

Kennedy Theatre



UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I at MĀNOA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2016

Improv and Movies Collide at Kennedy Theatre *The Late Night Theatre presents Cinematik*

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Theatre + Dance continues its student-directed 2015/16 Late Night Theatre series with *Cinematik*, an improvised show directed by undergraduate student Michael "Donut" Donato. Recommended for audiences 18+, performances will take place at the Earle Ernst Lab Theatre on January 22, 23, 29, and 30 at 11:00 p.m.

In this improvised show set in the not-so-distant future, The Late Night Theatre Company has purchased and renovated the aging Queen Theatre on Waiālae Avenue. However, a great quarrel has arisen as to what show would actually perform first in the newfound space. Enter the Strange Friends: an improv troupe that loves to take their inspiration from movie genres. The audience is invited on a journey to see the Strange Friends perform, getting an all-access pass into the life of a living, breathing improv troupe. Every night is a strange new journey with the Strange Friends.

Donato found inspiration from his two greatest passions to create this show: movies and improv. "Movies were a big part of my upbringing. Some of my favorite memories involve movies with family and friends," Donato recalls. "As I grew older, I noticed the profound unifying effect that great movies have on the audience. It calls to the essential humanity that we all share." Taking that power, Donato wished to marry it to improvised theatre, an innately communal experience, and create a new form that would entertain and touch the hearts and minds of the audience.

Donato's goal for the production is simple: to expand the audiences' notion of what improvised theatre is and can be. "Even though it's improvised theatre, a lot of improv

becomes stagnant after a while. People start playing the same characters, making the same references, and it all becomes very dull for the audience. I want to do what so many in the improv community here have done for me this past year: expand the boundaries of what improv, theatre, and even art could be. We owe that, at the very least, to our audience.”

This defiance of the status quo and search for inspiration aligns with the Late Night Theatre mission: to explore, to entertain, and to excite. The student-run organization is dedicated to the production of challenging work, and strives to present theatre that is not otherwise available to Honolulu audiences. Late Night Theatre invites controversy and innovation in pursuit of excellent student-driven performance.

Tickets for *Cinematik* will go on sale at the box office one hour before show time each performance night. Latecomers may be admitted at the discretion of the House Manager once the performance has begun, at their own risk. For more information, please visit manoa.hawaii.edu/liveonstage or call the Box Office at (808) 956-7655. For information on accessibility accommodations, please call the Box Office.

EVENT: *Cinematik*

PRESENTED BY: Late Night Theatre, UHM
Department of Theatre and Dance

WHEN: January 22, 23, 29, and 30 at 11 p.m.

WHERE: UHM’s Earle Ernst Lab Theatre, 1770
East-West Road, Honolulu, HI, 96822

TICKET PRICES: \$10 general admission, \$8
seniors / military / UH Faculty and staff / student,
\$5 UHM students with valid UHM photo ID

PURCHASE INFO: Tickets will be on sale at the
Kennedy Theatre box office one hour before
showtime on performance nights.

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