

TTAB

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

In the matter of trademark application Serial No. 76488947

Filed February 10, 2003

For the mark "Mr. Sinus" in connection with goods and services "Entertainment in the nature of live comedy"

Published in the Official Gazette on September 30, 2003

Jeremy Pollet, John Erler, and Owen Egerton d/b/a Mr. Sinus

v.

Austin Cinema Drafthouse, Inc.



10-30-2003

U.S. Patent & TMOtc/TM Mail Rcpt Dt. #74

Opposition No. _____

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION

COME NOW, Jeremy Pollet, John Erler, and Owen Egerton, d/b/a Mr. Sinus, and file this Notice of Opposition and would show the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board as follows:

PARTIES

1. Plaintiffs-Opposers Jeremy Pollet, John Erler, and Owen Egerton are three individuals residing in Austin, Texas, doing business in a partnership named Mr. Sinus Theater with a business address of P.O. Box 8717, Austin, Texas 78713. The partners' names and addresses are: Jeremy Pollet, 608 Brentwood, Apt. B, Austin, Texas 78752; John Erler, 925 East 49th Street, Austin, Texas; and Owen Egerton, 1611 South First, Austin, Texas. Plaintiffs have a real interest in the outcome of this proceeding.

2. To the best of Plaintiffs' knowledge, the name and address of the current applicant for registration is Austin Cinema Drafthouse, Inc. (hereinafter "ACD" or "Defendant"), a Texas corporation with an address of 409B Colorado Street in Austin, Texas 78701.

11/18/2003 ZCLIFD1 00000006 76488947

01 FC:6402

300.00 OP

FACTS

3. The above identified Opposers/Plaintiffs believe that they will be damaged by registration of the mark show in the above identified application, and hereby oppose the same.

4. Plaintiffs Jeremy Pollet, John Erler, and Owen Egerton are three individuals that reside in Austin, Texas. They have operated as a general partnership under the name “Mr. Sinus Theater” since their first performances in September 2000. Since September 2000, Pollet, Erler, and Egerton have performed live comedy shows throughout Texas and the United States that parody popular movies and television shows under the name “Mr. Sinus.” They have received acclaim for their performances, a loyal and growing fan base, and have invested significant personal resources in gaining recognition for their comedy performed under name “Mr. Sinus.”

5. Austin Cinema Drafthouse Inc. (“ACD”), the applicant in trademark application Serial No. 76488947, owns a movie theater in Austin, Texas where Pollet, Erler, and Egerton perform. It provides the venue where the Plaintiffs’ performances are usually—but not always—held and also occasionally provides services that entertainment venues usually provide entertainers (for example, advertising, ticketing and limited production services).

6. The name “Mr. Sinus” was thought up by Jeremy Pollet, after tossing around names with Egerton. Pollet, Egerton and Erler operate the domain name “www.mrsinus.com” and “www.mistersinus.com” and have since late 2000. At that domain name, they own and operate the official “Mr. Sinus” website that advertises their upcoming and past comedy shows, sells t-shirts, and contains biographical information about Pollet, Egerton, and Erler. They are solely responsible for the content of the website, and Austin Cinema Drafthouse, Inc. maintains no control over the Mr. Sinus website. Excerpts from the www.mrsinus.com website are attached as **Exhibit 1.**

7. Although Austin Cinema Drafthouse, Inc. provides one venue in which Erler, Egerton and Pollet have performed, it is not the only venue in which they have performed comedy shows under the name "Mr. Sinus." Pollet, Erler, and Egerton have also entertained audiences under the name "Mr. Sinus" in other locations throughout Texas from late 2000 to the present. These shows include: one show at the Union Theater at the University of Texas at Austin; two shows at Southwest Texas University in San Marcos; one show at the University of Houston; one show at the Paramount Theater in Abilene, Texas; a live radio broadcast of a comedy show on KVRX 91.7 radio; a performance of music and comedy at Hole in the Wall (a venue in Austin, Texas); a show at the national MENSA convention in Austin; and two shows at Quakecon (a video-game convention in Dallas, Texas). Although based in Austin, the Mr. Sinus guys are gaining acclaim throughout Texas.

8. Pollet, Erler, and Egerton have also performed comedy under the name "Mr. Sinus" outside of Texas. For example, in February 2001, Pollet, Erler, and Egerton performed two comedy shows at the Zeitgeist Theater in New Orleans, Louisiana; in August 2001, they performed two shows at the Dixon Theater/JR's Lightbulb Club in Fayetteville, Arkansas; in April 2002, they performed three comedy shows at the Chicago City Limits Theater in New York City.

9. Austin Cinema Drafthouse, Inc., on the other hand, has never used the name "Mr. Sinus" in association with a performance of live comedy outside of the state of Texas. Additionally, Austin Cinema Drafthouse, Inc. has never used the name "Mr. Sinus" in association with any live comedy performances in which Erler, Egerton, and Pollet were not the performers.

10. Erler, Egerton and Pollet control the goods and services (the live comedy shows) offered to the public under the name "Mr. Sinus." They write the jokes, choose the subject matter, perform the shows, and are recognized in Austin and elsewhere as the Mr. Sinus guys.

11. Austin Cinema Drafthouse Inc., as the venue in which Erler, Egeron, and Pollet perform, does not write the jokes, does not chose the subject matter, and definitely does not perform the live comedy shows that are offered to the public under the name "Mr. Sinus." As such, they do not control the goods and services offered under the mark.

12. When people in Austin (and elsewhere) think of "Mr. Sinus," they think of Egerton, Erler and Pollet. Erler, Egerton and Pollet are associated with and recognized throughout the media and the public as the "face of" and persons responsible for the Mr. Sinus shows. True and correct copies of articles from October 2000 to October 2002 featuring photographs of Erler, Egerton, and Pollet are attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**. Through the website and other resources, Erler, Egerton and Pollet receive fan mail, feedback from their audience, and recognition from the community as the persons responsible for the "Mr. Sinus" shows. Therefore, ACD's use of the name Mr. Sinus for live comedy shows not performed by or associated with Erler, Egerton and Pollet would cause a likelihood of confusion.

13. Pollet, Erler, and Egerton have received accolades for their comedy performances under the mark "Mr. Sinus." For example, Pollet, Erler, and Egerton won the *Austin Chronicle* "Best of Austin" award for "Best Comedy Group" in 2001, 2002 and 2003. In 2001, the *Austin Chronicle* reported:

Mr. Sinus Theater 3000: Once upon a time, there were three funny boys who performed at the Alamo Drafthouse. Their duty? To entertain us with bad movies -- Hollywood wipeouts like *Xanadu* and *Footloose* and *Star Trek V*. But that ain't all. Oh, that ain't the half of it. Armed with their own special talents, John Erler (the tall one), Owen Egerton (the short one), and Jerm Pollet (the dark one)

offer an evening's entertainment that ranges from the political to the scatological, from the sublime to the ridiculous.

Austin Chronicle 2001 "Best of Austin" issue. **Exhibit 3.**

This article correctly recognizes that Erler, Egerton and Pollet are the actual users (and thus owners) of the name "Mr. Sinus" and that the Alamo Drafthouse merely provides the venue for their performances.

16. Two years later, the *Chronicle* reported:

Perhaps it's the razor-sharp wit that'll leave you feeling like you sprained your tummy laughing so hard, or perhaps it's just that it's pretty much guaranteed that you'll end up seeing at least one of the players – Jerm Pollet, Owen Egerton, and John Erler – stripped down to his Skivvies before the night is through. No matter the reason, this trio of hammy man-hams have won the loyalty and adoration of a city continually hungry to see Hollywood taken down a notch or 12.

Austin Chronicle 2003 "Best of Austin" issue. **Exhibit 4.**

The *Austin Chronicle* 2002 "Best of Austin" issue includes a photograph of Erler, Egerton, and Pollet with the title "Mr. Sinus Theater" superimposed. **Exhibit 5.**

14. As early as September 21, 2000, the *Austin-American Statesman* recognized Pollet, Egerton and Erler for their comedy routine. **Exhibit 6.** *Study Breaks* magazine named Mr. Sinus "Best Improv Comedy Group in Austin" in 2003, stating that "the men of Mr. Sinus Theater 3000 have been making Austinites (and many others) roll in the isles with laughter for 2 years running." The article includes a picture of Pollet, Erler, and Egerton next to the award. **Exhibit 7.** Egerton, Pollet, and Erler's performances have been covered by *The New Yorker* and *Time Out New York*. **Exhibit 8.**

15. Plaintiffs have used the mark "Mr. Sinus" since at least September 2000, prior to the date of first use in commerce on the application for registration (January 1, 2001).

16. Erler, Egerton and Pollet are not employees of Austin Cinema Drafthouse, Inc. and at all times when they performed at ACD's theater have been independent contractors.

17. Defendant Austin Cinema Draffhouse, Inc. was aware of Erler, Egerton, and Pollet's prior use of the mark. Pollet told representatives of ACD in late 2002 or early 2003 that they planned on filing for a federal registration of the mark "Mr. Sinus" for their comedy shows. Very shortly after, ACD filed the application at issue here, without any notice to Erler, Egerton and Pollet. Because of ACD's filing of its application, Plaintiffs have not yet filed their own application and believe that their application will be refused because of ACD's pending registration.

GROUND FOR OPPOSITION

18. The facts stated above in paragraphs 3 to 17 show that Defendant ACD is not entitled to registration of the mark because ACD is not (and was not, at the time of the filing of its application for registration) the rightful owner of the registered mark.

19. The facts stated above in paragraphs 3 to 17 show that Defendant ACD is not entitled to registration of the mark because ACD does not control, or is not able to legitimately to exercise control, over the use of the mark for performances of live comedy.

20. The facts stated above in paragraphs 3 to 17 show that Defendant ACD is not entitled to registration of the mark because ACD's use of the mark resembles a mark previously used, and not abandoned, by Plaintiffs as to be likely, when used in connection with the goods and services by Defendant to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to deceive.

21. The facts stated above in paragraphs 3 to 17 show that Defendant ACD is not entitled to registration because there was no bona fide use by Defendant of the mark prior to the filing of the use-based application for its registration, in that Defendants have not used the mark outside of Texas and thus have not used the mark in interstate commerce.

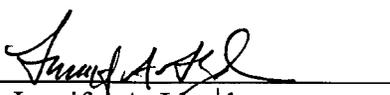
PRAYER

22. Under 15 U.S.C. §1068, the TTAB “may register the mark or marks for the person or persons entitled thereto....” Plaintiffs therefore request that the registration be issued in their name as the rightful owners of the mark “Mr. Sinus” in connection with the services “entertainment in the nature of live comedy.”

23. Under 15 U.S.C. §1068, the TTAB may also “restrict or rectify with respect to the register the registration of a mark....” In the alternative to the relief requested in Paragraph 22, Plaintiffs request that the registration be issued with a restriction as to mode of use, namely that Defendant Austin Cinema Draffhouse, Inc. be permitted to use the mark only in association with live comedy performances specifically performed by Erler, Egerton, and Pollet and not in association with any other performers or performances.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiffs Pollet, Erler, and Egerton d/b/a Mr. Sinus ask that the mark “Mr. Sinus” not be registered to Alamo Cinema Draffhouse, Inc. and instead that the registration issue in their name, and that Plaintiffs be granted such other relief to which they may show themselves entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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114 West Seventh Street
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: (512) 495-1400
Fax: (512) 499-0094

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS-OPPOSERS
JEREMY POLLET, JOHN ERLER, AND OWEN
EGERTON D/B/A MR. SINUS

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Notice of Opposition is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as "Express Mail" in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Trademarks
2900 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202-3514

On October 29, 2003



Jennifer A. Lloyd
Attorney for Plaintiffs-Opposers

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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Filed February 10, 2003
For the mark "Mr. Sinus" in connection with goods and services "Entertainment in the na
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Published in the Official Gazette on September 30, 2003

Jeremy Egerton, John Erler, and Owen Egerton

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Austin Cinema Drafthouse, Inc.

Opposition No. _____

APPENDIX TO NOTICE OF OPPOSITION

- Exhibit 1
- Exhibit 2
- Exhibit 3
- Exhibit 4
- Exhibit 5
- Exhibit 6
- Exhibit 7
- Exhibit 8

Excerpts from www.mrsinus.com website.
Examples of articles featuring pictures of Erler, Egerton, and Pollet.
Austin Chronicle 2001 Best of Austin.
Austin Chronicle 2003 Best of Austin.
Austin Chronicle 2002 Best of Austin.
Austin-American Statesman excerpt dated September 21, 2000.
Excerpt from *Study Break* magazine 2003.
Excerpt from *New Yorker* and *Time Out New York* magazines.



GEORGE & DONALDSON, L.L.P.

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October 28, 2003

Commissioner for Trademarks
2900 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3514



10-30-2003

U.S. Patent & TMOfr/TM Mail Rpt Dt. #74

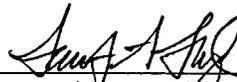
Dear Commissioner:

Please find enclosed for filing is an original and one copy of a Notice of Opposition to trademark application serial No. 7648847 for the mark "Mr. Sinus" in connection with "entertainment in the nature of live comedy" filed on behalf of Plaintiffs-Opposers Jeremy Pollet, John Erler, and Owen Egerton d/b/a Mr. Sinus. Also enclosed is a check for \$300 for the filing fee for a Notice of Opposition.

Yours sincerely,

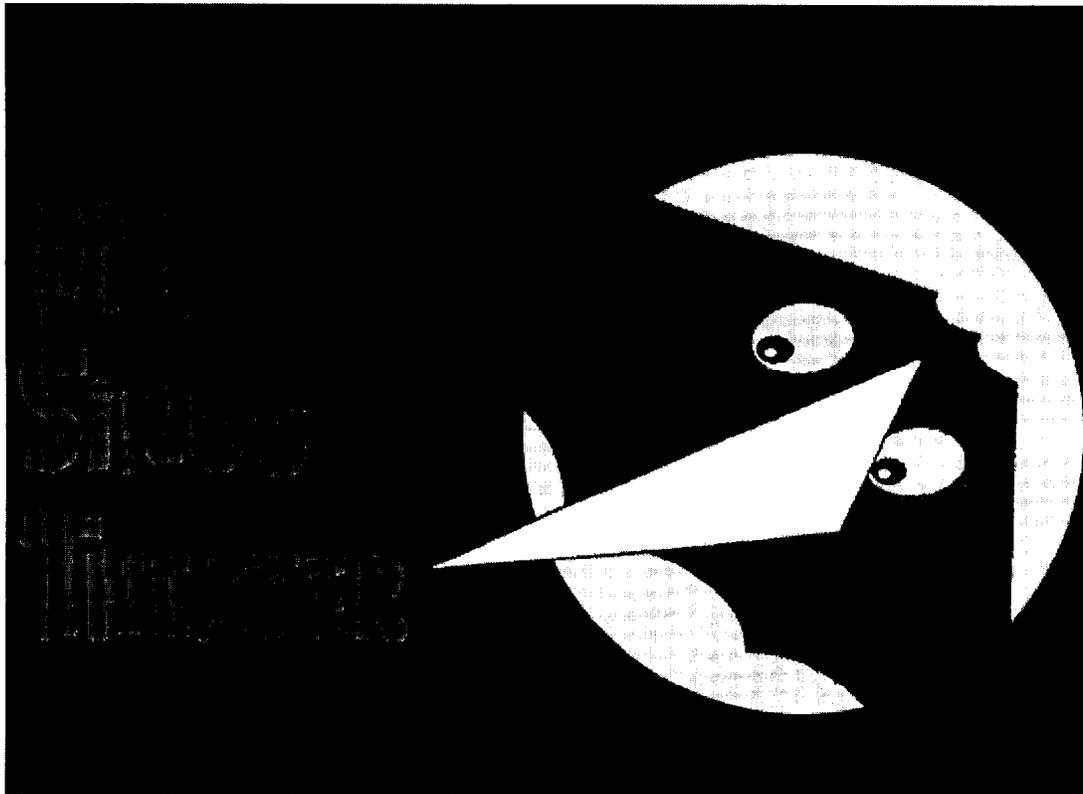
GEORGE & DONALDSON, L.L.P.

