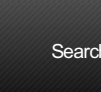


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## Improv comedy group completes mission

### Campus and Chicago groups bring laughs to 7th Street

Jennifer Brown / Staff Reporter

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Through combined efforts from Mission Improvable and Lunchbox Voodoo, 7th Street Underground was filled with comedy and laughs Wednesday night.

Lunch Box Voodoo, an Eastern comedy group, started out the night with a health care skit. Some of the improv cast acted as journalists in the audience asking random questions about health care.

Taylor Davis, a freshman English major, performed his first show with the group tonight.

"I heard about it through auditions," he said. "I wanted to learn more about being on stage and making people smile and laugh."

Davis was always the class clown growing up, and he plans on staying in the group for future performances.

Lunchbox Voodoo did another sketch using audience participation.

A member of the Lunchbox Voodoos chose three audience members, and while she said lines behind them, the volunteers had to act out the scene. The scene was a roommate trying to study and a boy and girlfriend going for a walk through campus pond.

Chris McLennand, a senior communication studies major, has been in Lunchbox Voodoo since freshman year.

"My freshman year I saw them and liked what they are doing," he said. "I did comedy work in high school."

McLennand went to try-outs in September and thinks of it as an opportunity to do something fun.

The second act, Mission Improvable, is a group from Chicago. It consists of four improv actors and each of them is an "agent."

Keith Habersberger, one of the youngest in the group, began improv at Illinois State University with "Improv Mafia" from 2005-2009.

"I was always funny as a child and auditioned for improv," Habersberger said. "I have been doing improv since 2005 and Mission Improvable since last August."

Habersberger hopes to work on such comedy venues as Second City or Comedy Central.

Drew Korb, another member of Mission Improvable, began his career in the University of Florida's "Theater Strike Force" improv group.

"They're one of the biggest improv groups in the nation," Korb said. "It was very fun; I've been doing it for a year and a half."

Mission Improvable's Los Angeles theater, the MI West Side Theater, is where Korb hopes to be soon in his career.

Adam Higgins, a member of Mission Improvable, started in middle school doing theater sports.

"I do a children's improv show called 'Hogwash in Chicago,'" Higgins said. "The kids create the TV show with musical numbers and props."

Higgins loves to write and comedy such as theater scripts and screenplays.

Pat Kiely, the final member of Mission Improvable, believes Chicago is the hub for comedy in the United States.

"It's growing in NYC and L.A., but Chicago Improv Festival is the best," Kiely said. "It's all we do. It's our jobs."

Kiely says Chicago has a lot of opportunity to improve such as movies, voice overs and other theater aspects.



Senior communications studies major Chris McLennand thinks he is a zombie so he attempts to eat the brain of freshman history major Taylor Davis during the Lunchbox Voodoo comedy show on Wednesday in 7th Street Underground. (Audrey Sawyer/The Daily Eastern News)

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