



# THE **Cody** SHOW Rivers

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

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# THE Cody SHOW Rivers

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

*"Mike Mathieu and  
Andrew Connor come  
out of the gate with  
razor-sharp sketch  
comedy full of word-  
play, tight satire and  
clever improvisation."*  
-The Minneapolis Star  
Tribune



*"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: *Meanwhile Everywhere*

### 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 four 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 show – ‘Meanwhile Everywhere’ – presents a surreal interface of themes, characters and storylines seamlessly joined with breakneck leaps between universes where mysterious rules are always in effect. Unexpected juxtapositions disarm audience expectations and lead viewers **deep into absurd realms where laughter is often the only thing that makes sense.**



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

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



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

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## Media Quotes:

"...a stunning performance...a welcome anomaly in the comedy world."  
-New York Press

"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

"...entertaining and inventive in direct proportion to how difficult it is to describe. Think high-concept dance comedy that at moments verges on optical illusion."  
-Minneapolis City Pages

"...impeccably rehearsed...physically impressive...funny...engaging...beyond creative...They really are something you've never seen before."  
-VHI's Best Week Ever

"...brilliant in every sense of the word."  
-The Orlando Sentinel

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

"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

"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. Nothing short of genius."  
-The Georgia Straight (Vancouver)

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

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



## Media Quotes (cont.):

"Imagine free-falling through an atmosphere of people, places, and situations while laughing gas pumps in your veins..."  
- **Charleston City Paper**

"Their highly refined skills include dance, gymnastics, juggling, tumbling and a general proficiency with precisely choreographed stunts involving athleticism, strength and daring. All these skills are at the service of an eerie sense of humor that goofs on the quirks of the human condition and the everyday existential quandaries of life on Earth. 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 when it comes to good-natured and hilarious weirdness."  
-**Seattle Post-Intelligencer**

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

"There's no question about it: this is the optimal mix of goofy and astute, of whimsical and observant, of playful and wise."  
-**The Edmonton Journal**

"This is bravura theater, no matter which category you choose."  
-**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 (Seattle)**

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

"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 (Vancouver)**

"...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**



## The Cody Rivers Show – Selected Credits (2004-2009)

### *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  
Seattle Sketchfest  
Chicago Sketchfest  
Miami Improv Festival  
Sketchfest NYC  
Northwest New Works Festival  
Minnesota Fringe Festival  
Victoria Fringe Festival  
Vancouver Fringe Festival



### *Venues:*

Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre (New York, NY)  
Soho Playhouse (New York, NY)  
Under St. Marks (New York, NY)  
Sacred Fools Theatre (Los Angeles, CA)  
iO West (Los Angeles, CA)  
The Lakeshore Theater (Chicago, IL)  
iO (Chicago, IL)  
The Diesel Playhouse (Toronto, ON)  
The Warehouse Theatre (Washington, DC)  
The Waterfront Theatre (Vancouver, BC)  
The Metro Theatre (Victoria, BC)  
Mainline Theatre (Montreal, QC)  
The Paramount Theatre (Seattle, WA)  
The Moore Theatre (Seattle, WA)  
Theatre 99 (Charleston, SC)  
Dad's Garage (Atlanta, GA)  
The Eureka Theatre (San Francisco, CA)  
Curious Comedy (Portland, OR)  
The Miracle Theater (Portland, OR)  
The Geery Theater (Sacramento, CA)  
The Dark Room (San Francisco, CA)  
The Grand Theatre (London, ON)



### *Awards:*

'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)



CHARLESTON  
CITY PAPER

## The Cody Rivers Show: Stick to Glue

The laughs are intense and sustained at the Cody Rivers Show

Imagine free-falling through an atmosphere of people, places, and situations while laughing gas pumps in your veins. This summarizes The Cody River Show's uncanny ability to recite vast amounts of seemingly irrelevant information and link it into a montage of hilarious stories. It showers the audience with spasmodic vignettes that combine dance, song, and dialogue. It flaps like a pair of frenzied wings, spilling anecdotes and interchangeable characters over the crowd.

The performance exudes enough energy to warrant inspection of the nearest Red Bull distributor, and performers Mike Mathieu and Andrew Connor are spot on with their multi-faceted interactions. They stamp and weave with the gracefulness of dancers, they exchange offhand comments like best friends, and they seamlessly shift into fresh vignettes as the previous story settles in. Indeed, The Cody Rivers Show demands high octane from its audience, but the effort is unnoticed as you laugh and guffaw until your jaw hurts.

Appearing on stage as slow-motion characters with low, pinched voices, the duo allows a moment to pass before they unleash their comedic fury. They are nimble trespassers in a world inhabited by strange, recognizable characters, yet they create this world and rule it like kings who enjoy intelligent humor and practical jokes.