By


Jennifer A. Lloyd

Enclosures

2



About



Upcoming Shows



Archives



Biographies



Hire Us for a PRIVATE PARTY!!!



Buy a Tee-shirt or Video



NEW- The Sinus Boys' other live events



Coloring Contest



Photos (new ones added!)



NEW- Join the Mr. Sinus Email List!



NEW- Mr. Sinus Bulletin Board! Post comments about our show!

In October...THE LOST BOYS!!!

Coming in mid-November...THE MR. SINUS X-MAS SHOW!!!

ROCK AND ROLL!!!

Jerm Pollet - Tuesday, October 14th- LIVE MUSIC at Headhunters (720 Red River St. (@ 7th St.)). No cover. 10pm start. Opening for The Spoils, over the top rock and roll, drunken madness, beautiful girls, supercool

playboys, sexual deviants, Japanimation and all around general debauchery...

Show is a benefit for LINKS, Lonely Instruments for Needy Kids, Donate your unused instrument to a deserving young music student.



Owen Egerton- Saturday, October 18th- LIVE COMEDY at the Hideout on Congress. Owen will be doing a National Comedy Theater show at 7:15 with Les, Megan, Jodi and Scott. It should be an cool improv show...go!

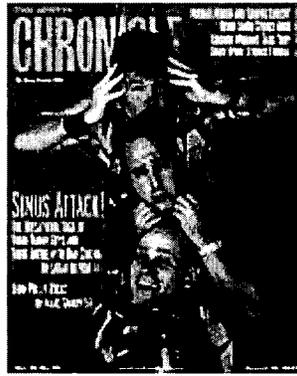


Thank You guys for voting us Best Comedy Group in the 2003 Austin Chronicle Reader's Poll:

Best Comic/Improv Group

Mr. Sinus Theater

Mystery Science Theater 3000, who? Move over, robots! Austin's own homage to B-movie heckling has taken this category by storm. Perhaps it's the razor-sharp wit that'll leave you feeling like you sprained your tummy laughing so hard, or perhaps it's just that it's pretty much guaranteed that you'll end up seeing at least one of the players – Jerm Pollet, Owen Egerton, and John Erler – stripped down to his Skivvies before the night is through. No matter the reason, this trio of hammy man-hams have won the loyalty and adoration of a city continually hungry to see Hollywood taken down a notch or 12.



Check out the recent Austin Chronicle feature on Mr. Sinus



Check out the recent Daily Texan feature on Mr. Sinus

MR. SINUS X-MAS SHOW NOW AVAILABLE ON VHS!!!!



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NEW- Mr. Sinus Bulletin Board! Post comments about our show!

About Mr. Sinus Theater 3000

"Hecklers par excellence"

- Chris Garcia, Austin American Statesman

"We hate people who talk during movies, unless they're really funny! And these guys are...if you miss the old Mystery Science Theater 3000 (and who doesn't?) then these sarcastic quipsters, working live without a net, will do your heart good."

-J.C Shakespeare, Austin Chronicle

Take three of Austin's sharpest comedians, mix in some of the worst movies in history, and what do you get? MR SINUS THEATER 3000, of course! Jerm Pollet, Owen Egerton, and John Erler (see biographies) sit front row center before the movie screen with microphones in hand. Bad actors and incompetent directors beware! These clever watchdogs, with keen observation and lightning fast wit, can actually turn your sloppy films into comic gold...and draw in big crowds!

Since September, 2000 MR. SINUS has been selling out weekly shows at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema in Austin, Texas. Fans of comedy, film, and, of course, the Mystery Science Theater 3000 television program have been filling the seats, hungry for this unique multimedia event. AND, the MR SINUS team is not restricted to just commentary. Because of the live format, the three-man

crew can perform sketch comedy, interact with the crowd, and occasionally pick up a guitar and sing! Oh yeah, let's not forget the ever-popular and surprising drinking game.

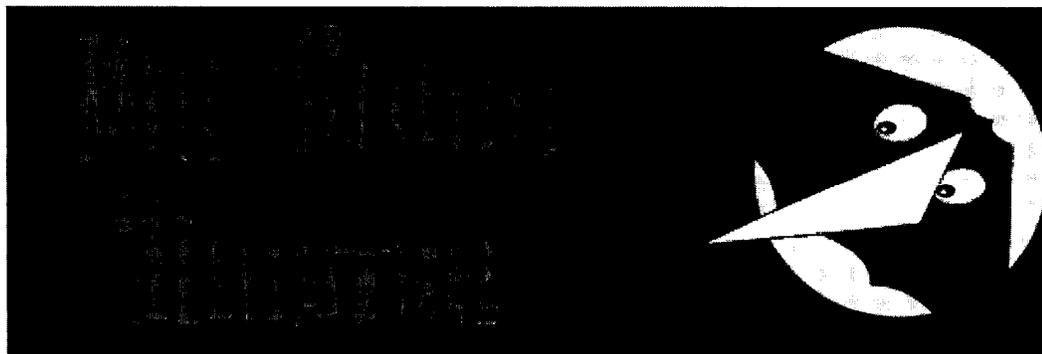
Remember, MR SINUS isn't limited by the standards of the cable television ratings board. Classic films shot in Nuderama, like "Nude on the Moon" by Doris Wishman and vintage gore masterpieces, like "The Gruesome Twosome" by Herschell Gordon Lewis are just two examples of how MR SINUS can travel places that no t.v show ever could go. Even, He-Man, himself, is vulnerable to the MR SINUS "treatment," as the crew has officially placed their mark on Gary Goddard's bizarre tribute to the muscle-bound cartoon character in, "Masters of the Universe."

So get ready to laugh, 'cause MR SINUS is coming to your town, armed with flicks to give you that "so bad, but so good" feeling, we all secretly love...just be sure not to choke on your popcorn.

"The can't-miss hit of the year, the must-see ticket of the millenium. And why not? Action! Laughter! Cross-dressing! These three guys prove that comic actors can be strong, sassy, and above all - fashionable."

-Austin Chronicle, Best of 2001 award issue

Mr. Sinus management: Jerm Pollet 512-633-9371, nomoremilk@aol.com



About



Upcoming Shows



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Biographies



Hire Us for a Private Party



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Coloring Contest



Photos (new ones added!)



NEW- Join the Mr. Sinus Email List!



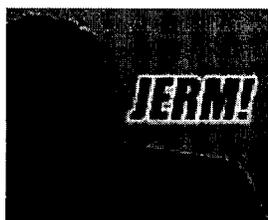
NEW- Mr. Sinus Bulletin Board! Post comments about our show!

Biographies!

You recognize the back of our heads from the front row... now meet the faces!

Jerm : Owen : John

Jerm Pollet



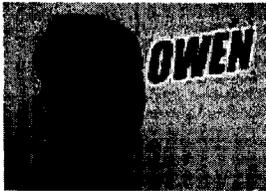
Since moving to Texas from New York City with his rap group, the Brothers Cup back in 1991, Jerm Pollet has been a long-time favorite in the local music scene. He helped form two popular punk bands, Gals Panic and Missile Command, and now plays solo under the name of Tall, Dark and Lonesome, in a style he calls "punk-rock campfire music." (each act has a CD). He was once RuPaul's tour manager, and has also performed live many times with Timothy "Speed" Levitch, the star of The Cruise (ARTISAN), that cool black and white documentary film about New York City tour-guiding. Jerm is a comedian as well, and is a veteran member of the improv troupe, ComedySportz.

The owners of The Alamo Drafthouse, approached Jerm with the Mr. Sinus concept after seeing him in a locally produced independent film. Jerm played the role of "Johnny Awesome", a character of Jerm's own invention who is a country-western singing tennis player (his acoustic guitar is his racquet). It was Jerm's duty to assemble the Sinus team. Here are the two twisted geniuses he found...

Jerm's Website

Email Jerm

Owen Egerton



Owen has been a prominent name in Austin comedy for seven years. He's performed at Esther's Follies, Bad Dog Comedy Club, Cap City Comedy Club, The ComedySportz Playhouse as well as up and down the radio dial. He has been a regular improv-player with Austin's ComedySportz troupe and was also a member of the critically acclaimed sketch group, the Skinnies. He has performed all over the United States and England. Who else could go so far on only a Casio Keyboard and some D-sized batteries?!

Big Thick Wooden Board is the name of Owen's debut CD. This collection of comedy tunes includes such songs as the retro-pop rocker I'm Still Living in the Eighties: Take me, take me, take me back. Molly Ringwald had a job, Michael Jackson was still black. and... The lamenting rock ballad My Sister' Thyroid: Oh, my sister's thyroid, I hope you'll understand. If she seems a tad annoyed it's not the girl, it's just the gland

[Owen's Website](#)

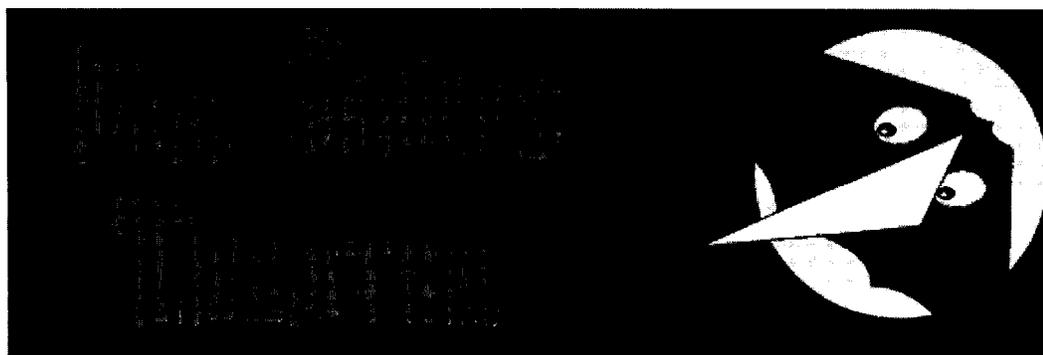
[Email Owen](#)

John Erler



John Erler is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Classics and writing a dissertation on physical attractiveness in Latin Literature. In his spare time John works at KVRX 91.7 FM, hosting Thursday morning's cult sensation, The Elk Mating Ritual Hour, and booking bands for Sunday night's Local Live show. A few may recognize John from his various unscheduled appearances at Karaoke bars singing Jimmy Buffet songs in the voice of Skeletor, He-Man's sworn nemesis. Like the other two members of Mister Sinus, John also writes and sings his own songs. According to John, his band, Big In Italy, can be seen whenever local club owners are "stricken by a momentary lapse of judgement."

[Email John](#)



About



Upcoming Shows



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Hire Us for a PRIVATE PARTY!!!



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NEW- The Sinus Boys' other live events



Coloring Contest



Photos (new ones added!)



NEW- Join the Mr. Sinus Email List!



NEW- Mr. Sinus Bulletin Board! Post comments about our show!

Upcoming Shows!

Check out our calendar of upcoming shows. You're invited to attend any and ALL of them!

Now Playing at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas (Austin, TX):

You can now purchase tickets to Mr. Sinus online...Alamo Downtown

****** ALL MR. SINUS SHOWS ARE OPEN TO ALL-AGES! (but contain comedy material that may be unsuitable for young kids)******

THE LOST BOYS

1987, d. Joel Schumacher, R

Start with a classic vampire-as-metaphor-for-puberty storyline, add a dozen or so mullets, throw in two Coreys, a dash of Kiefer Sutherland hamming it up, and one kick-ass soundtrack. Set oven temperature to 1987, let it cook for 16 years and you've got a heaping plate of LOST BOYS.



Remember the eating of maggots? Remember Bill (from Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure) as low-ranking vampire crony? Remember Jason Patrick floating around his bedroom? Oh yeah! Mr. Sinus invites you to join us in becoming high-flying, merry-go-riding, living-dead teenagers. Sleep all day. Party all night. Never grow old. Never die. (Some blood sucking required.)...For fun, check out the Lost Boys fan page.

SHOW SCHEDULE

Fri. October 31st, 7:00pm and 9:45pm.....
*****Mr. Sinus Halloween Spectacular*****

Throw on your costume, grab your garlic and head on down to the Alamo Downtown for what is now an annual tradition. There'll be bobbing for Schlitz beer (apples are for nerds), a dancing costume contest, trick-or-treating, candy, a pumpkin carving contest, Skeletor, possible nudity, the film LOST BOYS and so much more! How much more? Well, in honor of Lost Boys, a "professional" hairstylist will be in the Alamo lobby equipped with clippers and a barber's chair, ready to give any boy or girl a free mullet! Tickets also get you a free pair of vampire teeth! So, come celebrate this unholy holiday with the unholy trinity of John, Jerm and Owen, and get a mullet...if you dare!!!

Thurs. November 6th, 7:00pm and 9:45pm
****This show is at the Alamo Drafthouse in Lake Creek. Please come see us in this beautiful new Alamo theater.****

Fri. November 7th, 7:00pm and 9:45pm

Sat. November 8th, 7:00pm and 9:45pm
****TBA- one or both of these shows may be bounced by a University of Texas Longhorns football game. We should know one week in advance****

Fri. November 14th, 7:00pm and 9:45pm

MR. SINUS HOLIDAY SPECIAL!!!!

2003, d. Jerm ,John, Owen and Tim, R



Mr. Sinus Holiday Variety Show- Easily our most intense and original program to date, this show is created to simulate a night of channel-surfing on X-Mas night, with Mr. Sinus manning the remote control. Many late-night hours were devoted to researching and writing this piece, a collage comprised of over 40 clips from various X-Mas themed television and film specials. Using "It's a Wonderful Life" as its backbone, the show includes bits from well-known classics like "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", "Fat Albert X-Mas Special", and "A Christmas Carol" to the more obscure, "Star Wars Holiday Special," "Baby-Sitters Club X-Mas," and "Christmas Evil" to the totally insane (ie: "Merry Fucking X-Mas", "Horny Holidaze" and "Liberace's Christmas"). The live show features sing-alongs, free milk and cookies, a special visit from Barney en Espanol...and more more more!!!!

