

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE
Cody SHOW
Rivers

"The closest experience to it would be seeing 'Waiting for Godot' performed by Chinese acrobats."

- New York Theatre Wire

"...artful, unusual, painstakingly brilliant..."

-Time Out Chicago



Photo by [Erica Zurek](#)

"Cody Rivers transcends standard sketch comedy...as impeccably rehearsed and physically impressive as they are funny...engaging...beyond creative... They really are something you've never seen before."

-VH1's Best Week Ever

The Cody Rivers Show

Comedy theatre duo embarks on latest new production

The Cody Rivers Show creates **kinetic and unpredictable** comedy theatre that has amazed audiences and defied description since 2004.

Pushing the envelopes of **physical theatre, dance, music, and high-concept comedy**, The Cody Rivers Show delivers unique shows unlike any other comedy act, past or present. **It's like running a marathon, doing algebra, and eating cake at the same time.**



Photo by [Erica Zurek](#)

For more information on The Cody Rivers Show, please visit: www.codyrivers.com

For high resolution photos please visit:

<http://codyrivers.com/media/>

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Media Quotes:

"The Cody Rivers Show was absolutely mesmerizing. Forgive me: I didn't, actually couldn't, write anything down. From moment one...no one could tear their eyes away."
-Time Out Chicago

"A welcome anomaly in the comedy world."
-New York Press

"...impeccably rehearsed...physically impressive...funny...engaging...beyond creative...They really are something you've never seen before."
-VH1's Best Week Ever

"After seeing The Cody Rivers Show...everything else will seem less captivating - and far less physically fit."
-Time Out New York

"...sketch comedy that's a cut above the rest..."
-Vancouver Sun

"...razor-sharp sketch comedy full of word-play, tight satire and clever improvisation."
-The Minneapolis Star-Tribune

"...blistering humour at Formula One speeds... wildly inventive and nearly inexplicably funny comedy...everyone should enjoy this show."
-The Montreal Mirror

"I see a lot of funny entertainment in the course of my work. 'The Cody Rivers Show' is the best that has come along in ... well, in a long time."
-The Seattle Post-Intelligencer

"The Cody Rivers Show is one of the funniest sketch comedy troupes you'll ever see, and if you miss it, you don't deserve laughter in your life."
-Portland Mercury

"It feels like a theatrical tornado, and when you get spat out the other side, you won't know what hit you, but you'll be happy that it did."
-The Globe and Mail

"There's no point in describing what it is these guys do, even if you could, except to say that they do it so beautifully that you want to see them do it again. Watch and wonder."
-Orlando Sentinel

"Imagine free-falling through an atmosphere of people, places, and situations while laughing gas pumps in your veins..."
-Charleston City Paper

"...a hallucinatory brand of comedy almost impossible to describe."
-Victoria Times-Colonist

"The Cody Rivers Show is completely unhinged...You have never seen anything like it."
-The Edmonton Sun



"The Cody Rivers Show impresses as powerfully and uniquely as Blue Man Group did when it first appeared years ago: original brilliance[...]There is nothing like this act--original physical and intellectual comedy, terrific mime and puppetry renditions..."

-NYC Lively Arts

"... wicked imaginations, superlative timing, and breathtaking physical skill...Nothing short of genius."

-The Georgia Straight (Vancouver)

"This isn't safe material."

-The Oregonian

"The sketch comedy duo of Mike Mathieu and Andrew Connor creates and performs intellectual, blazing-fast, highly conceptual theater that's so bizarre and charming and unselfconscious that you can't quite comprehend what you're looking at...Cody Rivers is brilliant."

-The Stranger (Seattle)

"...they have the ability to make an audience convulse uncontrollably without anyone understanding why...A must see."

