

COMEDY

Second City-Detroit shoots, scores with show

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"The Puck Stops Here" at Second City Detroit through Sunday, April 16, where you can see the touring company in action.

"We tried to make it a hockey show, but we put together scenes anyone would enjoy," said Kirk Hanley of Farmington, one of the players. "We think the show will please both camps - diehard hockey fans who don't go to the theater much, and those who do."

The show, which opened Tuesday, is a mix of madcap skits, some of them musical, that are sure to score with fans.

"We've been working on it for about two months," said Hanley who described the show as a mix of original skits, and material from Second City archives.

During a preview performance on Tuesday, the company tried out some of their skits on a small, but enthusiastic audience. There's the wife who argues with her husband, the referee, about the calls he makes, and an old hockey coach who tries to teach intellectuals at the University of Detroit how to play football.

"A health club is a paradise where every man is free ... and look at all these towels" - is an entertaining musical number. You'll get a kick out of their dance - imagine an Esther Williams-style synchronized swimming routine, on stage.

There's the husband who wants to "commit" to season Red

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Kirk Hanley
Comedian

Wings tickets, and his wife who isn't sure she wants to. A young boy wonders what it's like to watch a baseball game with the crowd, instead of sheltered with his wealthy parents in their sky box. The butler, played by Hanley, to the horror of his parents, prepares a hot dog for the boy.

The cast also includes Carey Crim who has performed in shows at Meadow Brook Theatre and the Jewish Ensemble Theatre.

"I heard a song on the radio, and the lyrics were 'do something every day that scares you.' I was thinking about that when I called the Actor's Equity Audition hotline," said Crim explaining how she landed at Second City-Detroit. "There was an audition for the Second City-Detroit, and I was hired for the touring company."

She describes "The Puck Stops Here" as definitely hockey heavy, but also a lot of fun.

"Hockey is a metaphor," she said. "We try to build on themes of life. It's a marriage of the two. It's for the player and someone who doesn't get it. Hockey's not

her thing, but it's part of her world."

Hanley, Crim and the other members of the group - Jeff Frits, Cheri Johnson, Topher Owen and Kiff Vanden Heuvel - have been working together for a year.

"This is the finest ensemble that any of us have worked with," said Hanley. "They're the most giving, cooperative, and talented people. It's always a joy to work together."

Hanley and the other touring company cast members are delighted to be performing on the mainstage in their first two-week show.

While the touring company is onstage, the mainstage cast will start working on their next show. "Second City is always a work in progress," said Hanley. "Toward the end of the run, they'll start putting in new scenes to try them out for the new show."

Former mainstage cast member Margaret Exner is directing "The Puck Stops Here." Exner will return to the Second City-Detroit main-



Touring company: Members of the Second City Touring Company, including Kirk Hanley (center bottom row) and Carey Crim (back row, middle) take a break from rehearsal.

stage on Wednesday, April 19.

The Second City-Detroit Touring Company presents "The Puck Stops Here," 8 p.m. Thursday.

Sunday, April 6-9; and Tuesday-

Sunday, April 11-16. Additional shows 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Tickets for Tuesday-Thurs-

day and Sunday shows \$10;

\$17.50 on Friday, and \$19.50 on Saturdays. Call (313) 955-2222.

SCREEN SCENE

Trio earns stage career after acting on whim

When most of us think back to a silly moment in our lives, we usually don't recall it as a life-altering event.



ANN DELUSI

With time, you may realize some significant things were happening when life was at its most crazy and comical. Silliness has been known to create deep, lasting friendships, reduce stress and provide free entertainment.

In the case of Arthur J. Beer, it even gave him a career.

A half-century ago, Beer and a pair of buddies from Warren High School formed the King Korn Trio, figuring their pantomimes of tunes from the immortal Spike Jones was a

great way to impress girls.

To their surprise, the act won the school's talent show, and the good fortune began to snowball.

"The King Korn Trio's timing couldn't have been better. Ted Mack's Original Amateur Hour was in town for a Royeville U.S.A. benefit, and the local competition at Olympia (stadium) earned us a trip to New York to appear on the show," says Beer.

Next came the group's selection to join the USO Tour of Europe.

The unlikely chain of events triggered a lifetime of stage work for Beer, who serves as associate director of the Theatre Company at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Now, those madcap moments from the early 1950s are being recaptured for audiences in The Theatre Company's production of "The King Korn Trio," which runs through Sunday, April 16 at

UDM's McAuley Theatre.