SHOW SCHEDULE

Fri. November 21st, 7:00pm and 9:45pm

Fri. December 5th, 7:00pm and 9:45pm

Thurs. December 11th, 7:00pm and 9:45pm **This show is at the Alamo Drafthouse in Lake Creek. Please come see us in this beautiful new Alamo theater.**

Fri. December 12th, 7:00pm and 9:45pm

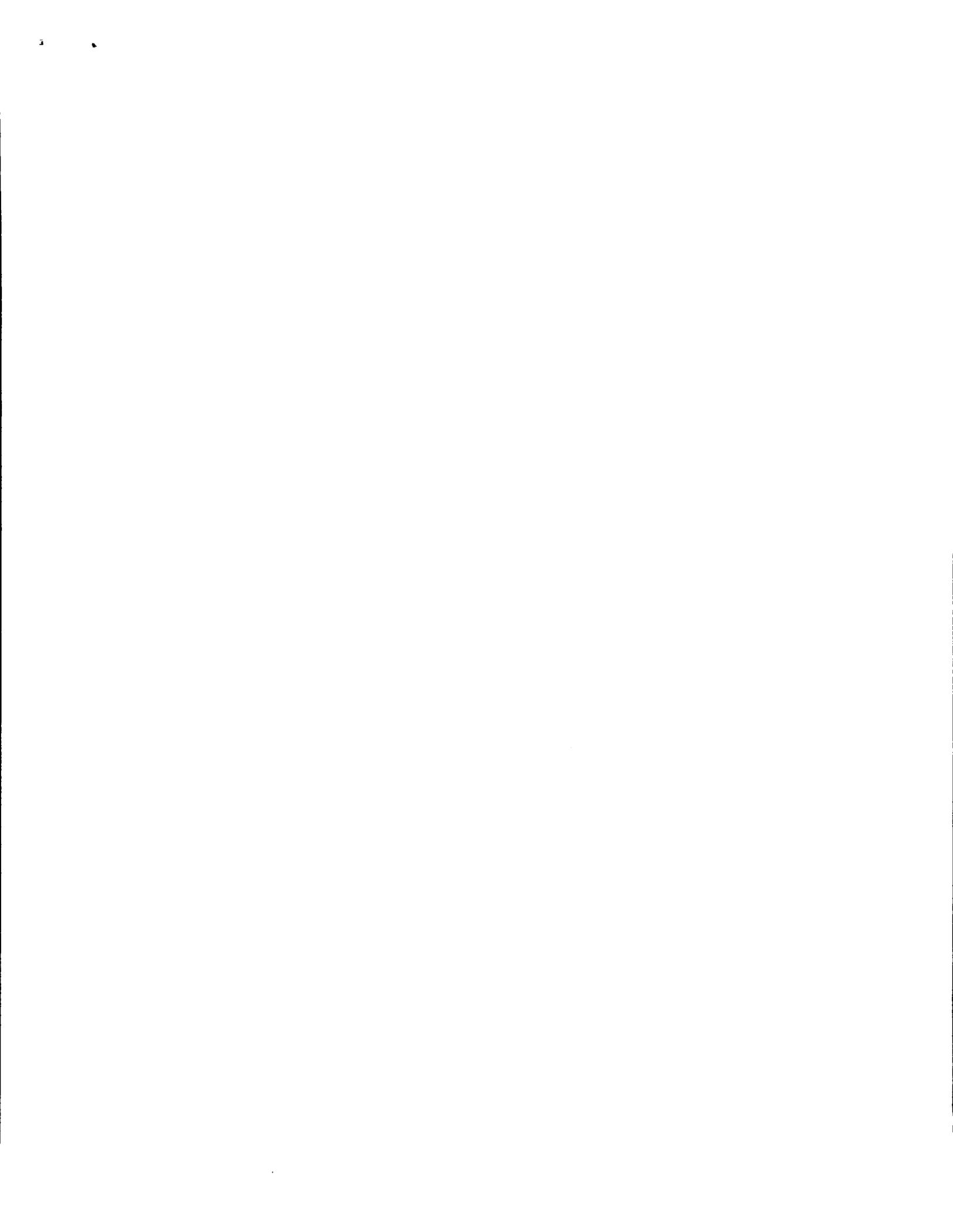
Fri. December 19th, 7:00pm and 9:45pm

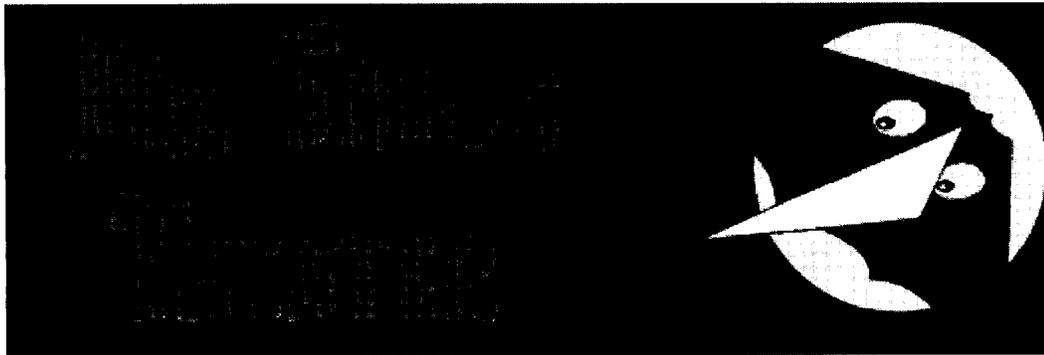
Sat. December 20th, 7:00pm and 9:45pm

Coming Soon: From Justin to Kelly?...Pretty in Pink?...Wargames?...Flashdance? - Email us suggestions to: nomoremilk@aol.com



Check out the **Mr. Sinus Archives**





[About](#)



[Upcoming Shows](#)



[Archives](#)



[Biographies](#)



[Booking Info](#)



[Buy a Tee-shirt or Video](#)



NEW- The Sinus Boys' other live events



Coloring Contest



Photos (new ones added!)



NEW- Join the Mr. Sinus Email List!

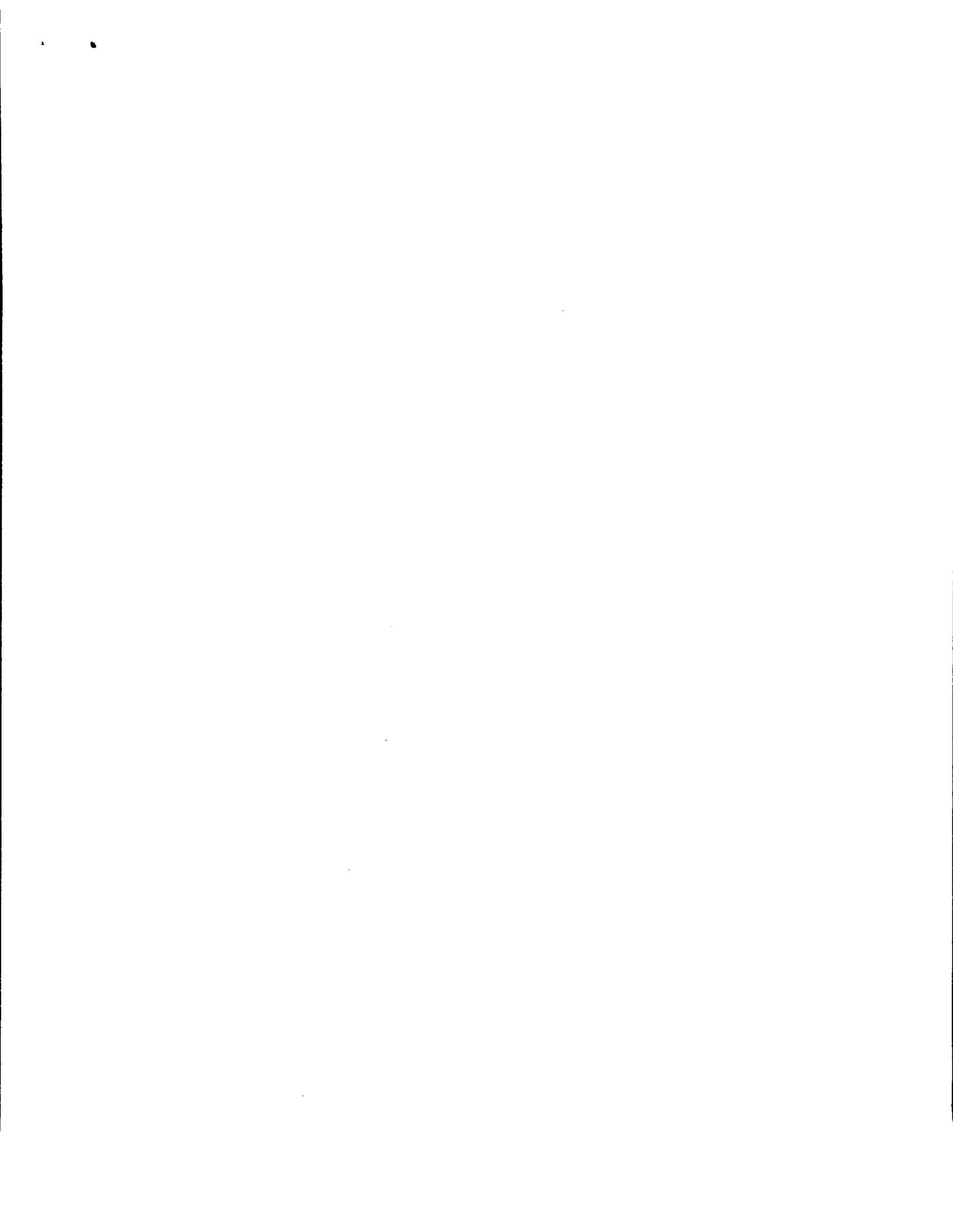


NEW- Mr. Sinus Bulletin Board! Post comments about our show!

Booking Info

MR SINUS THEATER is now available for private events. If you'd like to book a Mr. Sinus performance for your birthday party, office party, or for really any reason at all, please email Trish of Chickrock Entertainment at: chickrock@austin.rr.com. Or call her at 512-627-2397.





ENTERTAINMENT

Free shirts, hats, underwear
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Mr. Sinus (top row, Owen Egerton, left; Pollat and John Elder, right) had moves to a new level with their joint commentary about *Made on the Moon*.



One-Three Theater/Daily Texas Staff

Naked Ambition

Mr. Sinus exposes raw humor with 'Nude'

Mr. Sinus Theater
Starring: Jenn Pollat
Owen Egerton
John Elder
Alamo Drafthouse
Showing dates: Sept. 8-20
Times: 8:30pm

By Ashok Cherita
Daly Texas Staff

When *Mystery Science Theater* — the Comedy Central show where a human and two robot puppets watch bad B-movies and make wisecracks during the show — ended its run a couple of years ago, there was a gaping hole left in the lives of many people. But not to fear, out to the stars arises Mr. Sinus Theater, 3000, running currently at the Alamo Drafthouse.

Mr. Sinus Theater 3000, paying homage to the original *Partners and Me* at the Alamo Drafthouse. As the movie is playing, the guys will make wisecracks and songs in tandem with the audience. Why? The original *MST3K* was limited by network standards. Mr. Sinus Theater is not.

There are a lot of films that they could do because they were a television show, limited by network standards, adds Owen Egerton, one of the comedic characters responsible for the Mr. Sinus. "We've got some movies that they couldn't have done that they would've loved to have done, and I think that they'd be happy if they knew that we were out here continuing the battle that they began."

The show originated in the brain of the owners of the Alamo Drafthouse, Fana of *MST3K* were, writing in requesting him to have showings of the television program. The owners had a grander idea. They approached Jack Pollat, a local comedian and musician

General Cinema
SCHEDULED SHOWINGS: ALL SHOWS BEGIN AT 8:30 PM
ALL SHOWS REQUIRE 21+

who is best known for his comic album *Tall Darts and Lameuses*. Pollat had to be shown recruited two of his friends, Owen Egerton, an improv comic/musician who also has an album, *Big Thick Wooden Board*, and John Elder, who hosts the *Elk Making Ritual Hour* program on KVVX.

The idea of getting paid for sitting, drinking and watching bad movies was a dream come true, says Egerton. Mr. Sinus Theater focuses on bad B-movies, just as *MST3K* did. "It takes a lot of rare qualities to make a movie so entertainingly bad. So many bad things came together. Bad acting, bad directing," explains Elder.

The current movie, *Nude on the Moon*, is a film by renowned B-movie filmmaker, Davis Washman. The film is about two scientists in a high-grade chemistry laboratory who make a rocket and journey to the moon. When they get there, they find, as the title implies, that nude women populate the moon. This is no porno though, it is just a bad movie.

Davis Washman had a vision. We are celebrating it. It's a beautiful film," says Egerton. "The somehow made 100 naked breasts as sexless as possible. This isn't a gender thing. This movie is for young and old, male and female," claims Pollat.

for their first show, Jenn Owen, and John advertised that anyone who showed up to the Drafthouse nude would get in for free, in honor of the movie. They were surprised to find that the Texas Hill Country Nudists were fans of the movie.

About 15 nude people showed up. We were surprised for it, so there were nude people sitting next to clothed people. But let me say those were 15 of the most proud people I ever saw," recalls Pollat. Not only did the Texas Hill Country Nudists show up for the premiere, now they are helping to sponsor the next three shows. The same rule applies: If you're nude you get in free.

So what can one expect from Mr. Sinus Theater? "We encourage drinking with drinking games," says Egerton. Mr. Sinus Theater 3000 has so far been a profound success. Plats have already been made for the future including a possible college tour and celebrity guests that can help work the movie. "We'd love to get someone like Ann Richards," says Egerton.

The shows, which were originally planned to be only on Sunday nights, are so popular that the Drafthouse expanded the run for three extra nights. The movie house rules of 21 and up are suspended for these three shows and anyone 18 and up is welcome. After the end of the *Nude on the Moon* run, the next Mr. Sinus show will be Oct. 29 when they premiere *Crashwreck Houston*. Note: A "nude ghetto," a separate

A 'MIGHTY' GOOD TIME

Look in tomorrow's paper for our interview with Christopher Guest, Harry Shearer and Michael McKean, stars of the folk musician mockumentary *A Mighty Wind*, which opens Friday.

Men of Mr. Sinus grin and bare it all

By Juan Garcia
Daily Texan Staff

For just over two years now, the madcap men of Mr. Sinus Theater 3000 have been bringing Austinites laughs galore. They've recently even taken their special brand of comedy one step further by broadcasting a free "Sinulcast" version of the live experience on UT's KVRX 91.7 for the film *Top Gun*. But who are these heroes of hilarity? While people know about the Alamo Drafthouse's signature series, most are in the dark when it comes to the men of Sinus.

It's true that troupe leader Jerm Pollet has a strong sense of comedy, but maybe you wouldn't expect that from his humble beginnings. "I'm the product of two NYC lawyers, so you know I'm neurotic," Pollet said. In the '90s, Pollet got an early start as RuPaul's road manager during his/her "Supermodel of the World" tour. Shortly after, under the name of "Bazooka Jerm," he danced his way into the hearts of Ice Cube fans before concerts. "Actually, his fans hated us and picked their ice cubes out of their drinks and threw them at us while we jumped around on the stage doing our white-boy hip-hop thing," Pollet said.

Unphased by the audience rejection, he continued his path into comedic stardom here in Austin doing the one man show "Tall, Dark, & Lonesome." A few years later, Alamo Drafthouse owner

Tim League saw the comic capers of Pollet in a local film, and the rest is Sinus history.

