



# THE **Cody** SHOW Rivers

[www.codyrivers.com](http://www.codyrivers.com)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE  
**Cody** SHOW  
Rivers

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

- New York Theatre  
Wire

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

-Time Out Chicago



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

-VH1's Best Week Ever

## The Cody Rivers Show - North American tour of: *Right Back Where We Finished*

### Comedy theatre duo presents latest brand-new show

The Cody Rivers Show creates **kinetic and unpredictable** comedy theatre that has amazed audiences and defied description for the past five years.

Pushing the envelopes of **physical theatre, dance, music, and high-concept comedy**, The Cody Rivers Show delivers unique shows unlike any other comedy act, past or present. Their latest new piece – 'Right Back Where We Finished' – sprints between precocious youths, game theory, pioneer-era linguistics, ants and prairie dogs, the confessions of an unruly teen, eccentric old men, baby jockeys, ping-pong, and oh so much more. **It's like running a marathon, doing algebra, and eating cake at the same time.**

**Tour stops include:** NYC, Chicago, San Francisco, DC, Toronto, Minneapolis, Montreal, Seattle, Vancouver, Portland, Sacramento, Denver, St. Louis, Columbus, DC, Orlando, Cincinnati, and more...



For more information on The Cody Rivers Show, please visit: [www.codyrivers.com](http://www.codyrivers.com)

For **high resolution photos** please visit:  
<http://codyrivers.com/html/media.html>

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## Media Quotes:

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

**-Time Out Chicago**

"A welcome anomaly in the comedy world."

**-New York Press**

"...impeccably rehearsed...physically impressive...funny...engaging...beyond creative...They really are something you've never seen before."

**-VH1's Best Week Ever**

"This isn't safe material."

**-The Oregonian**

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

**-The Apiary (NYC)**

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

**-The Edmonton Sun**

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

**-The Georgia Straight (Vancouver)**

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

**-Time Out New York**

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

**-The Minneapolis Star-Tribune**

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

**- Portland Mercury**

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

**-The Montreal Mirror**

"Imagine free-falling through an atmosphere of people, places, and situations while laughing gas pumps in your veins...The Cody Rivers Show has arrived from one special goose."

**- Charleston City Paper**



## Media Quotes (cont.):

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

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

"This is bravura theater."  
**-The Orlando Sentinel**

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

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

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

"Two words: See them."  
**-The Bastion (Chicago)**

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

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

"...artful, unusual, painstakingly brilliant..." **-Time Out Chicago**

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

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

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



## The Cody Rivers Show – Selected Credits (2006-2009)

### *Festivals:*

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

### *Venues:*

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

### *Awards:*

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







## The Cody Rivers Show: Colossus

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

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



## SketchFest NYC - Opening Night @ The SoHo Playhouse

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

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

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





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

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

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



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

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

*-Steve Heisler*



# the Stranger

SEATTLE'S  
ONLY NEWSPAPER

## The Cody Rivers Show: Tangle

Rendezvous Jewel Box Theater

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

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

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



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

*-Lindy West*







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

-Joe Adcock

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

Cody Rivers, in case you didn't know, is a mythical country singer. Cody is this year's celebrity king of the Maizeville Corn Festival. His bad luck demonstrates how amusing humiliation can be. Hog urine is involved. The Maizeville sketch satirizes both fame and obscurity. Where fatuity is concerned, the show biz celebrity and the small-town functionary are about even.

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



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

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

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

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

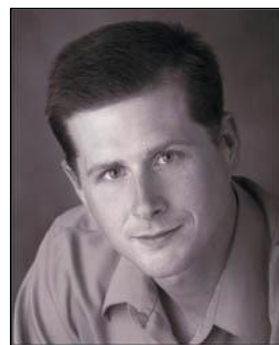
I see a lot of funny entertainment in the course of my work. "The Cody Rivers Show" is the best that has come along in ... well, in a long time."



# The Cody Rivers Show is:

## **Andrew Connor**

Andrew Connor received his theater, dance and vocal education at Ohio Wesleyan University, where he acted and danced in, and choreographed and directed numerous productions, while also performing in the Babbling Bishops improv comedy troupe. Andrew runs Infinity Live Productions ([www.infinityliveproductions.com](http://www.infinityliveproductions.com)), a live comedy and theatre production company. He is also the Artistic Director of Sketchfest Seattle ([www.sketchfest.org](http://www.sketchfest.org)). He has toured around the world with his two solo shows, *Boom*, and *Cyclosa Confusa*.



## **Mike Mathieu**

Mike Mathieu grew up in Beavercreek, OH. He has a B.A. in creative writing/literature from Ohio Wesleyan University, where he also studied acting, playwriting, and dance, and was a four-year member of the campus improv troupe, the Babbling Bishops. He moved to Bellingham in '04 to write and act at the iDiOM Theater, of which he became the Artistic Director in 2008. He recently debuted his one-man play, *Purple Heart*, to rave reviews.

