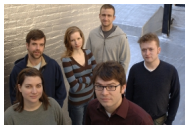
Written by Mike Schulz
Tuesday, 22 January 2013 06:00



Comedy

Upright Citizens Brigade Touring Company

Augustana College

Saturday, January 26, 8 p.m.

On January 26, Augustana College's Centennial Hall will host an evening with members of the Upright Citizens Brigade Touring Company, and you can learn a lot about the acclaimed comedy troupe by visiting its Web site at UCBTourCo.com . For instance, you'll learn that, as the ensemble's home page states, "mainstream comedy is for jerks," and that its touring show with Brigade performer Horatio Sanz "will make you wet yourself with laughter," and its *Blackout Drunk* production boasts a "lack of self-control" and "an appalling lack of shame" ... .

Hey ... wait a minute ... . You don't think that calling themselves "Upright Citizens" is meant *jokingly*, do you ... ?

Like the quick-witted talents of this venerable organization, I kid. Formed in 1990 by veterans of Chicago's famed ImprovOlympics, Upright Citizens Brigade members currently perform smart, hysterical improv and sketch comedy to sold-out crowds in New York City and Los Angeles, with some of the funniest names in show business listed among the group's alumni. Amy Poehler, Ed Helms, Rob Corddry, and Rob Riggle are among those whose careers were

jump-started through their association with the UCB, and numerous others have amassed credits on such TV series as *Saturday Night Live, 30 Rock,* and *MadTV*.

The group also had its own, self-titled series on Comedy Central from 1998 to 2000, and has earned critical raves for productions that – as with the forthcoming Augustana engagement – feature Upright comedians performing 90 minutes of long-form improvisational comedy. *Entertainment Weekly* called the ensemble "twisted and hilarious." The *New York Post* wrote, "When *SNL* and *The Daily Show* need comics, they turn to the Upright Citizens Brigade." And regarding a UCB touring production, *The Onion* advised, "Catch the next generation of comedy superstars before they all sell out to sh--y sitcoms and VH1 list shows." Wow. That seems like a pretty catty thing for respectable journalists to publish. I'm surprised that ... .

Hey ... wait a minute ... . You don't think *The Onion* is meant to be taken *jokingly*, do you ... ?

Tickets to January 26's performance by the Upright Citizens Brigade Touring Company are $10, and more information and tickets are available by calling (309)794-7306 or visiting Augustana.edu/tickets .

[redacted] QuadCityArts.com [redacted]

[redacted] Center4Living.com [redacted]

[redacted]