Assembling a team of fellow comedians, Jerm looked to friends Owen Egerton and John Erler. "Egerton has been a prominent name in the Austin comedy scene for seven years," Pollet said. "He's performed everywhere. Esther's Follies, Bad Dog Comedy Club, the Capital City Comedy Club, you name it, he's been there." Well known for his *Masters of the Universe*-inspired Gwilder impersonation (with honey buns stuck to his face), the rowdy red-head spoke of his comedic origins. "I began performing improv both in the U.S. and in England. I just wrapped my first novel in the early days of Mr. Sinus, named *Marshall Hollenzer's Driving*. My current novel should be done soon, too."

Perhaps you wouldn't expect an improv comedian to write so much, but don't be fooled. Egerton is currently pursuing his master's degree in the creative writing program at Southwest Texas State University where he also offers his help as an assistant English teacher.

"He's an awesome writer and is going to be famous for it one day. On this I'm confident," Pollet said.

Adding even more funny to the group is the tallest of the bunch, Erler, known for his Thursday morning KVRX show, *The Eik-Mating Ritual Hour*. When asked if he was proud about being voted

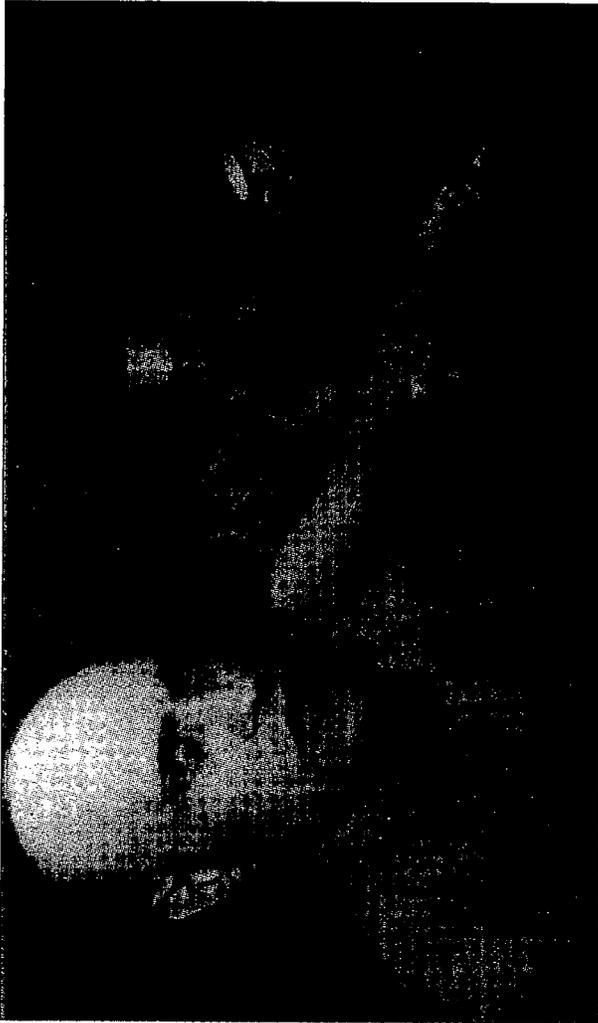


Photo courtesy of Mr. Sinus Theater 3000

John Erler, Owen Egerton and Jerm Pollet make up Mr. Sinus Theater 3000, a comedy troupe that gives a running commentary during hand-picked films at the Alamo Drafthouse downtown.

the seventh best radio show recently by *The Austin Chronicle*, he beamed. "That's pretty good, considering all the shows above me are on five times a week."

Currently, he's been finishing his dissertation for Latin and Greek classics at the University. "I'm writing on physical attractiveness in the Latin love poets," Erler said. If that doesn't showcase enough of his talent for you, Erler was the writer, producer, and actor in a radio sitcom in the spring of 2002 called *My Evil Plans*. "It centered on the misadventures of Skeleton

[from *He-Man and the Masters of the Universe*], who found himself trapped in suburbia and without his memory. It got a lot of good feedback," Erler explained.

For the time being, though, the group focuses on the present, and finishing the last week of *Footloose*. For the future, they'd like to bring more free "Sinulcast" events of films for audiences everywhere to enjoy.

In preparing for next week's audience choice winner, *The Terminator*, each had distinctly different answers in what they'd do

to prepare for the show. "I like to warm up with a round of the 80's video game *Galaga*. If that's out of order, I'll just tap on Jerm's nipples," claims John. "A couple of Shiners and a few chapters of a good book really get my mind ready for a night of being funny," Owen said.

And Jerm? "I'll just sit in the tub, close my eyes and repeat to myself the following phrase, over and over again, 'I AM funny, I AM funny, I AM funny...'"

For more information, visit www.drafthouse.com for showtimes.

CINEMA

The threesome behind Mr. Sinus Theater 3000 — about the hottest show going at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema — are a just lot. There's Jerm Pollet, a dark, ruminative fellow in thrift-shop fashions; Owen Egerton, jolly, effervescent; and John Eriker, bald and cerebral with a dry wit. Together they are a comic tribunal before dreadful movies, low-slung in front-row center at the Alamo, casting judgment on the feckless, cheesy and plain rotten with a heckler's toughness.

They weigh potential subjects — say, "Jaws 3" or "Convoy" — on the scales of mock justice, asking themselves "Is this movie too boring? Too easy to taunt? Too long? John Travolta's pink headband in 'Staying Alive': genius or folly?" before putting it on screen and deconstructing it to the glee of sold-out crowds.

Olivia Newton-John's leg-warmers are fair game. So are moldy special effects, wooden acting, tinny dialogue and all manner of inadvertency and rank budgetary shortcut. Feathered hair? Intrusive boom mikes? Fish in a barrel.

But some things you do not make fun of. "Dirty Dancing" is one of them. "I've used my veto power against doing it," Eriker says. "I admit it's cheeseball and a good movie to do. But it has a very near, dear space in my heart. It kind of has to do with a girl and stuff."

Their sense of sanctity is a little unconventional. The comics will not molest "Star Wars" (on Egerton's veto) but will take on "Citizen Kane."

Born in Austin last September, Mr. Sinus Theater 3000 is a spinoff of the late cable show "Mystery Science Theater 3000," which ran for about 10 seasons on Comedy Central and the Sci-Fi Channel.

On the show, host Joel (later Mike) and his robot companions — Crow T. Robot and Tom Servo — watched B-grade muck from the '50s and '60s. The trio, appearing as restless silhouettes in the foreground, sat front-row right, groaning and giggling and shooting verbal spitballs at the hapless movies.



Owen Egerton, John Eriker and Jerm Pollet

Out of the MST they came (and no bad movie was safe)

Pollet, Egerton and Eriker do it live, with microphones, planned quips and spontaneous barbs. They began with zero-budget Bs that wear their camp proudly — "Nude on the Moon," "The Gruesome Twosome" — but have graduated to unwittingly bad movies, like the 1980 roller-boogie bomb "Xanadu."

The group has hit paydirt stirring Gen X nostalgia. "Masters of the Universe" (1987) and "Xanadu" have pulled turnaway crowds. The group now has a steady Friday night slot at the Alamo and will take the show on the Texas college circuit. Future shows will goose "Star Trek V" and "Red Dawn."

The idea for Mr. Sinus Theater came from Alamo co-owner Tim League, who has tried to book the cast of the "MST" for a live performance. When he saw Pollet's solo musical-comedy act, Tall, Dark & Lonesome, and his cameo in the Austin-made film "Butcher's 15," League had his man.

Pollet, formerly of the punk bands Gais Panic and Missile Command, rounded up friends and fellow "MST" fans Eriker and Egerton. Pollet and Egerton are members of local improv

troupe ComedySportz, and Egerton also has a one-man musical-comedy act. Eriker is pursuing a Ph.D. in Classics at the University of Texas, writes and performs songs and is the host of "The Elk Mating Ritual Hour" on KVRX FM.

Comic signatures are emerging. Pollet is known for throwing obscure rock 'n' roll references into the show. Eriker is the master of funny voices and mimicry. Egerton is the agile wordsmith.

Mr. Sinus is not a flimsy "MST" imitation. For one, they are free to show R- and X-rated movies, and do. They eschew ultra-B-movies (too easy) and head straight for films that don't wink at their deficiencies.

Finding the perfect movie is like panning for gold: A lot of sediment is dumped back into the creek. Strolls through Vulcan Video and I Love Video yield stacks of bad.

Once a title is chosen, the trio watches it six or seven times. The first two are conditioning viewings, brain stretches. Notes are taken, jokes born. The movie is then watched in 10-minute chunks, with discussion and rewinds. Commentary comes in

flurries. "We don't want to step on each other," Egerton says. "If there are three jokes for the same moment, we'll vote for the best joke."

"We're really rewriting the film," adds Pollet. "We're like script editors. For some movies we've written more lines than are there already."

"Very postmodern," Eriker says. "Very meta."

Not everyone is laughing. Some die-hard MSTies find Mr. Sinus a presumptuous affront, League says. And self-appointed guardians of viewing decorum like Harry Knowles see the devil's handiwork in the group's mischief.

"I've never been a fan of 'Mystery Science Theater's' desecration of film," Knowles says. "I don't enjoy the idea of somebody talking during a movie. That said, these guys have been picking films I imagine are quite a bit of fun."

"I can't wait to see them do 'Star Trek V,' one of the most awful films created by man, and to hear a full house sing along to (the movie's bad rendition of) 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat.'"

Audience sing-a-longs: One advantage of taking the "MST" concept live.

(The TV show) was trying to stimulate the fun of hanging out with your friends and watching a bad film," Pollet says. "But I often found myself not watching the whole show because the movies got old, and it was like watching a party on TV. We're really making a party happen. We're inviting people to come celebrate a bad film and joke around. And people do yell out wisecracks of their own. Fortunately, they're not amplified." The Alamo's fully catered living-room vibe feeds the festivities, which the group enhances with movie-specific skits, songs and drinking games.

Mr. Sinus insists they are laughing with, not at, the films. "We mock them and we celebrate them," Egerton says.

Bigger crowds and growing audience enthusiasm have only emboldened the comedians. Look out, "Citizen Kane." "We're getting better," Pollet says. "I'd love to try some new genres, like a Care Bears movie or a Western or a foreign film. I think we could do it to almost anything now."

Mr. Sinus Theater 3000 lovingly mocks "Xanadu" on Friday and May 25. They do "Star Trek V" June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 30. All shows start at 9:30 p.m. at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, 409 Colorado St. 867-1839.

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SINUS ATTACK!

THE SENSATIONAL SAGA OF
THREE FUNNY GUYS AND
THEIR BATTLE WITH BAD CINEMA
BY SARAH HEPOLA

JERM POLLET ROCKS
BY MARC SAVLOV

Vol. 20 No. 50

austinchronicle.com

August 10, 2001

porarily a juvenile delinquent who listens to illegal rock, has unprotected sex with illiterate, quasi-cowboys and races tractors for pleasure. But, I also quote the Bible, win over the curmudgeonly flour guy and look to escape my meaningless existence in the arms of a mysterious newcomer (see how I morphed Ariel and Ren? That's called creative license.)

Now, here's a movie worthy of skewering. It's perfectly ridiculous while retaining its more loveable qualities. The men of Mr. Sinus picked a good one this time.

If you haven't seen "Footloose," and you probably haven't if you're older than 40 or younger than 25, it stars Kevin Bacon, Lori Singer, John Lithgow, Dianne Wiest and Sarah Jessica Parker. The plot has high schooler Ren (Bacon) moving with his mom to the Bible Belt where dancing is — shudder — illegal.

This doesn't sit well with Ren who's a big city boy used to cranking up the tunes in his VW bug and dancing in abandoned warehouses. Complicating the matter further, is the romantic attraction between Ren and the preacher's daughter, Ariel (Singer).

All ends well, Ren gets the girl and wins over the preacher (Lithgow). And, he even talks the town council into allowing the senior class to organize a prom. It's wacky how it all worked out.

Ren in one of the final sequences addresses the town council and quotes from Ecclesiastes. You know the verse, "To everything there is a season ... A time to dance, a time to mourn." To that, the Mr. Sinus gang adds, "The Bible totally ripped off the Byrds." This is just a small sample of the irreverent quips you can expect at a Mr. Sinus show.

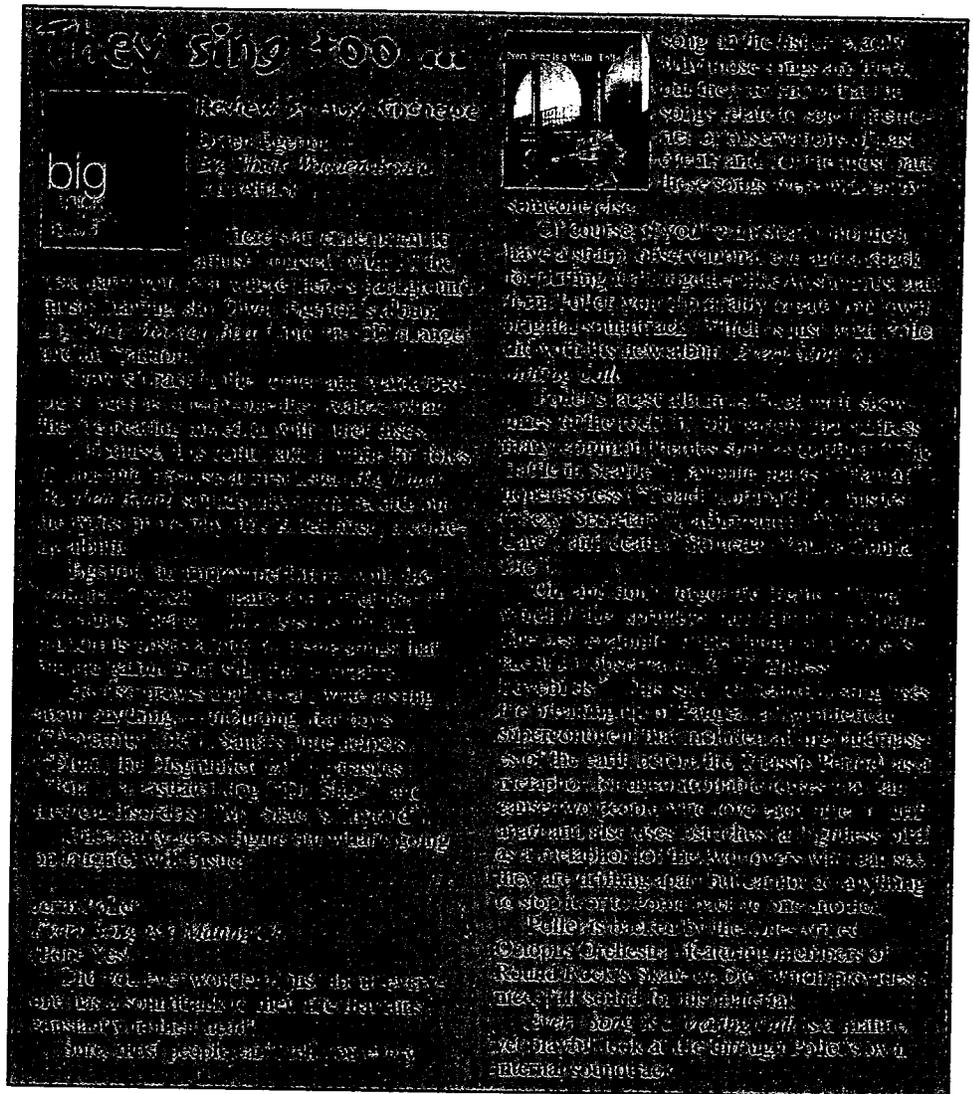
The guys also entertain the throngs with unique songs and skits. Like with "Footloose," where the floodlights find Jerm Pollet, Owen Egerton and John Erler cavorting onstage in homemade costumes. Most notably, Erler has slipped into a red tank top ala Lori Singer, whilst Egerton attaches a small red tricycle to his Converse hi-tops in a reenactment of the ludicrous tractor race.

