:30pm; \$10, students \$8. The weird and wonderful comedy trio 5 & Dime explores questions of faith with its second revue. We hear Andre the Giant makes a guest appearance as a guardian angel.

★Immaculate Deception

8, 11pm; Thu and Sun \$18, Fri and Sat \$24. See Thu 4.

Improvdate

Fizz, 3220 N Lincoln Ave at Belmont and Ashland Aves (773-348-6000). El: Brown to Paulina. Bus: 9, 11, 77 (24 hrs). 10pm, \$15-\$20. Dating, sex and love can be hilarious, especially as it's depicted in this sketch and improv show devoted to the singles scene. Your worst date ever will definitely pale in comparison to these dating disasters.

Iraqtile Dysfunction

8, 11pm; Tue-Thu, Sun \$18, Fri, Sat \$24. See Thu 4.

★The Lincoln Lodge

9pm, \$8 plus one-drink minimum. See Thu 4.

The New Faces Comedy Showcases

Kitty Moon, 6237 N Clark St at Thome Ave (773-856-6667). El: Red to Granville. Bus: 22 Clark (24 hrs), 155 Devon. 8, 10pm; \$5, both shows \$8. Comedian and producer Dave



Out of the comedy closet Even though Rumba's comedy show on Sunday 7 is titled **Proud & Loud** and billed as a gay and lesbian laugh fest, it's not a gay-only event. "I hope we bring in more than just a LGBT crowd," says Sarna Kumar (above), one of the evening's headlining comics. The focus of the night will be material derived from the comics' life experiences. "Our stories can bring laughter to any audience," Kumar says, adding that a lot of her set includes stories about her immigrant Indian parents and their feelings about her lifestyle. The rest of the lineup includes Bill Cruz, who has appeared at L.A.'s Gay & Lesbian Comedy Festival, and newcomer Ken Arnott. See Listings.—Kevin Aeh

Odd gives green comics a shot at some stage time in this new showcase.

pHreedom pHalls

Stage Left Theatre, 3408 N Sheffield Ave at Roscoe St (773-883-8830). El: Red to Addison. Bus: 22 Clark (24 hrs), 77 Belmont (24 hrs). 11pm, \$12, with entrance to pHrenzy at 12:30am \$18. Like at all pH productions, the audience is heavily involved in controlling the show—in this case, an improvised sitcom. The crowd names the "episode," shapes the story arc and even selects props.

Special Affect

7pm, \$10. See Thu 4.

Trust Funnin' 2: You Gotta Be Kidding

Live Bail Theater, 3914 N Clark St between Byron St and Irving Park Rd (773-871-1212). El: Red to Sheridan. Bus: 22 Clark (24 hrs), 80 Irving Park. 10:30pm, \$10. This one-man show leaves no hackneyed premise unturned, with scenes about reality television, motivational speakers and even a miserable "rap" to close things out.

Who's Your Deity?

Conservatory, 4210 N Lincoln Ave at Ber-teau Ave (for tickets call 773-865-7731). El: Brown to Irving Park. Bus: 11, 78, 80. 11pm, \$10. You'll see some sketch, some improv, and a whole lot of jokes about Christians, Muslims and Jews in this religion-themed show produced by Chemically Imbalanced Comedy.

Wild Stand-Up

Buffalo Wild Wings, 2464 N Lincoln Ave at Montana St (773-868-9453). El: Red, Brown, Purple (rush hrs) to Fullerton. Bus: 8, 11, 74. 8:30pm. The open mike that Nick Lullo was running at this chain bar was going so well that he decided to convert it into a showcase room. See three or four local comics and power down some spicy wings.

Saturday 6

Alex Thomas

8, 10:30pm, \$20 plus two-drink minimum. See Fri 5.

★Best of Second City

8pm; Mon \$12, Fri, Sat \$19.50. See Fri 5.

★Don't Spit the Water

The Playground Theater, 3209 N Halsted

St at Belmont Ave (773-871-3793). El: Red, Brown, Purple (rush hrs) to Belmont. Bus: 8 Halsted, 77 Belmont (24 hrs). 10:30pm, \$12. Audience members volunteer to take the stage and hold water in their mouths while comedians try to make them laugh—spitting the water. The show embraces its own goofiness, and it's hard not to get swept up in the simpleminded fun.

Harold

10:30pm; \$14, Thu, Sun \$12. See Thu 4.

★Immaculate Deception

8, 11pm; Thu and Sun \$18, Fri and Sat \$24. See Thu 4.

The Improv Jam

I.O. Cabaret, 3541 N Clark St between Cornelia and Eddy Sts (773-880-0199). El: Red to Addison. Bus: 22 Clark (24 hrs), 152 Addison. 12:15am, \$3. Give improv a whirl onstage with one of I.O.'s Harold teams. The pros will do their best to make sure you don't make a complete jackass of yourself.

Iraqtile Dysfunction

8, 11pm; Tue-Thu, Sun \$18, Fri, Sat \$24. See Thu 4.

pHamily

Stage Left Theatre, 3408 N Sheffield Ave at Roscoe St (773-883-8830). El: Red to Addison. Bus: 22 Clark (24 hrs), 77 Belmont (24 hrs). 11pm; \$12, with entrance to pHrenzy at 12:30am \$18. Eight cast members create a totally dysfunctional family (after all, happy, healthy families who get a long are boring) from audience suggestions in one of the most interactive improv shows in town. Performers stop scenes to ask the audience for more details, letting spectators mold the family dynamic.

Saturday Night Showcase

Conservatory, 4210 N Lincoln Ave at Ber-teau Ave (for tickets, call 773-865-7731). El: Brown to Irving Park. Bus: 11, 78, 80. 10pm, \$10. Chemically Imbalanced Comedy's variety show mixes together three different improv groups and sketch troupes each week, with a rotating cast of local stand-up comics doing hosting duties.

Special Affect

7, 9pm, \$10. See Thu 4.

Trust Funnin' 2: You Gotta Be Kidding

10:30pm, \$10. See Fri 5.