

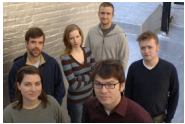
## What's Happenin': Thursday, January 24, through Wednesday, February 6

Written by Mike Schulz

Tuesday, 22 January 2013 06:00

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### 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](http://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](http://Augustana.edu/tickets).

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## Dance

### Lula Washington Dance Theatre

St. Ambrose University

Saturday, January 26, 7:30 p.m.

Famed choreographer Martha Graham was quoted as saying, "Dance is the hidden language of the soul." Famed choreographer Lula Washington – whose company performs at St. Ambrose University's Galvin Fine Arts Center on January 26 – created the animated dances for Disney's *The Little Mermaid* and the Na'vi dances for James Cameron's *Avatar*. So much for "hidden."

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A Los Angeles-based repertoire ensemble lauded for its innovative, provocative choreography and startling athleticism, the Lula Washington Dance Theatre was founded in 1980, with the past three decades finding its talents touring Canada, Mexico, Spain, Germany, China, and more than 150 cities in the United States. Employing high-energy dance as a means of exploring social and humanitarian issues, primarily aspects of African-American history and culture, Washington's company has also earned massive critical acclaim, with the *New York Times* praising its "rousing, infectiously enthusiastic performances," and the *New Jersey Recorder* labeling the group's works "smart, strong, and energetic."

There are certainly additional things to mention regarding Washington and her troupe, members of whom are the latest guests in Quad City Arts' Visiting Artists series: the company's engagements in Kosovo and at Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center; Washington's lifetime-achievement awards from Los Angeles' Dance Fest 2000 and from the Performing Arts in Schools Association. But for a better sense of the exhilaration in store during the Lula Washington Dance Theatre's forthcoming St. Ambrose performance, I have instead attached to this article three photos of the troupe in action. Race your eyes over them top to bottom, and bottom to top, and on and on, and it'll look just like dancers in them are *really moving!*

That, or you'll just get really dizzy. I'm kind of afraid to try it myself.

For reservations to the Lula Washington Dance Theatre's Davenport engagement, call the St. Ambrose ticket office at (563)333-6251, and for more information on the group's area residency, visit [QuadCityArts.com](http://QuadCityArts.com).

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