Already a goofy, enjoyable movie the men of Mr. Sinus elevate "Footloose" to a whole other level with their own sound effects, asides and skits.

If you like making fun of movies in your own home, you'll love Mr. Sinus. Upcoming spoofs include "Mac and Me" in November and "The Karate Kid" in 2002. Check out www.mrsinus.com for show listings.

The Interview

I really could have used a tranquilizer before interviewing the men of Mr. Sinus Theater 3000. I was on uncomfortable ground to begin with (see "Confessions of a Sister"), and this interview found me twitchy and weird. We forged ahead anyway and I'm glad we did. I really wanted to know more



about the men behind Mr. Sinus Theater 3000.

The four of us met at an Austin coffee shop and spent a little time talking about the show and their own personal background.

Jerm (a nickname for Jeremy) Pollet moved to Austin from New York in 1991 with his rap group, The Brother's Cup. He's the public relations juggernaut of the group probably because of his extensive experience in music and comedy.

Obviously a man with a variety of interests, Pollet currently is focused on Mr. Sinus, comedy and various live music performances — solo and otherwise. His CD *Tall, Dark and Lonesome* is out now.

Though Pollet hasn't seen many episodes of MST3K he thinks that Mr. Sinus is distinctly different.

"I think we really hit our stride when we started moving away from the MST3K formula," Pollet said.

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema owners first contacted Pollet to write and perform the live Mr. Sinus shows because fans requested screenings of old MST3K episodes. Pollet recruited the other two performers.

Born in the U.K., Owen Egerton moved to

the U.S. as a youngster and to Austin in 1991. Seemingly the most energetic of the three, Egerton peppers his responses with perceptive insights.

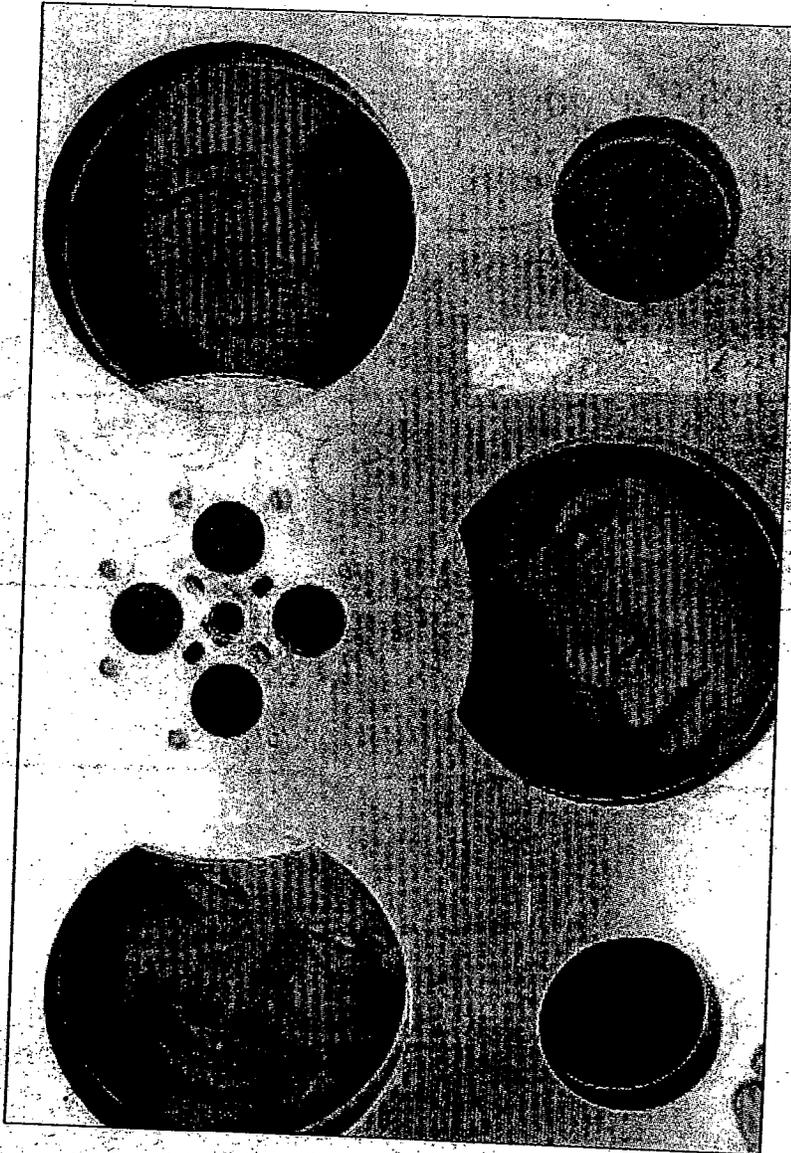
"We've become our own thing," Egerton said.

Also a sketch comedian with groups like the Skinnies and the ComedySportz troupe, Egerton has a CD of comedic songs out now called *Big Thick Wooden Board*. He's also written a book called "Marshall Hollenzer is Driving."

And finally we have John Erler. A graduate student at UT in classics, Erler also hosts the "Elk Mating Ritual Hour" on KVRX 91.7 FM. Austin Chronicle critics named Erler's show "Most Interesting Talk Radio Program in the 2001 "Best of Austin" issue.

Sahara dry Erler has a calming effect on the other two that plays well to the audience. It's apparent from their interaction that these three are quite fond of one another and would hang out even if nobody were watching.

What's next for the men of Mr. Sinus? Who knows ... books, screenplays, more music groups, more gigs, radio shows, whatever? They've tied their kite to something and they're going to see where it takes them.



John Erler (top), Jerm Pollet and Owen Egerton and John Erler celebrate two years of mawking the movies at the Alamo Draffhouse on Saturday by taking on screen gems like 'Nude on the Moon' and 'Footloose'

Todd V. Wolfson

IRE IN A CROWDED MOVIEHOUSE

Hard to believe it's been two years since Mr. Sinus Theater 3000 began bashing bad B's. During that stretch, Messrs. Sinus — Jerm Pollet, Owen Egerton and John Erler — have sharpened their heckling flair on such camp-encrusted reels as "Xanadu," "The Karate Kid" and "Crossroads," becoming the surest sellout at the Alamo Draffhouse Downtown nearly every weekend.

Taking its cue from defunct cable show "Mystery Science Theater 3000," the comedy troupe flings wisecracks and witticisms at the screen to deconstruct movies that are blissfully ignorant of their glaring wretchedness. The result isn't just some juvenile jamboree. Our learned

hosts mix astute observations about lapsed filmcraft with erudite cultural commentary.

Pajama Jammy Jam, the Mr. Sinus second anniversary party, features eight unbroken hours of movies, skits, games, contests and more beginning midnight Saturday at the Alamo, 409 Colorado St. They'll show in full "Nude on the Moon" (by Queen-B Doris Wishman, who died last month), plus highlights from the entire Sinus oeuvre, including "Top Gun," "Footloose" and "Red Dawn." It wraps at 8 a.m. Sunday with an all-you-can eat breakfast buffet — nothing to sneeze at. \$18. 476-1320. More info at www.mrsinus.com.

— Chris Garcia

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Ending a 252-day trial, former football star O.J. Simpson is acquitted of the murder of his estranged wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. An estimated 140 million Americans tuned into a radio or television to hear the long-awaited verdict.



COMING SOON

The Drag has been a vital part of UT life for years. We will be taking a look at its past, present and future.

Into the depths of Mr. Sinus Theater 3000

Comedic trio celebrates two years of bad movies and countless laughs

By Jennifer Prestigiacomo
Daily Texan Staff

"Can I assume that everyone here is a super-fan?" John Earler asked the crowd at the Alamo Drafthouse Saturday, Sept. 21. A thunderous cheer erupted. "Is there anyone here that is not a super-duper fan?" Earler further egged on the audience. The audience emitted a less enthusiastic cheer. "Well, we don't need you." Earler shot back in his characteristic deadpan manner.

What was apparent that night was Austin's true need for Mr. Sinus Theater 3000's dead-on jokes and comedic skewering of timeless films.

Earlier this month, the triumvirate of travesty that comprises Mr. Sinus Theater celebrated their two-year anniversary. Instead of having a candlelit dinner for three, Earler, 34, Owen Egerton, 29, and Jerm Pollet, 31, opted to have an all-night slumber party, inviting all fans who wished to partake in an eight-hour orgy of shenanigans a la Sinus.

"The guys are just so hysterical that we figured out [if] they could make two hours more interesting," said Jacob Trevino, a Southwest Texas State university psychology freshman. Trevino was asked on Sinus after seeing the group shamelessly low through Britney Spears' movie *Crossroads*, which they performed for free at SWAT.

As for crowds, Mr. Sinus' first show in September 2000 felt more like a rock concert, with the more than 300 audience members stomping their feet in time to the jokes.

"As far as we knew, it would be a handful of our ends," said Pollet, Mr. Sinus' manager. "It so far exceeded our fantasies of what that night was going to be like."

As a bonus, free admission was granted to all who came naked that first night. It just so happened that the Austin Nudist Club showed up.

"Half the audience was stark naked. They were even waiting outside in line nude in front of Miguel's La Bodega," recalled Tim League, manager of the Alamo Drafthouse. "That was a

good start to the series."

Mr. Sinus is made up of New Yorker and musician Pollet, native Austinite and Latin doctoral student Earler and British-born comedian and novelist Egerton.

Midway through their shows, the Sinus gang characteristically stops the movie for a brief comedic sketch or song to highlight the film's specific absurdities. Music is the unifying cord that runs through the trio. Pollet has been part of the Austin music scene since 1991 in bands like Gals Panic, and Missile Command and also has been billed solo as Tall, Dark and Lonesome and now simply Jerm Pollet. Earler formerly played guitar, sang and wrote for the band Big in Italy, while Egerton released his first collection of comedy tunes, *Big Thick Wooden Board*, in 2001.

"Drafthouse owner League began thinking of the

Mystery Science Theater spoof concept three years ago in an effort to appease those wanting to talk during movies and to tap into the cult following of the original Comedy Central show. When the tennis documentary *Butcher's 15* screened at the Alamo in June 2000, Pollet, who had a cameo in the film, did a pre-show gig that wowed League.

"I was aware that he was doing comedy at the time, and I thought he fit the mold for the type of comedian I wanted to be associated with the concept," League said.

After being approached with the Mister Sinus idea, Pollet chose his accomplices wisely.

"Owen was the obvious choice since he's the funniest person I know," said Pollet, who knew Egerton during his days performing with ComedySportz, an improv comedy group. "Then I was thinking who the third was going to be, and I wanted someone who was not a professional comedian. [I thought,] who is the smartest person I know?"

That person was Earler. Previously, the intellectual Sinus addition hosted a live Sunday night show



Photo courtesy Bret Brooksh

Mr. Sinus Theater, (from left) Owen Egerton, John Earler and Jerm Pollet, will take on the classic '80s film *Dirty Dancing* starring Patrick Swayze, playing Friday at 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. at the Alamo Drafthouse.

on KVRX called the *Elk Mating Ritual Hour* (now on Thursday mornings from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.), and Pollet was a guest musician. Between songs, Pollet and Earler cracked jokes, developing a good rapport that led to their teaming up for Mr. Sinus Theater.

When the group first began, they would check out the "weirdest titles" at the video store. After demolishing B-films like *The Gruesome Twosome* and *Invasion of the Bee Girls*, 1980s films became the object of their obsession.

"'80s movies are so good because they lack irony — they are unaware of themselves. They have these ridiculous premises," Egerton said. "Most of the people coming to see them saw them when they were young and loved them and still love them."

"Skewering B-movies was no challenge; at any rate, Earler said.

"To me it was really more satisfying because '80s big-budget movies are more deserving targets," he said. "The low-budget movies don't have a lot of money, and it was kinda like kicking a dead person."

After Mr. Sinus lampooned the '80s He-Man movie *Masters of the Universe*, they began developing a core audience that has continued to sell out Drafthouse shows. They have also successfully developed a gay following that led to their inclusion in this year's Austin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, at which they showed an encore of Olivia Newton-John's *Xanadu*.

Mr. Sinus effortlessly blends physical, witty and, at times, raunchy comedy. Not only does the crew provide crazy commentary of their guilty pleasures, they use each other as punch lines. But there is a bond among the three that no amount of ribbing could cut.

"The best part of doing the Mr. Sinus show is being with John and Jerm," Egerton said. "I love them."

They describe their act as "part of a whole wave of meta-entertainment started by *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, *Beavis and Butt-head* and *Pop-Up Video*," Earler explained.

"You're both experiencing the video and getting another layer at the same time," Earler said. "We are just one small part of a new way of watching entertainment."

In the past, the crew has felt comfortable enough with the crowd that they stripped down to the bare essentials. During last year's X-Mas Variety Show, the crew put on a sort of burlesque show for a full house of 220 people.

"John and Owen, who had already stripped down to their undies on stage, tried and half-succeeded to de-pant me while I was playing guitar and singing a song during the X-Mas show sketch," Pollet said.

The Sinus guys have taken their show on the

road to New York, New Orleans, Abilene, Mesquite and San Marcos. They have had a spectrum of experiences, from playing to an audience of one in New Orleans to playing for a convent room full of QuakeCon gaming nerds in Mesquite, Texas.

Mr. Sinus' next show will probably be the Sandra Bullock, Keanu Reeves action-adventure movie *Speed*, and the guys are pondering possible future films like *Terminator*, *Titanic* and *Clash of the Titans*.

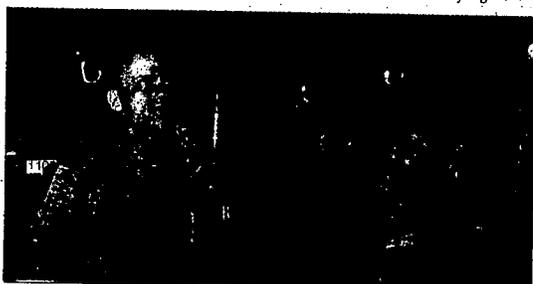
With two successful years in the bag, the Sinus trio is exuberant from their contribution to Austin comedy and hopes their following will continue to grow nationally. Here's to Mr. Sinus Theater making their 10th birthday and continuing to fill Austinites' need for good, not-so-clean fun.

