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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Sixth Annual Black Box Improv Festival Set for September 11-20 in Atlanta

ATLANTA, GA - Improv groups from all corners of the United States will converge on Atlanta for the 6th Annual Black Box Improv Festival set for Sept. 11-20.

More than 200 improvisers will represent cities from across the country, including Atlanta, Austin, Charleston, Charlotte, Chicago, Lexington, Nashville, New York City, Orlando and San Francisco.

The festival is broken down into shows, which consist of three performance groups each. That means more than 50 performances are scheduled on the Georgia Tech campus at DramaTech Theatre, the Student Center and Under the Couch.

"By packing each BBIF show with three performance groups, the audience gets to experience a wide range of different styles and forms of improv and sketch," said BBIF Executive Producer Matthew Falkenberg. "Audiences will see some awesome local acts that regularly perform in different venues around the city and some of the best nationally touring acts in one location. Each show will showcase different talent and will never be repeated."

On Sept. 11-12, local improv groups will vie for bragging rights as they face off in the BBIF Tournament. The audience will vote for their favorite teams, which go on to compete in the finals slated for Sept. 18-19.

The main festival shows, scheduled for Sept. 16-20, will feature national acts, as well as local troupes from Automatic Theatre, The Basement Theatre, Dad's Garage Theatre Company, JaCKPie Theatre Workshop, Laughing Matters and Village Theatre.

"BBIF has grown to become one of the largest comedy festivals in the Southeast and is undisputed as the largest comedy festival in Atlanta," Falkenberg said.

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Dan Triandiflou, improv director of Dad's Garage Theatre Company, said, "You get a great cross section of what's going on with improvisation around the whole U.S."

"Improv in Atlanta is a very large community and goes unnoticed," said Mike King, artistic director and owner of Village Theatre. "The Black Box Festival shines an extremely important light on the growing improv community in Atlanta and its many actors that make up that community. The festival helps promote Atlanta and its improv scene, not only here but across the country, and helps establish itself along with Chicago, New York and L.A."

General admission for regular shows is \$10. Tickets are \$20 for the Sept. 19 main event — The Big Show, which will feature the Upright Citizens Brigade from New York and The Naked Stage from San Francisco. All-access passes are \$85 and include all Sept. 11-20 shows, with the exception of The Big Show. Tickets for The Big Show are \$10 with the all-access pass. Student and Georgia Tech faculty tickets are also available at a reduced rate. Patrons may park in Parking Lot W21 on the Georgia Tech campus for free on weekends and after 5 p.m. on weekdays. For detailed ticket and parking information, visit <http://blackboximprov.com>.

The Black Box Improv Festival's origin is rooted in early 1989 with a series of workshops taught by Robert Lowe at GA Tech's DramaTech Theatre, which led to the creation of the improvisational comedy troupe Let's Try This! For about 15 years, the troupe was isolated from the rest of the improv world until early 2004 when LTT!'s production manager, Jochen Rick, spearheaded a campaign to attend the Dirty South Improv Festival in North Carolina. LTT! member Matthew Falkenberg also attended the festival, and, after being elected the new production manager in May 2004, he began working on an improv festival at Georgia Tech. The first Black Box Improv Festival took place in September of that same year.

For more information about the festival and to view the complete show guide, visit <http://blackboximprov.com>.

AT A GLANCE

What: Black Box Improv Festival

When: Sept. 11-20

Where: Georgia Tech campus: DramaTech Theatre, Student Center and Under the Couch

Information: www.blackboximprov.com