-Only Magazine (Montreal)

"Their highly refined skills include dance, gymnastics, juggling, tumbling and a general proficiency with precisely choreographed stunts involving athleticism, strength and daring...Intelligence and unpredictability are a constant. Connor and Mathieu are up there with such international comedy stars as Bill Irwin, Geoff Hoyle and the Blue Man Group..."

-Seattle Post-Intelligencer

"Two words: See them."

-The Bastion (Chicago)

"The Cody Rivers Show is the hottest act on the sketch circuit...Their surreal and absurdist stage show is full of risks."

-Georgia Straight

"The Cody Rivers Show is one of the most unique, inventive, straight-up brilliant live productions ever."

-Charleston City Paper

"...artful, unusual, painstakingly brilliant..."

-Time Out Chicago

"...brainy, high-energy farce... You may not know why you're laughing. But you won't stop."

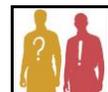
-Seattle Metropolitan Magazine

"Imagine a hyper-active lovechild of synchronized swimming and Kids in the Hall."

-Metromix Orlando

"The Cody Rivers Show was out of this world--outstanding, absurdist, experimental theater that paddles above the surface of the sketch comedy genre...Mike Mathieu & Andrew Connor would look at-home on or off Broadway."

-The Apiary (NYC)





"The Cody Rivers Show is possibly as far down the rabbit hole as comedy has ever gone, turning the ability to find humor in chaos into a means of survival for the soul."

-Blogcritic Magazine

"The Cody Rivers show is mindblowingly amazing. Brilliant. Like nothing you've seen."

-The Daily City (Orlando)

"The Cody Rivers Show lives squarely at the intersection of sketch comedy, sharp satire, and avant-garde performance art. It's tough to get any one of these three theatrical genres right. Doing all three at once is nothing short of genius...They are a riotous mix of happenstance and well-honed performance with a titch of serendipity tossed in for good measure."

-SGN

"...the best unexplainable physical comedy in the world." **-Archikulture**

"This is bravura theater."

-The Orlando Sentinel

"The show isn't so much a work of comedy as it is a work of grand entertainment."

-Charleston Post and Courier

"Part of the joy of attending one of these performances is that you would never, ever be able to guess what's in store onstage – but suffice it to say these guys know how to light up a room. They also know how to finagle the English language in such a way that every sentence holds worlds of meaning, contort their bodies into positions that would fell most able-bodied men, use their facial muscles to weird, wonderful advantage and, most importantly, bring nonstop laughter to the masses." **-Cascadia Weekly**

"...this unique and engaging sketch-comedy favorite has redefined the notions of both theater and weirdness with a certain laugh-your-face-off je ne sais quoi. If you've seen a Cody Rivers Show, you sais exactly quoi I'm talking about."

-The Stranger

"...cerebral, inventive, and quite simply two of the funniest people you'll see in any comedic form."

-The Portland Mercury

"There are great physical comedians. And there are exceptionally funny wordsmiths. Mike Mathieu and Andrew Connor, the two men of the Cody Rivers Show, are both."

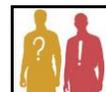
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The Cody Rivers Show - Selected Credits

Festivals:

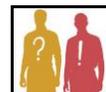
Just for Laughs
The Upright Citizens Brigade 'Best Comedy in the Universe' Festival
Piccolo Spoleto
Best of the Best Sketchfest
Edmonton Fringe Festival
Vancouver International Comedy Festival
D.C. Comedyfest
Orlando Fringe Festival
Bumbershoot
San Francisco Sketchfest
Vancouver Sketchfest
Sketchfest Seattle
Chicago Sketchfest
Miami Improv Festival
Sketchfest NYC
Northwest New Works Festival
Minnesota Fringe Festival
Vancouver Fringe Festival

Venues:

Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre (New York, NY)
Soho Playhouse (New York, NY)
Sacred Fools Theatre (Los Angeles, CA)
iO (Chicago, IL)
The Diesel Playhouse (Toronto, ON)
The Warehouse Theatre (Washington, DC)
The Waterfront Theatre (Vancouver, BC)
Mainline Theatre (Montreal, QC)
The Paramount Theatre (Seattle, WA)
Theatre 99 (Charleston, SC)
The Moore Theatre (Seattle, WA)
The Eureka Theatre (San Francisco, CA)
The Miracle Theater (Portland, OR)
The Geery Theater (Sacramento, CA)
Comedy Alley (Richmond, VA)
The Dark Room (San Francisco, CA)
The Grand Theatre (London, ON)
The Manitou Art Center (Colorado Springs, CO)
Curious Comedy (Portland, OR)
iO West (Los Angeles, CA)
MadLab Theatre (Columbus, OH)
The Theatre Garage (Minneapolis, MN)

Awards:

'Genius Award' - presented by Seattle newspaper, The Stranger ('09)
'Just for Laughs, Best Comedy Award' - Montreal Fringe Festival ('08)
'Best Comedy' - Victoria Fringe Festival ('06 & '07)
'Pick of The Fringe' - Vancouver Fringe Festival ('06)



THE GEORGIA *Straight*

VANCOUVER'S NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

The Cody Rivers Show: Colossus

“There’s not a single predictable moment in this 90-minute program of some of the most original, inventive, and virtuosic sketch comedy I’ve ever seen. The Cody Rivers Show’s Mike Mathieu and Andrew Connor display wicked imaginations, superlative timing, and breathtaking physical skill in these supremely weird sketches. Each is a world unto itself, touching on everything from cloned superheroes to difficult people.



They dance, recite poetry, play percussion, speak French, and constantly exploit the tension between stillness and frenzy so that we never know what’s going to happen next—but when it does, it’s always funny. Nothing short of genius.” *-Kathleen Oliver*

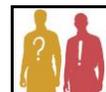


SketchFest NYC - Opening Night @ The SoHo Playhouse

"The Cody Rivers Show was out of this world--outstanding, absurdist, experimental theater that paddles above the surface of the sketch comedy genre. Their payoffs were rarely immediate and their long scenes often pushed past the limits of comfort, edging the audience not towards boredom, but a point of full-on entrancement.

One piece set to a pulsating and darkened rhythm akin to the manic dystopia of Edvard Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King," has the Cody Rivers duo playing Restaurant with two unsuspecting audience members in a setting that could have taken place on the surface of the moon, a research laboratory, Antarctica, or any number of other desolate locales.

Trained dancers and stage performers Mike Mathieu & Andrew Connor would look at-home on or off Broadway. And if a rousing, emotional standing ovation is any indicator, a dedicated NYC run anywhere near Broadway should be something for them to consider."





The Cody Rivers Show: Flammable People – Six stars (out of six)

“Mike Mathieu and Andrew Connor—a Bellingham, Washington—based sketch duo known as the Cody Rivers Show—make a rare Chicago appearance this week. Donning curly wigs and lime-green jumpsuits, the pair paints a world that’s just a little left of center in their new revue: A student’s Elizabethan dialect is pissing her teacher off; talking about the Dow Jones substitutes for roommate bonding; a boy’s retelling of his summer vacation involves the beach, hot-air balloons and dancing clowns.

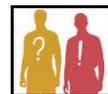
But the heart of Cody Rivers lies in the group’s ability to punctuate performances with compelling visualizations and physicality. Rather than taking us to an aquarium merely through dialogue, the duo uses highly coordinated, highly mesmerizing hand gestures to bring the sea-dwelling creatures to life. Even apparent non sequiturs—like a finely choreographed song-and-dance number about a “Lil’ Doggie” and an awkward audience poll on hand massages—are testament to a commonly held, but rarely evoked, comedic tenet: Anything done onstage with conviction and commitment, no matter how weird, is engaging.



In that sense, most everything is fair game, and it’s on this blank canvas that Flammable People’s artful, unusual, painstakingly brilliant style has the capacity to rock our fragile little sketch world.

