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THE MATTER MELOADED [2]

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The cast of 'Comedy Works' include, left to right (back row) Mark Mikula, Rico Bruce Wade, Mike McGettigan, Ouintin Hicks, Matthais Schneider, Margaret Edwartowski, Denise Swindell, Lauren Bickers and Flana Elvee.

## 'Comedy Works' is impromptu humor, audience participation

There's something poignant about off-the-cuff jokes.
They're funnier than their contrived counterparts. In a nuishell, that's the beauty of improvisation shows like Comedy Works, showing Friday-Saturday through Saturday, June 28 at the Century Theatre in Detroit. Detroit.
There's something about

There's something about creation in the moment," as ald Kirk Hanley, a performer in Comedy Works and current director of The Second City Detroit Touring Company.

"I'you try to re-create the moment, it's never as funny," said Hanley of Farmington. When improv works, it's a beautiful this, it's presented by a group of 22 local comedy professionals called The Guild, is similar to the ABC television hit Whose Line is it Anyway? Nominated for an Emmy, the TV show stars host Drew.

the TV show stars host Drew Carey and four actor-comedi-

## PURE IMPROVISATION

What: Comedy Works on-stage improvisation and games with audience feedback.

When: 8:30 p.m. Friday Saturday through June

Where: Century Theatre. 333 Madison, Detroit. Tickets: General, \$12.50, students, \$6, groups of 15 or more, \$10, call (313) 963-9800 or, for more Information, visit www.gemtheatre.com.

ans improvising their way through a half-hour of games. Whose Line Is It Anyway? began as a London radio program in 1588.

The television show has drawn attention to improvisational comedy, a relatively new art form that grew out of a 1950s acting grew out of a 1950s acting

technique, said Hanley.
"It used to be that you had to explain what improvisation was all about. Whose Line Is It Anyway? is a wonderful shorthand for us."

Cornedy Works breaks down into two sets one or death.

Comedy Works breaks down into two sets, one com-prised of short games and the other, longer, more char-acter-driven scenes, said Margaret Edwartowski, founder of The Guild and an alumnus of The Second City Detroit.

alumnus of The Second City Detroit.
The show's impromptu nature depends on audience participation. The cast asks audience members for spe-cific references, such as a place or word, to work into each game.

The a roller coaster that

"It's a roller coaster that the audience rides with you," said £dwartowski, who grew up in Auburn Hills.
"Everphody played some version of cowboys and Indians when they were a kid. That's what we basically do, It's kind of like 'hey, come play make-believe with us."

## Producer uses Detroit area in first film

Sam Khaleghi of West Bloomfield knows that the Detroit area can hold its own in the movie business. After all, metro Detroit is second to Hollywood in the amount of filmstock used. But

amount of filmstock used. But that's because of the large amount of industry films and commercials produced here. Khaleghi, 20, said he'd like to put Detroit and Michigan on the map by producing qual-ity films.

on the map by producing quality films.

And what better way to move that dream along than produce, star and direct his own acreenplay.

The young director/producer has been capturing his work, Approaching Midnight in and around the metro area, including Parmington Hills, West Bloomfield and Birmington Hills.

West Bloomfield and Birmingham.

Khaleghi is a graduate of West Bloomfield High School and a student at Oakland Community College's Orchard, Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

Armed with a crew of assis-Armed with a crew of assistants, tech people and actors, it halegod is telling his story about several young friends and a three-day weekend where they reunite after a first year apart at different colleges. They discover what's changed and what decisions need to be made for their futures.

The producer said he's learning something new each day as his screenlys is captured on 35mm digital video camero.

Thanks to advances in digi-



BALL BRESLER | STATE PHOTOGRAPHET

Film director Sam Khaleghi (left) and cinematographer Jason Waugh look for shots for Khaleghi's upcoming film.

tal technology, producing a quality film without the bac ing of a studio is within rea-to budding filmmakers like Khaleghi.

Juggling so many people and with a limited budget proves to be a challenge, he admitted.

"I'm learning you can't invite too many people to the set without anything to do," he

uu. Khaleghi said Approaching Khaleghi said Approaching Midnight is a comedy/drama/satire being shot in documentary style. The main character, Wesley, Kent, playod by Khaleghi, faces decisions, both large and small and love interests all in three days.

Thaleghi said the line,

Midnight interest what noon

didn't see coming," captures the message he's trying to express.
Two of the film's stars are Jana Kramer and Marina DeMeyer.
Kramer said she's only known Khaleghi for a while but she's impressed with his vision.

vision.
"He's a nice guy, down to
earth and reliable," she said.
DeMeyer of Farmington
Hills said for his first movi

Hills said for his first movie, he's got a lot together. He's a real people person."

Khaleghi plans to premier his movie locally and at film festivals statewide. And if all goes well from there, the Cannes Film Festival, he said.

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