"My wife convinced me that the story is so ridiculous and unbelievable that it would be perfect for the stage," says Beer, who wrote and directs the play that features Mary F. Bromer and David Jeffrey in key roles.

Committed to the belief that silliness is always good for the soul and occasionally an artistic discipline, The King Korn Trio production will be featured on Detroit Public TV's BACKSTAGE PASS series, in an edition that airs 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 9.

Even though my silly moments wouldn't be worthy of Ted Mack's "Original Amateur Hour" or even the recent "Star Search" showcases, I value them.

Life isn't all high drama. Sometimes it is at its best when it's like a "Gong Show" revue.

FAMILY FUN

Museum salutes environment

PRNewswire - "Junk, Juice & Jive," a fresh, lively and edgy look at environmental action, takes over Spirit of Ford throughout the month of April. Test drive an electric Ranger, dive into a towering recycle pile, and find out what all the buzz is about as Ford Motor Company's (NYSE: F) pioneering spirit focuses on the areas of alternative fuel, electric vehicles and materials recycling.

Spirit of Ford, an automotive learning attraction, is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Spirit of Ford is located at 1151 Village Road in Dearborn (across from Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village). For more details call (313) 31-SPRINT or check Spirit of Ford out on the web at www.spiritofford.com.

"At Spirit of Ford, guests have the chance to feel, smell, see, drive and literally immerse themselves in experiences which mirror the initiatives of Ford Motor Company. This month we are the site for a fun, active celebration of the company's many and diverse environmental activities and programs," says Jo Hane, director of Spirit of Ford.

Following is a rundown of the activities going on in April as Spirit of Ford salutes environ-

mental progress:

Activities

■ **Un-Plugged** - Be the first on your block to test drive an electric Ranger, the quieter vehicle you simply plug in to get its engine revvin'. These "Juicy" test drives happen on Saturday and Sunday afternoons in April. Call for specific times. Drivers must be 18 and over and have a valid driver's license.

■ **Restoration Station** - For a different spin on "Junk," kids can "dive" into a towering recycle pile and create something new out of something old. Take your new creation home with you or leave it behind to be transformed into something else.

■ **Fueling Your Dreams** - Turn your brain "green" through this dynamic interactive demonstration that makes fuel, energy and recycling come to life for big and little dreamers alike. Explore a junk pile and find out why some trash really isn't so "trashy." You'll be surprised to learn that Ford Motor Company actually uses pop bottles and old jeans to build vehicles.

■ **It's Natural** - Preview Ford's full line of natural gas cars, trucks and sport utility

vehicles (SUVs). Get behind the wheel of a Ford Crown Victoria police car powered by natural gas; a natural gas Ford Expedition used by the U.S. Park Service; a propane Excursion; and a bi-fuel Ford Contour.

■ **Environmentally Responsible Vehicles** - Explore the interior of a DIATA (Direct Injection Aluminum Throttlebody Assembly) engine and see how it gets "turned on." Take a look at the SUV fuel cell powertrain of the future - it's lightweight and efficient!

■ **Lightweight Parts** - Be amazed at what Ford is doing to lighten the load on vehicles and increase fuel efficiency. Compare brake rotors and brake drums made of either cast iron or steel or aluminum composite. You can actually "feel" how these lightweight parts make driving a breeze.

■ **Environmentally Responsible Shopping** - Buy cool, environmentally responsible gifts at Exit Ramp, Spirit of Ford's gift shop.

■ **Junk, Juice & Jive** - the event! - Bring your family to celebrate Junk, Juice & Jive with Spirit of Ford on Saturday night, 6-9 p.m. Saturday, April 29.

MOTORCITY CASINO PRESENTS

THOMAS HEARNS' FINAL FIGHT

APRIL 8, 2000
JOE LOUIS ARENA

MAIN EVENT

THOMAS "HIT MAN" HEARNS VS URIAH GRANT
WORLD IBO CHAMPION CRUISER WEIGHT CHAMPION

PLUS THIS LEGENDARY UNDERCARD

HECTOR "MACHO" CAMACHO VS LARA ALI
IBF WORLD CHAMPION VS

GILBERTO FLORES VS KAREN BILL

MAIN EVENTS BEGIN AT 8PM

SPECIAL OFFER

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