And yes, Flammable People is also damn funny—it sports a sophisticated sense of humor that comes not from shock or parody, but from the hardest, most elusive thing to nail: truth, with a capital T. Things as simple as using doll version of themselves to create the illusion of “being far away” get huge laughs from the sheer reality of it all. As far as acting goes, Mathieu and Connor keep the work grounded, vulnerable and free of desperation, drawing on their chops to paint vivid emotional moments: We buy into the fact that a despondent character would fully embrace the advice of an eccentric life coach, even though the accompanying meditation ritual involves high-pitched squeals and odd hand gestures. Despite skewed scene premises, Cody Rivers makes it clear that even in the smoke-and-mirrors world of sketch comedy, people are still people—flammable though they may be.”

-Steve Heisler



the Stranger

SEATTLE'S
ONLY NEWSPAPER

The Cody Rivers Show: Tangle Rendezvous Jewel Box Theater

"You know when you spend most of your life eating chocolate chips and watching ABC Family Channel original movies and crying (come on, sure you do), and then you drag yourself outside for one little night of theater and it turns out to be something so purely creative and wondrous that it's like getting a hug straight from the Baby Jesus? The Cody Rivers Show is like that, like a reassuring blast of weird, delightful brilliance. Like maybe humans aren't useless after all.

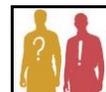
Saturday night's show coincided, lamentably, with "Santarchy," a heee-larious annual guerrilla march of sexy elves and Kringle-clad drunks (some in heee-larious afro wigs!), who packed the Rendezvous with their fuzzy red bodies and their deafening ho-ho-hos. Still, Cody Rivers cocreators Mike Mathieu and Andrew Connor forged ahead, the permeating hokey-jokey din illuminating, by contrast, the high-concept intricacy of this thing they've made.

This thing isn't sketch comedy exactly, but it's not standard theater, and it isn't funny so much as mesmerizing: a bizarre, impressively choreographed, breakneck montage of song, dance, puppetry, soliloquy, and oddly dramatic vignettes. Some lines are straight-ahead jokes: "No more 'that's gonna leave a mark,' no more 'tastes like chicken'... no more 'okay, I'll shut up now.'" Some speak volumes in a single sentence: "I thought it was funny at first, but I didn't know you could shovel so fast." And my favorite bit of dialogue: "Throw this bag of powder in my face." "What if it's poison?" "Exactly." Exactly! Cody Rivers is clever, it's excellent, and praise the Baby Jesus (hugs!) it's new.



Throw this bag of comedy in your face and be happy, before another MadTV marathon comes along and restores your faith in mediocrity."

-Lindy West





Two-man team cleverly navigates 'Cody Rivers' through zany waters

-Joe Adcock

"Everything is highly original but vaguely familiar. Everything is painstakingly crafted but wildly unpredictable. "The Cody Rivers Show" is definitely worth seeing. It is seriously funny. Their comedy is of the "I would never have thought of that in a million years" variety. In that regard, they are a little bit like the Blue Man Group or Bill Irwin[...]

Each of Mathieu and Connor's dozen or so sketches is satirical and zany. Everything is precisely rehearsed. It has to be. The show is so wildly physical, that if it weren't exquisitely calibrated and choreographed, Connor and Mathieu would end up unconscious and bleeding on the floor.



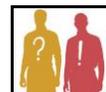
A film noir crime caper spoof is a dance, mime, juggling and tumbling spectacular. A basketball game pits hyperactive jocks against sly mimes. The mimes are Connor and Mathieu with white masks on the backs of their heads.

A scene between the devil and an innocent becomes a case of mistaken identity and then a case of mismatched romance. A mini-opera is a horror genre spoof, brought off with the help of wigs and puppets

Outstandingly peculiar is a number featuring cloned super heroes. Outstandingly satirical is a bit ridiculing, all at once, flashy evangelism, slick motivational huckstering, grandiose inspirational pop music and New Age vacuity. Hyperactivity, attention-deficit disorder and felony-level littering are important elements in a Mother's Day -- yes, Mother's Day -- skit.

