

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2009

**CAPA PRESENTS THE NIMBLE IMPROV TALENT OF
iO THEATRE
in *THE IMPROVISED MUSICAL***

“Still laughing three days later.” – *Chicago Arts & Entertainment*

**“Some of the flat out funniest moments we’ve ever seen in an improv show.” –
*Time Out Chicago***

After 25 years of providing Chicago with groundbreaking, star-making, world class improvisational comedy, the legendary Improv Olympics Theater brings *The Improvised Musical* to Columbus. This production features all the elements of a big time Broadway musical—huge group numbers, larger than life characters, tight harmonies, and dynamic choreography. However, every line, note, and step of this musical is completely improvised—made up right there on the spot based on suggestions from the audience.

CAPA presents **iO Theatre** in *The Improvised Musical* at the **Southern Theatre** (21 E. Main St.) **May 2**, at **8pm**. **Tickets** are \$25 at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets, and www.ticketmaster.com. To purchase tickets by phone, please call (800) 745-3000 or (614) 469-0939. The Southern Theatre Ticket Office will open two hours prior to the performance. Students between the ages of 13-19 can purchase \$5 High Five tickets while available.

Founded in 1981 by Charna Halpern, with assistance from the late Del Close starting in 1984, the iO Theater has prospered as a comedy training center and performance venue. Located a few doors away from Wrigley Field, iO is renowned for the performing and teaching of long form improvisational theater.

Charna Halpern has been teaching performers how to work together for more than 25 years. Having founded iO in Chicago and Hollywood, Charna’s theaters are meccas for training in the art of improvisation and recruiting stops for television shows like *Saturday Night Live*, *Late Night with Conan O’Brien*, *The Daily Show*, *The Colbert Report*, and *MADtv*.

Halpern’s first book, *Truth in Comedy*, co-written with her late partner Del Close, acts as a guide for teaching and performing improvisation to theaters and groups across the world. Specializing in creating a group mind with hilarious end results, she is now sharing her secrets and

skills with businesses to give them the creative edge they need to compete in the corporate world.

Halpern and her work are featured in Season XX of MTV's hit show *The Real World*.

Famous iO alumni include Mike Myers, Tina Fey, Chris Farley, Vince Vaughn, Amy Poehler, David Koechner, Neil Flynn, Jon Favreau, Andy Richter, Jack McBrayer, Jason Sudeikis, Rachel Dratch, Adam McKay, Tim Meadows, Seth Meyers, Angela Kinsey, Stephanie Weir, Mo Collins, Matt Besser, Horatio Sanz, Ike Barinholtz, Rich Fulcher, Dan Bakkedahl, and many more.

<http://chicago.ioimprov.com/>

The **Ohio Arts Council** helped fund this program with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, education excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. CAPA also appreciates the support of the **Robert Bartels, Virginia Hall Beale, and Barbara Clement Memorial Funds of The Columbus Foundation**, assisting donors and others in strengthening our community for the benefit of all of its citizens, and the **Greater Columbus Arts Council**, supporting the city's artists and arts organizations since 1973.

Owner/operator of downtown Columbus' magnificent historic theatres (Ohio Theatre, Palace Theatre, Southern Theatre) and manager of the Riffe Center Theatre Complex (Columbus) and the Shubert Theater (New Haven, CT), **CAPA** is an award-winning presenter of national and international performing arts and entertainment. For more information, visit www.capa.com.

CALENDAR LISTING

**CAPA presents the iO Theatre in *The Improvised Musical*
Saturday, May 2, 8 pm
Southern Theatre (21 E. Main St.)**

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