In one scene two bumbling doctors describe the fate of the planet. They mindlessly repeat themselves, saying, "It's bleak," and "If you bemoan our generation," until the spin grows laughable, and the audience realizes the gag. Another spans continents. The duo morphs from place to place and features a variety of characters, all of which turn out to be interconnected. The storyline is too complicated and disjointed to explain, but to their credit, The Cody Rivers Show brings it together flawlessly.

A magician makes silence disappear; a character reveals he is able to turn into a car, but only when he isn't riding his bicycle; the duo performs face-to-face theater, a playful way to involve the audience without making everyone grow stiff, and then goes on to hide behind the stage, performing for no one, an experience they deem intense.

That intensity lasts throughout the show. When you stand to leave you feel like you've been through a final exam, but instead of hand cramps your jaw aches and your brain buzzes with good cheer.





## UNSOLICITED ENDORSEMENT: If You're In New York City, See The Cody Rivers Show This Week

The Cody Rivers Show, a two-person performance group from the Seattle area, is — skipping past all the obligatory qualifying and prefacing that must accompany these sorts of grandiose announcements — the most amazing sketch group I have ever seen. They're a two-person group from outside the Seattle area who happens to be at the UCB Theater in New York Monday and Wednesday of this week, and, while I cannot hope to explain what they do or specify my gushing praises, I simply must straight up say that if you only listen to one recommendation that I ever make in the lifespan of this blog, for serious, go see the Cody Rivers Show if they come to where you live.

This isn't a slight to the hundred other sketch groups I've watched (and performed in); there are tons of awesome groups out there who put on fantastic, hilarious shows, but Cody Rivers transcends standard sketch comedy without the alt-comedy self-consciousness that usually accompanies anything that supposes to "transcend" a form of comedy. The bits are just impeccably rehearsed and as physically impressive as they are funny, they're engaging, they're beyond creative, and they really are something you've never seen before without constantly reminding you that it's something you've never seen before.

Alright, never mind, I said I wasn't gonna try to explain it, and I already f\*cked up. Just see the show. Seriously.



### 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





## 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."



## Selected Tour History (2007-08):

January – May '09

### *'Meanwhile Everywhere'*

iDiOM Theater	-	Bellingham, WA
Theatre Off Jackson	-	Seattle, WA
The Metro Theatre	-	Victoria, BC
Playwright's Theatre Centre	-	Vancouver, BC
Curious Comedy	-	Portland, OR
The Arcata Playhouse	-	Arcata, CA
The Dark Room	-	San Francisco, CA
The 24 <sup>th</sup> St. Theatre	-	Sacramento, CA
The Dairy Center for the Arts	-	Boulder, CO
The Bovine Metropolis	-	Denver, CO
Patrick's Cabaret	-	Minneapolis, MN
The Lakeshore Theatre	-	Chicago, IL
MadLab Theatre	-	Columbus, OH
Under St. Marks	-	New York, NY
Comedy Bar	-	Toronto, ON
The Mainline Theatre	-	Montreal, QC
The Warehouse Theater	-	Washington, DC
Dad' Garage	-	Atlanta, GA
Piccolo Spoleto	-	Charleston, SC
Orlando Fringe Festival	-	Orlando, FL

October '07 – September '08

### *'Stick to Glue'*

Sketchfest Seattle	-	Seattle, WA
The Edmonton Fringe Festival	-	Edmonton, AB
The Minnesota Fringe Festival	-	Minneapolis, MN
Just for Laughs	-	Montreal, QC
iO	-	Chicago, IL
Montreal Fringe Festival	-	Montreal, QC
Comedy Alley	-	Richmond, VA
The Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre	-	New York, NY
Diesel Playhouse	-	Toronto, ON
The Grand Theatre	-	London, ON
iO West	-	Los Angeles, CA
The Miracle Theatre	-	Portland, OR
The Lincoln Theatre	-	Mt. Vernon, WA
Orcas Center	-	East Sound, WA
San Juan Theatre	-	Friday Harbor, WA
Ohio Wesleyan University	-	Delaware, OH
The Mount Baker Theatre	-	Bellingham, WA



## 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 theatre and comedy production company. He is the Artistic Director of Sketchfest Seattle ([www.sketchfest.org](http://www.sketchfest.org)) and the Executive Director of iDiOM Theater ([www.idiomtheater.com](http://www.idiomtheater.com)), and in 2008 he wrote and toured a solo show, *Boom*, across the U.S. and Canada.



### **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 ([www.idiomtheater.com](http://www.idiomtheater.com)), of which he became the Artistic Director in 2008.

Mike has written several full-length plays, including a solo show called 'Purple Heart,' which he debuted in 2008.



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