

Independent works to air

By Emily Rosenbaum
Staff Reporter

Some underground comedy soon will see the light of day.

A nationally televised comedy show starting this fall will feature the work of student and independent film makers, videographers and animators.

Mark Cohen, co-producer of "Underground Comedy," said the show will give exposure to short films, comic sketches, animated pieces, political satires and commercial parodies.

It will be the first weekly television program to broadcast the work of independent producers, Cohen said.

He said the show will stay away from stand-up comedy and focus on areas that haven't received as much national attention.

"I believe that such a showcase will be a new fertile source of much needed creativity for the expanding broadcast entertainment industry," Cohen said.

Material for the 30-minute program will be selected from submissions sent by independent producers, Cohen said.

"We're counting on the quantity and quality of the material we receive," he said.

Cohen said the material the show already has received is enough to do a few shows and much of it is "very funny."

Carolyn Fox, an East Coast morning radio personality, will serve as host of "Underground Comedy," Cohen said.

"Fox fits into the category known today as 'shock jocks,'" he said.

The program went into pre-production Sept. 5 at a Boston film and video company and will be ready by late fall. Negotiations are still being made with television stations to air the show, Cohen said.

Cohen, a comedy writer, actor and former owner of a production company, started out as a student film maker. It's often frustrating looking for a break in this competitive and crowded field, he said.

He said his experience gave him the idea of producing a show like "Underground Comedy."

Those interested in submitting their work for consideration can send for an information kit from:

Editel/Boston, Underground Comedy; 651 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. 02215-3278

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eant talent - after learning percussion in sixth grade.

• Collects "surgery souvenirs" from her veterinary operations, including a small piece of her cat's backbone and puppy fetuses.

Miss Turner emphasized that she is "a normal person who grew up in a comfortable, middle-class home who was given love and taught how to work hard for goals and not give up, not be discouraged by obstacles."

But Miss Turner's father, Frederick, later admitted somewhat

sheepishly that he told his daughter to quit after the last state pageant. She was runner-up several times in her home state of Arkansas before winning the Missouri state pageant after entering school there.

"I'm glad she ignored me," he said, beaming.

Karamazov Brothers perform at Kimball Juggling, jokes entertain crowd

By Kelly Anders
Staff Reporter

Who can tap dance, play the harmonica, sing, juggle and chew "hardened gum" simultaneously?

The Flying Karamazov Brothers. The quartet showed its mastery of these and many more feats during a delightful performance Sunday at Kimball Recital Hall.

kimball REVIEW

As the lights grew dim at the show's 3 p.m. start, the audience chuckled as a voice said a few words of introduction in English and slaughtered French. Then the troupe popped out of the back of five giant juggling pins and a lavender curtain and kept the nearly sold-out crowd perpetually entertained.

The slapstick crew of "Dmitri" -- Paul David Magid, "Fyodor" -- Timothy Furst, "Ivan" -- Howard Jay Patterson and "Smerdyakov" -- Sam Williams, all excellent jugglers and pretty decent musicians and comedians, combined their talents quite creatively.

Juggling and jabs galore ensued as the troupe wowed onlookers by rapidly tossing juggling pins in various formations and telling many jokes with sarcastic and adult undertones that the audience, at least one-fourth of which was children, probably missed.

During "The Gamble," for example, the audience was asked to bring objects "heavier than an ounce, lighter than 10 pounds and no bigger than a breadbox" for the "champ" to juggle. After someone brought a piece of paper, "Ivan" said, "Haven't you seen an ounce before?"

"The Gamble" was without question the show's highlight. The audience selected a record album, balloon and slinky for the "champ" ("Ivan") to juggle for 10 counts and receive a standing ovation, or fail and receive a pie in the face. He received the latter to roars of laughter, claps and whistles.

In another hilarious segment, "Dmitri" was shot and yelled an expletive. "Ivan" reprimanded him for saying such a thing onstage during a "family show in Nebraska," so he limped offstage and said it again.

Before the short intermission, the group sang "Somewhere Out in the Lobby" a cappella to the tune of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." The lyrics were amusing and the harmonizing was good.

Simultaneous juggling and drumming kicked off act two. While "Dmitri," "Fyodor" and "Smerdyakov" tossed pins and beat garbage cans, "Ivan" played the trumpet. It was understandable that

the music wasn't the most complicated compilation; combining such activities was difficult in itself.

The group balanced platters on noses and brooms on fingers during a skit in which classical and punkish music and facial expressions did the talking. As the wild one, "Dmitri" pretended to bite the head off of a small statue in the Ozzy Osbourne bathead-biting tradition; he also kept sticking his tongue out Kiss-style. How "Fyodor" managed to balance three trays, several vases, three statues and a bottle on his nose remains a mystery.

The French language was killed a second time during the "jazz" piece. Everyone laughed at the guys' cool shades and beatnik dialogue.

Smerdyakov slipped in a bit of high-brow humor during "Pass the Buck." As the pins, or "bucks," kept dropping, he said, "I guess it doesn't go as far as it is used to." Funny and

true.

The finale of the program involved synthesizers "for the technically pretentious." This segment was perhaps the most creative of all.

The brothers wore helmets and bashed their heads to bring out notes from the synthesizer. To the audience's amazement, they ended up playing a classical tune. Impressive.

Then they incorporated drum machines into the act. The group juggled to beat the drums, the members bashed their bodies and sang an original and pretty funky piece called "Gotta Learn to Juggle." "Fyodor" danced on a huge synthesizer to play his notes, like Tom Hanks did in the film, "Big."

After such hard work and creativity, the Flying Karamazov Brothers bowed to a well-deserved standing ovation. A pleasant way to spend a couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon.

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