

MTCC Late Niite hosts Improvised Musical Revue

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TECHNEWS WRITER

Improvisational Comedy, or colloquially "Improv" is a method of comedic and unscripted performance often used by comedy troupes, and can be classified as both short-form and long-form: the short-form usually following the patterns of an established game, and the long form arising out of external groundings to build what emerge as plots with characters who have more depth. These external groundings often come in many forms, such as suggestions from an audience, current events, or pre-established stories, through which practiced improv troupes will be able to manufacture astonishing and wildly entertaining ideas and situations.

Illinois Tech's performance art student organization, 33rd Street Productions—in addition to putting on all manner of plays, musicals, and workshops—maintains Illinois Tech's improvisation troupe 2sense Improv (2sense.) This group holds open meetings weekly on Thursday nights in the Life Sciences Auditorium from 8 to 10 p.m., for all

those who wish to join.

Last Friday, February 26, from 9:30 to 11 p.m., 33rd Street Productions (33rd) teamed up with Illinois Tech A Cappella to put on a show that would accumulate all of their improvisation practices this past semester titled "A Musical Improv Revue" as a part of Union Board's MTCC Late Niite. The 2sense actors for the evening were Reno "Fera-Ducatt" Waswil, Alexis Renk, David Haskin, Kayliegh Stevens, and Subarno Saha, assisted by an extensive and beautiful sound and lighting set designed and manned by Alien Sound and Lighting's Brian Semaru and Sean Grey. In addition to this being the first time in memorable history that an Illinois Tech improv troupe had carried out this feat, another dimension of this show's novelty was that it used 33rd's new "Si Impact" sound board, which was exciting.

The concept of this show was to be an improvised musical, marked by several song performances, which the improvisers used to guide an unscripted play in an attempt to connect them together and turn them into a

cohesive story. The cue for the songs to begin would be for one of the improvisers to—in the course of the dialog—explicitly state the name of this song after which they would leave the stage and allow the singer(s) to come up and sing. May it be added that, to hilarity, this feature often meant that there were elongated periods of time when the actors seemed to dance around the title of a song until the time felt right to shoehorn it into the scene.

Illinois Tech A Cappella graciously provided to the show three song performances, "Electric Love" by Børns, "Can't Help Falling In Love (with You)," originally performed by Elvis Presley and covered by Twenty One Pilots, and a Taylor Swift Mashup including the songs "Bad Blood" and "We Are Never Getting Back Together," which were done by the three sub groups encompassed by the larger A Cappella organization, the Crown Joules (all male,) Techtonics (Co-Ed) and the X-Chromotones (all female) respectively.

In all, there were six musical selections, the other three being solos/duets performances of the songs "You'll Be

Back' from Hamilton: The Musical, "Oxford Comma" by Vampire Weekend, and "Let It Go" from Disney's Frozen.

The play, after an initial decision by Waswil to open with a woman, Renk, sitting in a cottage reading a copy of Technews, became a story about of a family—a newspaper affiliated husband (Waswil,) an unabashedly ditsy wife (Renk,) and their rebellious teenage daughter Christina (Stevens)—from whom it was Waswil mission to gain love respect despite his inability to understand what she meant by her insistence he buy her "a Starbucks." Christina remained, throughout the play, ambiguously the daughter of one of any number of three brothers (Waswil and his two brothers, played by Haskins and Saha,) though it was agreed upon that she was not a blood-daughter of her mother. To the characters of the two brothers, Haskin, it was revealed, had a vague background in psychology and a fetish for electricity, while Saha's was that of a paranoid schizophrenic who was a herald of the internet, still in its early stages as of the period of this play.



Photo by Reno Waswil

Panel to commemorate International Women's Day

Anoopa Sundararajan
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In recognition and celebration of International Women's Day, the Illinois Tech Department of Humanities will host a panel, discussion and luncheon from 12:45 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, in the West Ballroom of Hermann Hall.

The event will feature engaging discussions of contemporary issues faced by women around the world – the status of Muslim and Black women in the United States, Syrian women refugees and women in the Congo, with a guest speaker who will discuss the status of women in Russia.

This year's panel will comprise of Illinois Tech alumna Salam Abdulrazzak, students Adeena Ahmed, Gertrude "Getty" Kasole, Jacquelle Rowell and guest speaker Veronika Peskova.

Abdulrazzak completed her Bachelor's degree in business administration in 2015 at the Stuart School of Business, where she was active in the Undergraduate Business Council and the Arab American Association of Engineers and Architects (AAAEA). She is currently a Project Coordinator at Syrian Community Network, a local non-profit organization that supports the resettlement of Syrian refugees. Ahmed was born in Pakistan and raised in the United States for the majority of her life. She is currently a second year student studying Psychology at Illinois Tech.

International Women's Day Panel, Discussion, and Luncheon



Thursday, March 10, 12:45 p.m.
Hermann Hall Ballroom

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Lewis College
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111 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
Department of Humanities

Join us for a panel and luncheon looking at contemporary issues faced by women around the world. We'll feature female Illinois Tech students speaking on the status of Muslim women and Blackwomen in the U.S., Syrian women refugees, and women in the Congo. A guest speaker will also discuss the status of women in Russia.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/iffpanel

She is also a crisis counselor and a part of Muslim Student Association. Kasole was born and raised in Kinshasa, Congo and immigrated to the United States seven years ago. She is currently pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering at Illinois Tech. She has been to five out of the seven continents in the world and speaks seven languages. She defines herself as a feminist. The last student panelist, Rowell is a second year student majoring in information technology and management (ITM) and minoring in political science. She is also secretary of the Black Student Union, a member of ITM's Ambassador program and vice president of the soon to be Illinois Tech chapter of the Association of IT Professionals. The last of the panelists, Peskova studied at Kingston University in the United Kingdom. She currently implements strategic and financial management consulting projects for business and government institutions. She serves as a member of the Expert Council of the Committee for the development of women's entrepreneurship of a non-governmental organization, for which she is a board member and responsible for development of educational and international projects.

Margaret Power, Professor of History and Chair of the Department of Humanities says about the event, "This exciting event offers the IIT community the opportunity to hear about and discuss women's realities within different countries including the United States."

Image courtesy of Illinois Tech Department of Humanities