

COMEDY

Second City celebrates fifth anniversary with new revue

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Irreverent as ever, The Second City-Detroit celebrates its fifth anniversary with "Daimlers Are A Girl's Best Friend," their 14th live-comedy revue.

In typical Second City fashion, the show, which opened Thursday, has nothing to do with Daimler or Chrysler. It's edgy in spots, the kind of comedy that makes you think, and disappointingly, a little offensive.

When will comedians get it — the f-word isn't funny, and because it's so over-used, doesn't even have much shock value. So why use it?

Opening day at the brand new Tiger Stadium, same old Tigers, score 0-14, could have been played a lot of different ways. Larry Campbell and Keegan-Michael Key were funny as the

sportscenters with their running commentary and commercials — "Down River Ale, if you're gonna go down, go down smooth." The scene where Eric Black plays (hardly a tap) Mary Jane Pories, "you're so annoying I had to hit you," was upsetting. Pories in the skit is Kate, the friend of newcomer Nyima Anise Woods who divorced Black and finds herself sitting next to him at the Tiger's game. Upon discovering his ex-wife's newly acquired knowledge of baseball, Black is smitten, and wants to get back together. Kate and Margaret Exner are her girlfriends who run interference.

I suppose they were exaggerating to bring light to an issue, but you can take things a little too far. Maybe that was the intent. Seeing someone slap a woman on stage, no matter how lightly, is disturbing. It was just a little too real to be comedy.

"Daimlers Are A Girl's Best Friend"

What: The Second City-Detroit's 14th live comedy revue
When: 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays, with additional shows 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The cost performs an improvisational set, free of charge, after every performance Wednesday through Sunday (after 10:30 p.m. Show Friday-Saturday).
Tickets: \$10 Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday, \$17.50 Friday, and \$19.50 Saturday. Call (313) 965-2222, or (248) 645-6666.

Holiday Highlights

■ **Accidental Terrorist** — A multi-media master class production, directed by Larry Campbell — 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 28-29; 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6. Tickets \$4, call (313) 965-2222.

■ **Homeless for the Holidays** — A dysfunctional seasonal revue (Second City Detroit Workshop Production) — 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1; and Monday, Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28. Tickets \$8, call (313) 965-2222.

That's not all. There's more sexual innuendo in this show than other shows, sometimes aimed at homosexuals. Like the slap, they're cheap shots — not very creative when measured

against previous revues.

Fans will enjoy repeat performances of popular skits from previous shows. The Lawn Guy (Key) returns to help poor Miss Angela (Woods) who's African American and lives in Birmingham, sort out racial issues. "I don't feel black enough," she

says. "Eight Mile seems really wide." This is what Second City does best, take a charged issue like racism and diffuse it to make their audience think.

If you're stressed at work, you'll enjoy the skit where Woods, Pories and Key, downsize everyone else out of a job — "although you will always be part of our family, you'll be part of our extended family. The only thing is, the staff doesn't get it. If we're not working here, then where are we working? We need to know so we can be there in the morning."

There's a new spin, an Affirmative Action sequence where Black and Campbell lament, "No one's hiring white guys."

TV is cleverly pictured as "evil and sucking the life-blood out of us," and President Clinton (Campbell) and his wife Hillary (Exner) share a joint and conversation on the White House roof.

There's a lot of really creative animated humor such as the

video game skit where Bill Clinton (acting like a video game character complete with robotic moves) goes to battle with Linda Tripp, Kenneth Starr, and Hillary, who of course, wins.

Open mike night at Auschwitz, featuring Key as the comedian, was funny, but not offensive — "What's the difference between Hitler and Hitler? It's the spelling." The situation was absurd.

Skits on men and women failing to communicate were a riot and to hear "All the Crazy People are from Michigan," featured in a previous skit, was a treat.

Changes made by producer Rico Bruce Wade are apparent. The cast finishes the skits they start. There's more emphasis on relationships between men and women.

In a clever move, just before the ending, each cast member stops, and comments on unfinished business. They hurry up go back into character to complete the scene.



Main Stage: The cast of Second City-Detroit, (back row, left to right) Margaret Exner, Eric Black, Larry Campbell, and Mary Jane Pories (front row, left to right), Keegan-Michael Key, and Nyima Anise Wood in "Daimlers are a Girl's Best Friend."



The Birmingham Lions Club

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