



WE “R” UPPITY FOR YOU

Uppity Improv Society (Brockville Chapter)

By Daniel Geneau

Many say that laughter is the best medicine. Well so many of the best at providing that laughter have been Canadian men and women.

With so many stars like John Candy, Dan Aykroyd, Katherine O'Hara, Mike Meyers, Mary Walsh, Colin Mochrie and Martin Short, Brockville can now be proud to announce two of their own. They have both recently been students of the Second City Comedy School. They are our very own Curt Geneau and Mark Oliver. They have completed the first two phases of five and are so looking forward to continuing their training.

They both have learned so much through the training course in Toronto. These two gentlemen are now establishing the Uppity Improve Society in Brockville. They are hosting training sessions at the Brockville Country Club on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

The sessions so far have been fun, interesting and very educational within the realm of what comedy can and should be. There have been good turn-outs each night but more people can always be accommodated.

The inaugural show for this troupe was April 1, 2014 with several more planned in the near future. It is guaranteed that a great night of entertainment, sketches and laughs will be experienced by all who attend.

The whole general concept of improv is based on the fact that the sketches are not dictated by script. The member starts off with setting the scene as to who is in it and what they are discussing. No one should try to block what they are given and they have to continue on with the premise as it has been laid out. Quick reaction is best. Everyone and everything continues flowing throughout. The objective is to continue the scene until a resolution is provided for in whatever the adventure is within the scene.

Each training session begins in the same fashion. Like a sports team, there are warm up exercises. These are meant to flex the vocals and reaction time, along with memory and alertness. Concentrated effort is required by all, which lead to successful training and great shows.

A second show was presented for public viewing on May 17, 2014. There were many repeat audience members as well as many new ones. Again, the Uppity crew did not disappoint. Glowing comments and conversations were abundant and proved that all the effort was more than worth it.

Even following the success of the two shows, new avenues were explored for the next show, which was in June. Being the entertainment at a charity golf tournament for Sherwood Park Manor, was the most

challenging, and I am sure, the most fun event of the summer for these up and coming comedians.

Practice and rehearsals are necessary, even though nothing is scripted. The mandate that has been used is from designed games and sketches. Popular ones have been “The four headed expert”, the “Two headed trouble maker” and “Must be a Broadway Musical”. Though several of the sketches have been used before, the show put on by the crew has never been the same and has always been hilarious. It is now time to take the show to the next level.

The long form of improv starts and grows with an initial monologue, which is then enhanced with further analogues. The addition of more characters getting involved keeps the whole package moving along to a riotous conclusion.

Not willing to give too much away, the one guaranteed climactic finish will be that each audience member will have a great time just watching or maybe even getting involved when asked.

Some excellent research, for those interested, would be Jimmy Carrane, the Improv Nerd and Mark Besser, Improv 4 Humans. Always feel free to Google or visit Uppity Improv Society on Facebook, focusing on the Brockville chapter to learn more about what is offered locally.

The biggest lesson I have learned is that we all have fear of failure. Whether it be just starting something new or have yet to start, there is one thing that must be done. We need to admit to ourselves that whatever I do, I am experiencing some fear. It makes no difference if it is doing something like improv or starting a new job. Admitting your fear will be your best friend.

Until our next show, in 2014, keep a song in your heart and dance like nobody is watching. **LH**

Editors Note

The fourth show for the improve troupe was on Aug 8th but this article was written before then.

Check out www.uppity.ca website for performances and updates. You can follow the troupe on Facebook ([Facebook.com/uppityimprovsociety](https://www.facebook.com/uppityimprovsociety)) or on Twitter ([Twitter.com/uppityimprovsoc](https://twitter.com/uppityimprovsoc))

Check out their performances during the fall and Christmas season and enjoy an evening of fun and laughs.