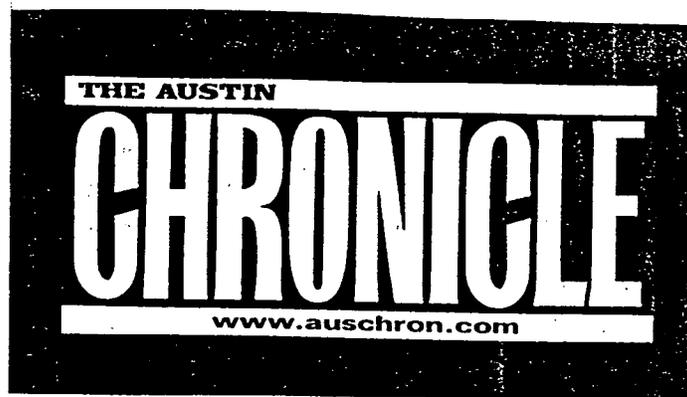


Brandon McKelvey/Daily Texan Staff

John Earler and Owen Egerton, spoofing Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey, share a dirty dance during the intermission of their showing of *Dirty Dancing*.

Mr. Sinus Theater enjoys a cold brew and a couple of laughs as they look up into the weary eyes of *Dirty Dancing* star Patrick Swayze on screen at the Alamo Drafthouse.
by Ian McKelvey/Daily Texan Staff





Best Comedy Group of the Year!

Best Comedy Action Heroes

Mr. Sinus Theater 3000

Once upon a time, there were three funny boys who performed at the Alamo Drafthouse. Their duty? To entertain us with bad movies - Hollywood wipe-outs like *Xanadu* and *Footloose* and *Star Trek V*. But that ain't all. Oh, that ain't the half of it. Armed with their own special talents, John Erler (the tall one), Owen Egerton (the short one), and Jerm Pollet (the dark one) offer an evening's entertainment that ranges from the political to the scatological, from the sublime to the ridiculous. Their Friday-night comic jam sessions in the front row of the Alamo Downtown have become the can't-miss hit of the year, the must-see ticket of the millennium, the don't-get-there-late-or-you're-shit-outta-luck sensation of the season. And why not? Action! Laughter! Cross-dressing! And maybe even a little romance. Finally, these three guys prove that even comic actors can be strong, sassy, and - above all - fashionable.

409 Colorado, 476-1320

www.mrsinus.com

-Austin Chronicle "Best of 2001 Issue"

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READERS

Arts & Entertainment

Best Art Gallery

Gallery Lombardi

Gallery Lombardi has been a favored meeting place of artists and art lovers alike for years. This converted warehouse has provided a place for new artists and old talents to hang their works side-by-side in themed group shows and parties. Their recent "erotica" show opening (much like the one they hosted two years ago) was one of those wild Austin shindigs not to be missed. Sadly, late this past summer, our readers' favorite gallery closed ... but the show must go on. Beloved director Rachel Koper will be there through the year, against bare walls, for a few special events and to rent the available space (\$250/night) to fellow art-types.



910 W. Third, 481-1088

Best Museum

Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

C'mon now! What other museum's tuff enuff to make it in a truck commercial? You think that darn Guggenheim ever got scoped for Truck Month? Seriously pardners, our State History Museum is a right nice destination for the folks and li'l critters alike. "The Story of Texas" is the main attraction, a massive three-story exhibit that might just teach you something about the Lone Star State. And let's not forget that newfangled IMAX theatre. Darn right, it's the "best in Texas."

1800 N. Congress, 936-8746

Best Classical Musician

Graham Reynolds

Few musicians have the teeming ambition of Graham Reynolds. Beginning with the Golden Arm Trio in 1995, Reynolds amassed a motley patronage of classical, jazz, and punk rock fans with a near-constant stream of symphonies, string quartets, film scores, operas, and sundry works of most every other conceivable stripe. His third symphony premieres this fall.



Mor Ent Crit

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3010 East 14 1/2 St., 773-4653

Best Painter/Sculptor

TIE: Blue Genie, Julie Speed

Of course it's a tie - a tie that binds in our culturally enamored minds these two epitomes of the ridiculous and the sublime. The former word best describes so many of the Blue Genie creations enlivening the skyline of our city; the latter's a word easily connected to the enigmatic and eye-jarring paintings of Julie Speed. And now that these aesthetic forces share the honors in our Readers Poll this year, we hope to see the Blue Genie team render one of Speed's triple-eye portrait tableaux in three full-color and larger-than-life dimensions. Real soon now, right, guys?

Blue Genie Art Studios, 916 Springdale, 444-6655; Allene Lapidés Gallery, 558 Canyon, Santa Fe, NM 87501, 505/984-0191

Allene Lapidés Gallery, 558 Canyon, Santa Fe, 505/984-0191

Best Author/Poet

Louis Sachar

Move over Rick Linklater, step aside Lance Armstrong; Austin's latest hero is Louis Sachar, who wowed the world with his award-winning book *Holes*, which drove us into a further frenzy of pride when it was released this year as a fantastic movie and chosen by the Mayor's Book Club 2003 as the book for the entire city to read. Kids stopped asking for toys for Christmas and started begging for shovels. OK, that part's an exaggeration. But J.K. Rowling is hardly the only author inspiring kids to read like crazy. *Holes* is a book that kids turned their parents on to, and parents were glad for the turning. Lucky for us, the quiet yet prolific author has plenty of other offerings, too, including the *Wayside School* series and the *Marvin Redpost* series.



Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 19 Union Square West, New York City, 212/206-5326

Best Comic/Improv Group

Mr. Sinus Theater

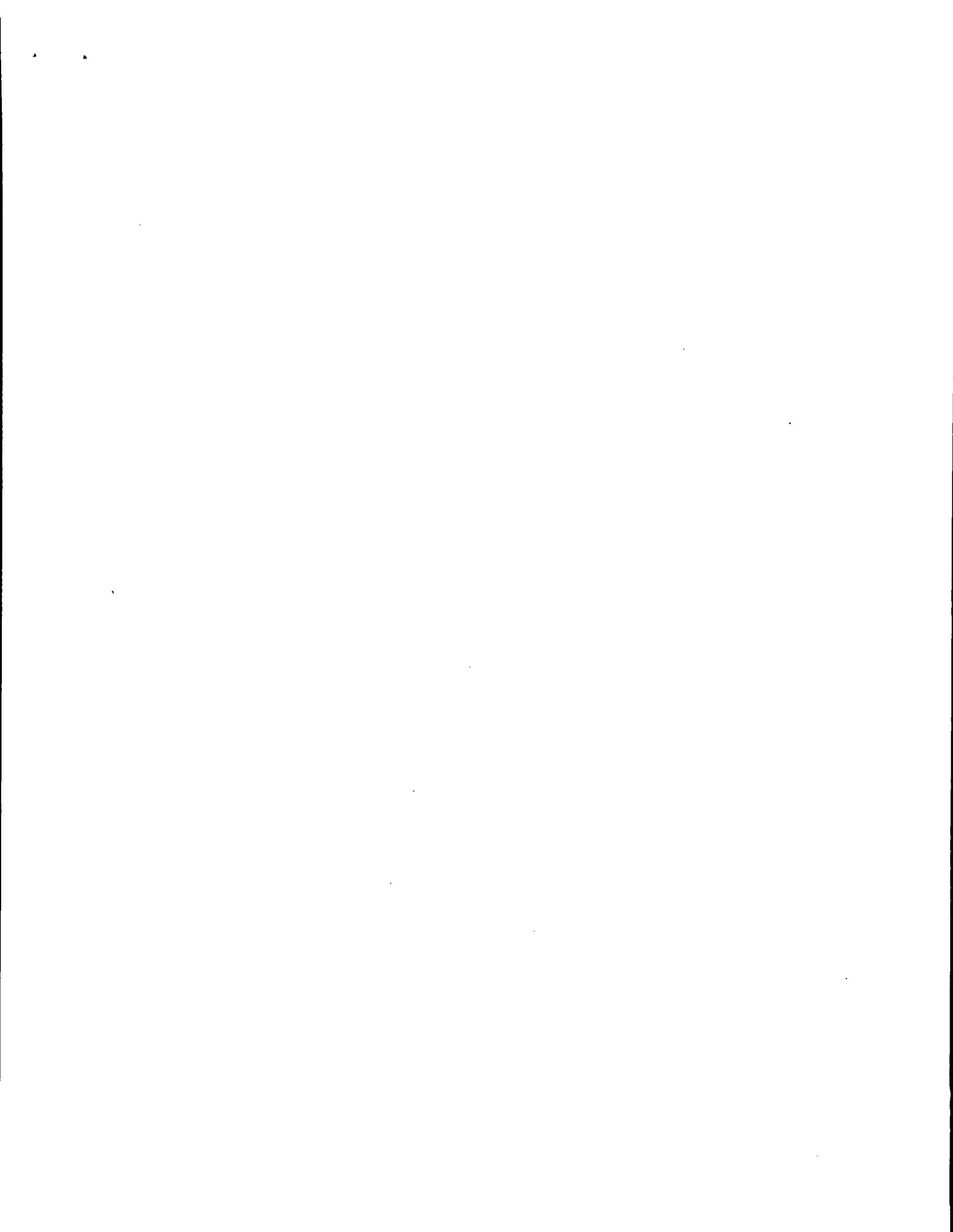
Mystery Science Theater 3000, who? Move over, robots! Austin's own homage to B-movie heckling has taken this category by storm. Perhaps it's the razor-sharp wit that'll leave you feeling like you sprained your tummy laughing so hard, or perhaps it's just that it's pretty much guaranteed that you'll end up seeing at least one of the players - Jerm Pollett, Owen Egerton, and John Erler - stripped down to his Skivvies before the night is through. No matter the reason, this trio of hammy man-hams have won the loyalty and adoration of a city continually hungry to see Hollywood taken down a notch or 12.

Alamo Drafthouse, 409-B Colorado, 867-1839; Highway 183 & RR 620, near Cedar Park, 476-1320; 2700 W. Anderson, 476-1320

Best Dancer/Choreographer

Stephen Mills

Playful. Sensual. Electric. Immediate. These are just some of the qualities that Stephen Mills instills in his dances, and they explain why audiences here get jazzed about ballet. The Ballet Austin artistic director has a way with movement





BRET BROOKSHIRE

ing fruit in heavy interiors and vacant-eyed cattle among weightless houses. Julie Speed, on the other hand, focuses on hypnotically engaging and sometimes unnerving portraits in watercolor etching. She, too, is the successful product of a self-motivated course into art: coincidence? Only Austin knows ...
Ethan Azarian: *In House Gallery, 5200 Leralynn, 452-9698, www.artend.com/ethanazarian.html; Julie Speed:* www.lapidesgallery.com/artists/speed.html

Best Author/Poet
Kinky Friedman

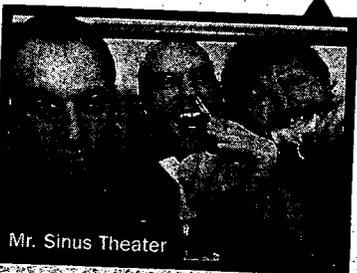
The 1986 release of Texas native Kinky Friedman's first crime detective novel, *Greenwich Killing Time*, marked the start of a literary career that now totals 18 books. Not only is he Austin's favorite author, but he is apparently something upon which ex-prez Bill Clinton and current chief Bush Jr. agree. Both just love Friedman's main character, the cowboy-hat-wearin', cigar-chompin' cat named ... Kinky, whose adventures have been translated into 16 languages (including Japanese, whose readers, as per custom, read the novels back to front - a hell of a way to read a mystery, in our opinion). Look for a book tour this fall for his brand new novel, *Meanwhile Back at the Ranch*.
Simon & Schuster, Rebecca Davis, 212/698-7539
www.kinkyfriedman.com

Best Comedy Club
Esther's Pool

Esther's Pool is that snazzy building adorned by Doug Jaques' exquisite "underwater" murals at the corner of Sixth & Red River. The main attraction here, of course, is the legendary Esther's Follies. While taking in a night of ribaldry at Austin's fave club of yucks, here are some important things to remember:
 1) Get there early - seats fill up fast at this wacky club. Plus, the pre-show entertainment is not to be missed.
 2) The front section is only for the bravest of heart willing to be a part of the show.
 3) Go to the bathroom beforehand.
 Laughter of this magnitude can cause bladder mishaps. After all, they wouldn't swim in your toilet ...
 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553
www.esthersfollies.com

Best Comic/Improv Group
TIE: Esther's Follies, Mr. Sinus Theater

Austin loves her spoofsters. Esther's Follies, with its ripped-from-the-headlines take on Texas life and politics, keeps the crowds comin' after 25 years. Relative newcomers Mr. Sinus Theater, a local live



Mr. Sinus Theater

PHOTOS BY BRET BROOKSHIRE

spoof of the spoof *Mystery Science Theater 3000* television show, takes cult films and recent releases alike and skewers them from the comfy vantage point of their seats in the front row of the Alamo Drafthouse.
Esther's Pool, 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553; Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320
www.esthersfollies.com; www.drafthouse.com



BRET BROOKSHIRE

Best Dancer (Fine Arts)
Deborah Hay

A choreographic visionary so committed to her art that every cell of her body vibrates with dance. Given her international renown, so recently celebrated in the reunion tour of Judson School choreographers in which she danced a duet with Mikhail Baryshnikov, and this year's acknowledgment of her long local career by the Austin Critics Table with her induction into the first class of Austin Arts Hall of Fame, it seems only natural that readers should select this gracious, playful movement artist as their 2002 fave.
Deborah Hay Dance Company, 1703 Alta Vista, 707-2512
www.deborahhay.com

Best Dance Company
Ballet Austin

While Ballet Austin offers some great classics - the year will mark the 40th anniversary of the company's presenta-



Esther's Follies

Best Art Gallery
Women & Their Work

Rest assured that you will not sprout ovaries, suffocate on estrogen, or suffer other unfortunate side effects if you open to set foot in this popular non-fit gallery. However, you might find yourself overwhelmed by the varied talent you will find, in which case swooning is guaranteed. Sponsoring events that include film, music, literature, and dance, *Women & Their Work* has promoted artists (who happen to be female) for the past 24 years.
 10 Lavaca, 477-1064
www.womenandtheirwork.org

Best Museum
Austin Museum of Art

If you missed the elephant prancing at Congress, celebrating AMOA's circumscribed exhibit this past summer, expect further innovation to stimulate the senses in a perhaps less olfactory-smelling way. AMOA continues to educate and entertain with modern contemporary art at its current location and now pushes forward with plans for the construction of a

world-class facility for Fourth & Guadalupe.
 823 Congress, 495-9224
www.amoa.org

Best Classical Musician
TIE: Peter Bay; Graham Reynolds

With the more classical classical purveyed by conductor Bay and his Austin Symphony Orchestra, and the classical tangents and innovations of Reynolds' Golden Arm Trio (next scoring an entire modern opera about a witch, for Pete's sake ...), it's no wonder these fierce talents are fit to be tied.
Peter Bay, Austin Symphony Orchestra, 1101 Red River, 476-6064, www.austinsymphony.org; Graham Reynolds, 773-4653, goldenarmtrio@hotmail.com

Best Painter/Sculptor
TIE: Ethan Azarian; Julie Speed

Though he's made his own bands' name over the years, Ethan Azarian's style emerges from an otherwise informal art background. His resulting playful acrylic paintings combine unexpected objects in dynamic relationships, like his free-float-

