



# The Cocktail Hour

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**"A deliciously funny and occasionally touching evening." New York Post**

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Nebraska Repertory Theatre • 12th and "R" Street • Lincoln, NE

## Comet

Continued from Page 1  
said.

Hubble said the best time to catch a glimpse of the comet's collision from Lincoln skies would be July 16 at about 9:46 p.m. and July 22 at about 10:45 p.m., give or take 28 minutes. The best view of the collision will come from the Galileo spacecraft and should be televised on CNN and NASA Select channels, he said.

"(Scientists) have never been able to be aware of something like this before," he said. "Scientists will be watching this one to see what happens when you have something of this size and force hitting a member of the solar system."

"They'll be thinking 'Wow, what if it would have been closer to Earth?'"

So what if a comet would hit the Earth? Although Jupiter is not a

rock planet like Earth, the collision will give scientists an opportunity to witness from a safe point of view what could really happen.

"It would be devastating," Hubble said. "You get something coming in at 60 kilometers per second and it stops suddenly, it will fuse the surrounding ground, send shock waves and airwaves away from it and probably knock everything down."

"The heat blast would be very intense and would rival our largest nuclear explosion."

But the chances of this happening are slim, Hubble said. There are 240,000 miles between the Earth and the moon. For a comet to hit the Earth it would have to be dead on target and the slightest deflection would cause it to miss the Earth by miles, Hubble said.

"It's so slim I'd never go out and buy insurance for it," he said, laughing.

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