The show's finale is a small-scale distillation of the frantic percussion virtuosity that propels the large-scale stage musical "Stomp."

I see a lot of funny entertainment in the course of my work. "The Cody Rivers Show" is the best that has come along in ... well, in a long time."



CHARLESTON
CITY PAPER

Yeah, The Cody Rivers Show is that good:
Meanwhile, Everywhere gets a gold star

-Jason A. Zwiker

Fair warning: if it's your first time seeing The Cody Rivers Show, prepare to be taken completely by surprise.

Here's how it begins: two guys walk out on stage, in wrestling gear, and begin soliloquizing... while performing a kind of synchronized dance.

What you won't realize until it's far too late is that there's something hypnotic about those words and those steps. By the time Andrew Connor and Mike Mathieu have segued into the next act of the spiraling rollercoaster ride that is *Meanwhile, Everywhere*, the audience has long since stopped worrying about what's going on.

Chalk it up to these guys being brilliant with words and comic timing, or call it a testament to a show that's honed as sharp as a sushi chef's knives: either way, this is fiendishly funny.

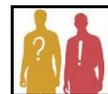
Not that Connor and Mathieu are fiends, of course. Quite the contrary, *Meanwhile, Everywhere* doesn't have a mean bone in its body. That's refreshing: far too many comedians base entire routines on sharp pokes at easy targets. These guys get you thinking without even realizing that you're thinking. The love they have for the personalities they dance through onstage is obvious.



The ease with which they flip from one madcap scene to another is disarming. It feels like they have to be making this stuff up as they go along, but it's just too spot-on perfect for that.

There really is no defense against this two-front attack: the surreal physical movements mesmerize while the linguistic gymnastics deftly reprogram the minds of the audience (who leave the show certain that cameramen really are pirates).

So why fight it? Cameramen are pirates, true enough. *Greenland* is funny, and *Opposite Day* makes any conversation more enlightening [...]



The Cody Rivers Show is:

Mike Mathieu

Mike Mathieu grew up in Beavercreek, OH, and earned a BA in English at Ohio Wesleyan University. For many years he worked heavily at [iDiOM Theater](#), writing and directing several scripts (like [Squalor](#) and [The Julia Set](#)) and performing in countless others. From 2009-2011 he served as iDiOM's artistic director. In 2012 he launched [Rock Paper Theater](#), an artistic label that covers pretty much everything he does besides Cody Rivers—[plays](#), [films](#), an [eclectic folk band](#), etc.

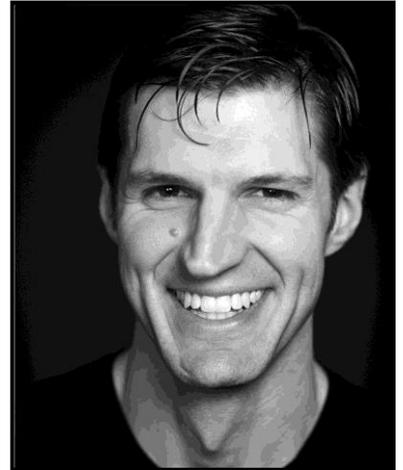


Photo by [John Meloy](#)

Andrew Connor

Andrew Connor graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University, where he acted and danced in, choreographed, and directed numerous productions, while also performing in the Babbling Bishops improv comedy troupe. Andrew runs [Infinity Live Productions](#), a live comedy and theatre production company. He has toured around the world with his solo shows [Boom](#) and [Cyclosa Confusa](#), as well as the play [Poison the Well](#), which he wrote, directed, and performed in.



Photo by [Greg Nyssen](#)



www.codyrivers.com