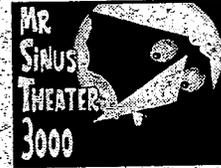
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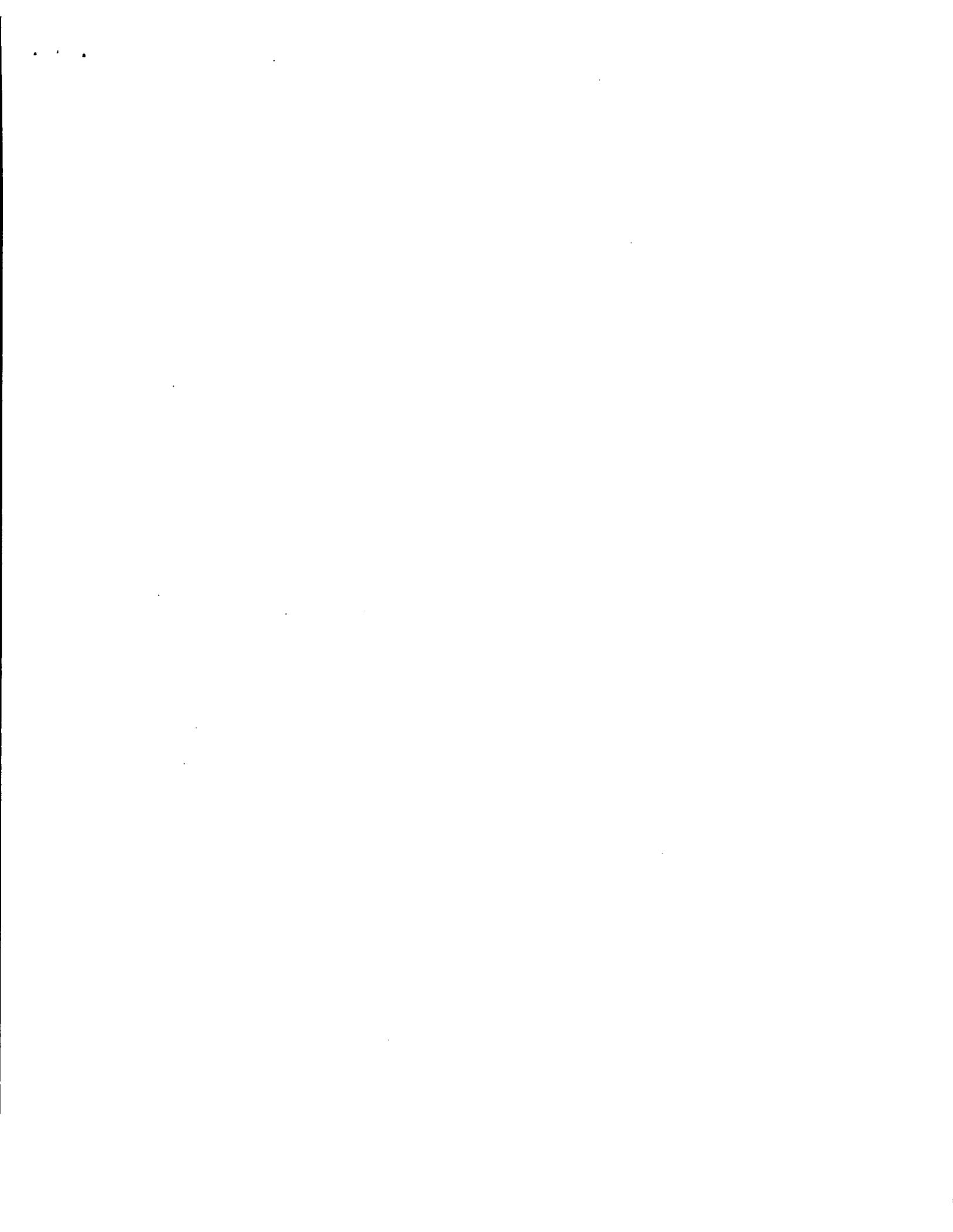
When Comedy Central's "Mystery Science Theater 3000" left our universe, we mourned. Good comedians. Bad movies. Great show. Many tears. Enter the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema to resurrect the show's blurt-it-out ethos in high-wire fashion. At 9:30 p.m. Sunday, a trio of

Austin funny-
men — **Jerm
Pollet, Owen
Egerton** and
John Eler —
will present
**"Mr. Sinus
Theater
3000,"** a live



spin on the TV show. Microphones in hand, the comics will crack wise about the good-awful movie on screen. This week's target is Doris Wishman's Nuclearama cheese "Nude on the Moon." Next in the new monthly series is Herschell Gordon Lewis's "The Gruesome Twosome." Expect song and skits, too, from the hecklers par excellence. Details: www.drafthouse.com or 867-1839.

— Chris Garcia



Best Margaritas

TRUDY'S

409 West 30th street

Trudy's offers some tasty Tex-Mex, but who goes there to eat? Happy Hour drinks run \$5.75, with the Mexican Martini a prevailing favorite. Served up in a martini glass, it goes down smooth as a margarita with its generous splash of tequila. Caution: they'll only allow you two due to the fact that after three or four, you might start throwing chairs out the window.

- CH

Honorable Mention: Baby A's

Best Improv Comedy Group In Austin

MR. SINUS THEATRE 3000

Known for their quirky style and deadpan manner, the men of Mr. Sinus Theatre 3000 have been making Austinites (and many others) roll in the isles with laughter for 2 years running. Always a sold out show, be sure to take in an evening with the wizards of wit at the soon to be statewide Alamo Drafthouse.

- JG

Honorable Mention:

Best Improv Comedy Legend:
Ester's Follies



365 DAYS 365 WAYS AUSTIN TEXAS

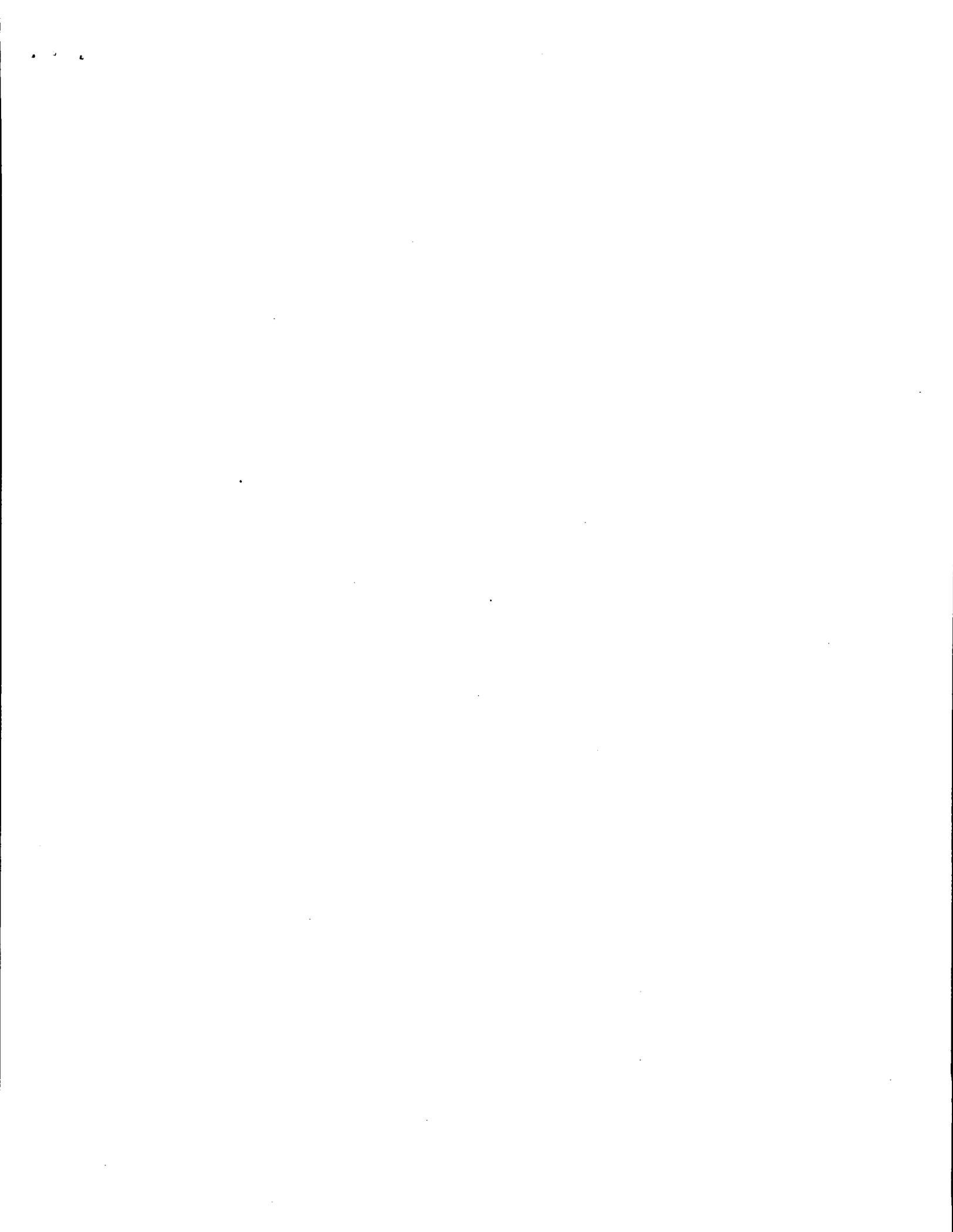
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MUSIC AT THE ANTHOLOGY

The annual downtown music festival, executive-produced by Philip Glass, offers a chance to sample works by some of the best young composers around, including two commissions. April 10 at 8: Theo Bleckmann, the radical cabaret vocalist, performs a new piece written for him by Moritz Eggert and the cartoon essayist Ben Karchor. Also included are works by Christopher Adler, Erin Gee, and James Matheson; the program is topped off with a work by America's veteran master of spatial music, Henry Brant. ♦ April 12 at 8: Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, a hot young chamber orchestra out of Montreal, performs music by such composers as Lisa Bielawa, Eleanor Sandressy, and Oliver Schneller (a commission). Music by Messiaen, modernism's benign visionary, ends the festival. (Angel Orensanz Foundation, 172 Norfolk St., at Houston St. 646-792-2409.)

EMMANUEL PAHUD AND CHRISTOPH POPPEN
The flutist (known for the consummate elegance of his style) and the violinist (triumphant star of the hit Bach album "Morimur") get together with friends for an evening of chamber music by Webern (the String Trio) and Fuminori Tanada (a New York premiere), as well as four works by Mozart. (Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, 247-7800, April 12 at 8.)

NEW YORK COLLEGIUM
Monica Huggett, for decades one of Europe's leading Baroque violinists, begins her tenure as concertmaster of the group, the most exciting early-music ensemble New York has seen in some time. The program includes music by Locke, Lully, Stradella, and others. (Ethical Culture Society Concert Hall, 2 W. 64th St. 717-9246, April 12 at 8.)

"WHEN MORTY MET JOHN . . ."

John Cage and Morton Feldman may have been temperamental opposites (one a brash New Yorker, the other a study in West Coast cool), but their friendship put them at the center of a circle of like-minded musicians, painters, and choreographers whose creative unity has been unmatched since. In

the second year of a three-year concert series, Carnegie Hall celebrates their music. April 13 at 3: The pianist Margaret Leng Tan, the vocalist Joan La Barbara, the Flux Quartet, and others present such works as Cage's "One" and "Music for Nine" and Feldman's "For Franz Kloe" and "The Viola in My Life." (Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall.) ♦ April 13 at 7: Columbia University's St. Paul's Chapel provides an ideal setting for Feldman's meditative classic "Rothko Chapel," along with several pieces by Cage (including "Litany for the Whale"). The performers include the percussionist Steve Schick and the Vox Vocal Ensemble (directed by George Szeel). (Broadway at 116th St.) ♦ April 14 at 7:30: The series closes with La Barbara's performance of Feldman's "Three Voices," for soprano and tape. (Weill Recital Hall. For information about tickets, call 247-7800.)

RICHARD GOODE

Chances to hear this sensitive American pianist don't come around very often nowadays; in his only New York recital of the season, he performs music by Debussy, Beethoven, and Schubert (the Sonata in A Major, D. 959), at the Metropolitan Museum. (Fifth Ave. at 83rd St. 570-3949, April 13 at 8.)

CHICAGO STRING QUARTET

From the heartland comes one of the most forceful and intelligent of American quartets, presenting a program of Beethoven (the "Harp"), Dvořák (the "American"), and Richard Wilson, at Merkin Concert Hall. (129 W. 67th St. 501-3330, April 13 at 8:30.)

ABOVE AND BEYOND

"MR. SINUS THEATER"

The movie "Xanadu," starring Olivia Newton-John as a real-life muse and Gene Kelly as a roller-disco entrepreneur and featuring music by the Electric Light Orchestra, is every bit as preposterous as this brief summary suggests. Since its 1980 release,

though, it has acquired a cult following, emerging as the guiltiest of guilty pleasures. Using the talk-back-to-the-screen formula perfected by the cable-TV show "Mystery Science Theater 3000," this Austin, Texas-based comedy troupe sends up, and secures, "Xanadu"'s unlikely status. (Chicago City Limits, 1105 First Ave., at 61st St. 888-5233, April 11-12 at 10:30 and April 13 at midnight.)

READINGS

April 10 at 6:30: The poets Robert Creeley, Rita Dove, and Sonia Sanchez read from their work, as Poetry in Motion, the program that brings verse to those stuck on subways and buses, celebrates its tenth anniversary. (Vanderbilt Hall, Grand Central Terminal. For more information, call 254-9628.) ♦ April 10 at 8: The actors Paul Hecht and Leonard Nimoy offer stories by Conrad Aiken and Fitz-James O'Brien. The writer Michael Chabon is the host. (Symphony Space, Broadway at 95th St. 864-5400.) ♦ April 15 at 8: Kathryn Walker, Zoe Caldwell, David Strathairn, Kate Burton, and other actors perform Anne Carson's translation of Sophocles' "Electra." (92nd Street Y, Lexington Ave. at 92nd St. 415-5500.)

TALKS

April 10 at 6:30: The art critics Lance Esplund and Jed Perl join the painter William Bailey and the curator Sabine Rewald for a consideration of Balbus's later works. (New York Studio School, 8 W. 8th St. 673-6466.) ♦ April 10 at 7:30: The journalist and historian Tariq Ali discusses his latest book, "The Clash of Fundamentalisms: Crusades, Jihads and Modernity." (Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park W., near 1st St., Park Slope. For more information, call 718-783-3075.) ♦ April 11 at 7: The musician and writer Vivien Goldman points out the worldwide influences of Jamaican music, with the help of the d.j. Ras Kush and the photographer David Corio. (Sulzberger Parlor, Barnard Hall, Barnard College, Broadway at 117th St. For more information, call 854-2037.)

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'How much freedom should we trade for our security?'

That's the topic for this year's writing competition organized by Shell and The Economist. Entries should be no more than 2,000 words. 1st prize \$20,000. Two 2nd prizes of \$10,000 each. Five 3rd prizes of \$5,000 each. The winning essay will be published in The Economist publication *The World in 2003*.

Visit www.shelleconomistprize.com for details and conditions.



The Economist

COMEDY

IF YOU WANT TO BE LISTED

Submit information by mail, e-mail (comedy@timeoutny.com) or fax (212-673-8382) to **Joe Grossman**. Include details of event, dates, times, address of venue with cross streets, nearest subways, telephone number and admission price, if any. **Deadline is 6pm on Monday, ten days before publication date.** Incomplete submissions will not be included, and listings information will not be accepted over the phone.

