

metromix: the tv show

Broadcast bombast

Schadenfreude takes its edgy political humor to the airwaves

BY LEEANN TROTTER

Schadenfreude, the Chicago comedy troupe known for its razor-sharp political commentary, is taking its show to the airwaves. The new sketch comedy radio show, broadcast on WBEZ-FM 91.5, takes an irreverent, satirical and sometimes cynical approach to current events.

The premiere episode included a special tribute to Mayor Daley and commentary about a

fictitious Alderman called Ed Bus. Founding troupe member and executive show producer Justin Kaufmann makes it clear that nothing is off limits.

This 5-year-old comedy troupe—whose name means taking pleasure in others' misfortune—made its reputation at the Chicago Improv Festival, and have appeared in several national and international comedy festivals.

Their challenge is taking their very visual stage show and translating it to a radio format. "We have to teach people how to listen to our show," Kaufmann says. Schadenfreude plans to do this by setting the stage for listeners by adding sound effects. The radio program is also a half-hour, as opposed to the troupe's regular one-hour show, so the skits are more condensed.



Sandy Marshall, Stephen Schmidt, Kate James, Mark Hanner, Justin Kaufmann and Adam Witt hope WBEZ audiences can keep up.

Schadenfreude's comedy is definitely not traditional programming fare, so loyal public radio listeners may have a difficult time digesting the show, which Kaufmann says is an acquired taste. But Schadenfreude is up for the challenge, and they invite skeptics along for the ride.

LeeAnn Trotter is a metromix special contributor.

"Schadenfreude Radio" can be heard on WBEZ-FM at 8:30 p.m. Sunday nights.



Find expanded theater coverage in tomorrow's metromix and on metromix.com.

Top 5 comedy shows

Jagodowski & Pasquesi

The improv duo presents a long-form show. 10:30 p.m. Wed. \$5. ImprovOlympic, 3541 N. Clark St. 773-880-0199.

Pants on Fire

Second City e.t.c.'s newest sketch comedy satirizes the political climate in America and government figures such as John Ashcroft. 8:30 p.m. Thu.; 8 and 11 p.m. Fri. and Sat.; 8 p.m. Sun. \$17-\$19. 1608 N. Wells St. 312-337-3992.

The Weird Sisters

An evening of bawdy and funny cabaret singing. 9 p.m. Fri. \$5 (free with a Loop theater ticket). Presented by Noble Fool Comedy Cabaret at Noble Fool Theater, 16 W. Randolph St. 312-726-1156.

Frankie J Superstar

This combination stand-up routine, cooking demo and parody of "Jesus Christ Superstar" includes a four-course meal. 6:30 p.m. Sun. \$42.50. Frankie J's on Broadway/MethaDome Theatre, 4437 N. Broadway, 773-769-2959.

The Armando Diaz Experience

Performers are frequently joined by celebrity guests from "Saturday Night Live," "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" and Second City. 8:30 p.m. Mon. \$12. ImprovOlympic, 3541 N. Clark St. 773-880-9993.

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Get the scoop on a sleek new stage adaptation of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" tomorrow on "metromix: the tv show."



LeeAnn Trotter hosts at 5:30, 8:30 and 11:30 p.m. Thursdays on CLTV.