HOW TO USE THIS SECTION

One-shot and weekly performances are listed below. For addresses, hours and schedules of comedy clubs, see Stand-up Clubs.

★=Recommended

Thursday 11

Bill Bailey: Bowlderness

Westbeth Theatre Center, 151 Bank St between Washington and West Sts (212-741-0391). Subway: 1, 2 to Christopher St-Sheridan Sq. 8pm, \$25-\$35. Bill Bailey is by no means the traditional urbane UK wit; he's more like a brilliant drifter who bends your ear with offbeat philosophical rantings and expertly crafted musical musings. Sometimes laugh-out-loud funny, sometimes flat-out baffling—but never predictable.

★ The Great \$5 Comedy Show

Gershwin Hotel, 7 E 27th St between Fifth and Madison Aves (212-545-8000). Subway: N, R, 6 to 28th St. 10pm, \$5. Patrick Borelli packs the Gershwin every Thursday night by offering a mix of NYC's best performers. Just about any local comic who's worth seeing will pass through these doors from time to time.

Happy Hour

Downstairs at Two Boots, 44 Ave A between 3rd and 4th Sts (212-254-1919). Subway: F, V to Lower East Side-Second Ave. 9pm, \$5, includes one drink or a slice of pizza. Deidre Sullivan hosts Erin Foley, Grant Cooper, Tim Halpern, Nasry Malak, Annie Berman and Rod Reyes.

Homecoming

ArcLight Theater, 152 W 71st St between Columbus Ave and Broadway (212-239-6200). Subway: 1, 2, 3 to 72nd St. 8pm, \$35. Lauren Weedman (of *The Daily Show*) plays her younger self and assorted family members as she relates her search for her biological mother.

The Incontinentals

PSNBC@HERE, 145 Sixth Ave between Dominick and Spring Sts (212-647-0202).

Subway: C, E to Spring St; 1, 2 to Canal St. 7:30pm. [RE] This sketch troupe, which hails from Cambridge, MA, debuted at PSNBC in January. Tonight, it gets a full hour to perform sketches that aim to make you damp with laughter.

★ The Industry Room

The Village Lantern, 167 Blecker St at Sullivan St (212-260-7993). Subway: A, C, E, F, V, Grand St S to W 4th St. 8pm, \$5. This here's a wily show, always changing venues, but it's worth keeping track of. Joshua Weinstein, Ophira Eisenberg, John Viener and Seth Herzog are now in the Village, presenting a weekly get-together of great comics at affordable prices.

Maysoon's Monsoon

Tsunami

Sam's Restaurant, 263 W 45th St between Broadway and Eighth Ave (212-719-5416). Subway: A, C, E to 42nd St-Port Authority; N, Q, R, W, 42nd St S, 1, 2, 3, 7 to 42nd St-Times Sq. 10pm, \$5. Maysoon hosts a lineup of four different comics every week, with the added attraction of door prizes and Mad-Libs.

Mr. Sinus Theater

Chicago City Limits Theatre, 1105 First Ave between 60th and 61st Sts (212-888-5233). Subway: N, R, W to Lexington Ave-59th St; 4, 5, 6 to 59th St; F to Lexington Ave-63rd St. 10:30pm, \$10. A big hit in its native Austin, TX, Mr. Sinus Theater is exactly what it (kind of) sounds like: a warped version of *Mystery Science Theater 3000*. You watch a bad movie (tonight, it's *Xanadu*) while three comics heckle it. NYC already has its own version of this, but if you enjoy *The Mock* at Cinema Classics, you'll probably dig the Sinus, too.

The Porno Jim Show

Surf Reality, 172 Allen St between Rivington and Stanton Sts (212-673-4182). Subway: F, V to Lower East Side-Second Ave. 10pm, \$10. Porno Jim delivers a public-service message about the spiritual and cultural benefits of pornography.

Saving the Desert Tortoise

Krane Theater, 85 E 4th St between Second and Third Aves (212-206-1515). Subway: F, V to Lower East Side-Second Ave; N, R to 8th St-NYU; 6 to Astor Pl. 10:30pm; \$7, couples \$10. In 1991, Richard Harrington spent three days protecting shelled reptiles from treacherous bulldozers. Thrill to his account of the 110-degree heat, swoon to the romantic subplot, and beware the production's terrifying plastic alligator.

Single Bullet Theory

Altered Stages, 212 W 29th St between Seventh and Eighth Aves (212-758-2941). Sub-

way: 1, 2 to 28th St. 8pm, \$15. What do modern-day romance and the JFK assassination have in common? Mike Bencivenga's ensemble farce examines the lives, loves and conspiracy theories of contemporary New Yorkers.

Stand-up Stew

Mamma Cassie's, 765 Sixth Ave between 25th and 26th Sts (212-807-0061). Subway: F, V to 23rd St; N, R, 1, 2 to 28th St. 8pm. [RE] Eric Alexander brings you a blend of comics and music (courtesy of Stanley Maxwell).

Stingy@Stingy

Stingy Lulu's, 129 St Marks Pl between First Ave and Ave A (212-674-3545). Subway: F, V to Lower East Side-Second Ave. Sign-up at 7:45pm, show starts at 8pm; \$3 to perform, free to watch. Todd Montesi and Nick Albano host an open-mike show, with one featured "mystery comic." The first five audience members get a free drink.

Thursday Night Prime Time

Sweet Caroline's, 369 W 46th St between Eighth and Ninth Aves (212-977-3884). Sub-

way: 1, 2 to 28th St. 8pm, \$15. What do modern-day romance and the JFK assassination have in common? Mike Bencivenga's ensemble farce examines the lives, loves and conspiracy theories of contemporary New Yorkers.

to Lower East Side-Second Ave; 6 to Astor Pl, N, R to 8th St-NYU. 10:30pm, \$10. The Bad Astronauts bill their show as an evening of sketch comedy from another astral plane.

A Beautiful Scene with Grlbomb and Friends

Surf Reality, 172 Allen St between Rivington and Stanton Sts (212-673-4182). Subway: F, V to Lower East Side-Second Ave. Midnight, \$8. Part *Playboy After Dark*, part *The Dmah Shore Show*, Grlbomb's performance salon welcomes comic Johnny Spanish, multimedia artist Karen Snider and Lorne Newman, "the Charles Nelson Reilly of the Lower East Side."

Cojullo's Pizza

Gotham City Improv Theater, 158 W 23rd St between Sixth and Seventh Aves (212-367-8222). Subway: F, V, 1, 2 to 23rd St. Midnight, \$5. This long-form, character-based improv show looks at the workings of a zany Brooklyn hood where it's every dog groomer and photosensitive gnome for himself.

The Friday Night Failure

Giaia Restaurant, 387 Sixth Ave between Waverly Pl and W 8th St (212-255-7800). Subway: A, C, E, F, V, Grand St to W 4th St. 8pm. [RE] Joe Dixon hosts stand-up from Tom Padovano, Sheldon Wickowitz, Jeffrey Becker and Ray Rivera.

Funny...Sheesh Comedy Game Show

Rose's Turn, 55 Grove St at Seventh Ave South (212-366-5438). Subway: 1, 2 to Christopher St-Sheridan Sq. 9pm, \$8 plus two-drink minimum. The Funny...Sheesh troupe performs an hour of improvised comedy and music and distributes prizes that you'll have absolutely no use for.

Get Up Stand Up Comedy Hour

Sweet Caroline's, 369 W 46th St between Eighth and Ninth Aves (212-977-3884). Subway: A, C, E to 42nd St-Port Authority. 8pm, \$5 plus two-drink minimum. This show's gotten some excellent stand-ups lately, but be warned: The venue's name virtually guarantees that you'll have Neil Diamond's most lethally catchy hit running through your head for a long time.

Homecoming

See Thu 11.

Mr. Sinus Theater

See Thu 11.

★ Bob Newhart

John Harms Center for the Arts, 30 North Van Brunt St between E Demarest and W Palisade Ave, Englewood, NJ (201-567-3600). Travel: A to 181st St; then, from the George Washington Bridge Bus Terminal, take NJ Transit bus #178 or #186 to North Van Brunt St. 8pm; \$45, \$40, \$35, \$30. No, you didn't accidentally pick up a copy of *TONJ*; this is as close to NYC as Newhart's gonna come this year, so swallow your pride and head to the glamorous Garden State (or as we like to call it, Monaco West). For more on Newhart, see the Hot Seat, page 192.

Pink Steak: Get Thee Behind Me, Gaytan

Don't Tell Mama, 343 W 46th St between Eighth and Ninth Aves (212-757-0788). Subway: A, C, E to 42nd St-Port Authority. 9pm, \$8 plus two-drink minimum. Heavy metal's al-



TARD UNFETTERED Unt-Tard 3's Nora Burns, David Iku and Mike Albo (from left) shock and delight at Fez. See Sun 14.

way: A, C, E to 42nd St-Port Authority. 8pm, \$5 plus two-drink minimum. You could settle for TV's conventional Thursday-night prime time, or you could experience Rich Aronovich and Deke Haylon's *Prime Time* Network TV or a Hell's Kitchen bar—either way, you're gonna feel used and ashamed before the evening is through.

Twicycle: Swuckingfine

Gotham City Improv Theater, 158 W 23rd St between Sixth and Seventh Aves (212-414-6745). Subway: F, V, 1, 2 to 23rd St. 9:30pm, \$5. *Swuckingfine* and *Figbucker* (see Thu 18) are two different hour-long shows from Key Grip and the Best Boys, a sketch troupe with an affinity for the spoonerism (which comes in handy, since we're not allowed to print words like *pigfucker*).

Friday 12

The Bad Astronauts: Phallaxy Quest

The Red Room, 85 E 4th St between Second and Third Aves (212-615-6685). Subway: F, V

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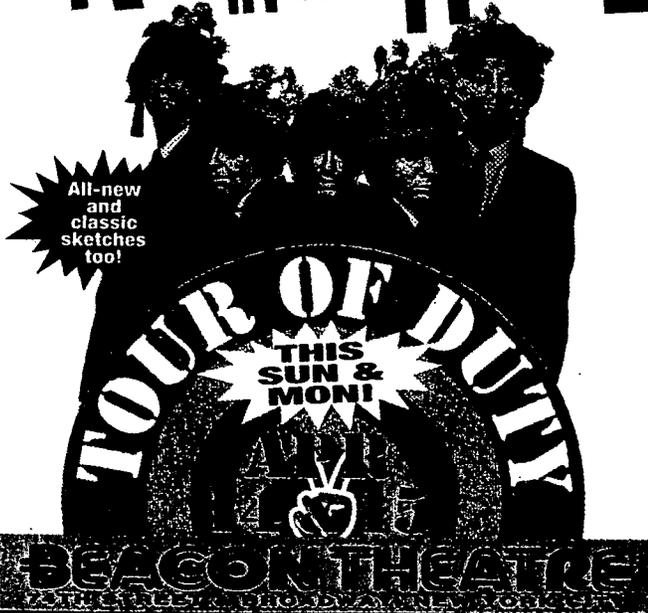


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ways seemed kinda queer—the makeup, the hair, the costumes, the affront to the repressive religious values that keep Americans docile and productive. Pink Steel is a pseudo-German heavy-metal band whose out-and-proud songs include "Sausage Party" and "Open Wide for Pride." Kiss had the Kiss Army; this band invites you to join the Pink Steel Navy.

*** Portable Comedy**
Gershwin Hotel, 7 E 27th St between Fifth and Madison Aves (212-545-8000). Subway: N, R, 6 to 28th St. 10pm, \$5. The Gershwin is where all the cool kids hang out for Friday-night stand-up. Expect ace performances from Julius Sharpe, James Oakes, Leo Allen, Pat Canderas and the 10.17 Comedy Troupe.

Scagnetti Wuz Not Here
Surf Reality, 172 Allen St between Rivington and Stanton Sts (212-673-4182). Subway: F, V to Lower East Side—Second Ave. 10pm, \$7. We're told that Curtis Scagnetti has been described as the "daddy of dadaist comedy" and "a schizophrenic Andrew Dice Clay." Tonight, he presents highlights of his stand-up, spoken-word and short-film work.

*** The Swarm**
Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre, 161 W 22nd St between Sixth and Seventh Aves (212-366-9176). Subway: F, V, 1, 2 to 23rd St. 10pm, \$7. Perhaps NYC's finest practitioner of long-form improv, the Swarm spontaneously creates novel scenes with singular wit and precision. But you'll be too busy laughing to notice its humble artistry.

Teleprompt
Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre, 161 W 22nd St between Sixth and Seventh Aves (212-366-9176). Subway: F, V, 1, 2 to 23rd St. 8pm, \$7. Writers write, and actors will say whatever they write. Matt Walsh takes you into the heart of the television show.

You're a Good Man, Mr. A\$\$ + Improv Jam
Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre, 161 W 22nd St between Sixth and Seventh Aves (212-366-9176). Subway: F, V, 1, 2 to 23rd St. Mid-night, \$7. Mr. A\$\$ previews some of its newest sketches, followed by the beloved, drunken open improv jam, where everyone is encouraged to participate.

Saturday 13

Above Kleptomaniac
Surf Reality, 172 Allen St between Rivington and Stanton Sts (212-673-4182). Subway: F, V to Lower East Side—Second Ave. Mid-night, \$6. Long-form improv in three phases. First, the Firestorm troupe performs, followed by a set from the Kings County Foundation for Dramatic Studies. Then, the inevitable: The two groups present an "unprovoked comedy orgy."

Beyond the Valley of the Switchblade Pussycats
Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre, 161 W 22nd St between Sixth and Seventh Aves (212-366-9176). Subway: F, V, 1, 2 to 23rd St. Mid-night, \$7. In this inventive satire, illustrious schlock director Dagmar Spank discusses his oeuvre, accompanied by clips (live performances, really) from his films, including *Randy Ramrod: Human Ramrod*, the women-in-prison epic *Hot in the Pokey* and cinema's only all-white blaxploitation film, *Big Mama's Gonna Get You*.

*** The Brooklyn Brew Ha-Ha**
East End Ensemble, 273 Smith St between De-Grau and Sackett Sts, Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn (718-624-8878). Subway: F, G to Carroll St. 8pm, \$10. You'll get nearly 1 billion great stand-ups every week in this itty-bitty room. Tonight: Larry Getlin, Tami Vernekoif, Julius Sharpe, Andrew Donnelly, Jon Fisch, Ritch Duncan, Jess Delfino, Byran Olsen, Chris DeLuca, Noelle and Becky, Clara Bijl, Dawn Norris and Miriam Alpert.

Commedia dell'High School
Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre, 161 W 22nd St between Sixth and Seventh Aves (212-366-9176). Subway: F, V, 1, 2 to 23rd St. 7:30pm, \$7. It's a John Hughes-type high-school story told via the Italian Renaissance's commedia dell'arte style of theater. Each cast member plays a predetermined role (Hand-some Jerk, Geek, etc.) but improvises within the framework of the character archetype and stock teen-angst plotlines.

Felber's Forces
Ye Olde Triple Inn, 263 W 54th St between Broadway and Eighth Ave (212-245-9849). Subway: C, E, 1, 2 to 50th St. 10:30pm. **FREE**