

Improvised Comedy

Gelastic Band Productions
presents
Byron and Shelley: A Romantics Comedy

Byron and Shelley: A Romantics Comedy is a full-length improvised comedy play, starring four of Oxford's most talented young improvisers. Craig, Andy, Jim and Joe have been performing to packed houses for years as part of local comedy group The Oxford Imps, and are now branching out to try something a little more challenging, while preserving the live, hilarious and unpredictable edge they have displayed in their comedy careers so far.

The action of the play takes place in 1816, by the shores of Lake Geneva, when Byron, Shelley, Mary Shelley and others went on holiday and took to writing ghost stories, mostly to escape the vile weather. The trip is famous for having produced the story which later became 'Frankenstein'; this show imagines everything else which *might* have been going on at the same time. Based on a single suggestion from the audience, the Four Gallants produce an hour-long comedy play, replete with drama, excitement, brooding and good, good poetry. Needless to say, it is completely different every time.

The four-man cast have a wide variety of performing experience, between them racking up an impressively large number of credits in stand-up, sketch comedy, film, and, of course, improvised comedy. All four live and work in Oxford – in their spare time Jim teaches philosophy, Craig works as an economist and writes, Andy works for the BBC show *QI* and for *Private Eye* Magazine, and Joe studies and loafs. The show is directed by Tom Greeves, an immensely talented comedian and writer who has, among many other things, worked as a speechwriter for Boris Johnson.

This show is an ambitious and well-rehearsed project which aims to introduce more people to long-form improvised comedy, an art form which at its best proves more exciting, compelling and funny than almost any scripted work. This is the first show the Gallants have done as a group in their own right, but they intend to perform as a troupe all over Oxford and beyond in months to come.

www.gelasticband.co.uk

Reviews for previous Gelastic Band shows: *"If you're thinking of watching TV tomorrow, which I know you are, please lever yourself out of that La-Z-boy and get yourself down there. If nothing else, your effort will be rewarded many times over by the surprise at the end."* **Daily Info 2008**

"The writing rings with confidence as it strays into the complex or ridiculous" **Cherwell**

Venue: Burton Taylor Studio

Dates: 20th-24th October 2009

Tickets: £5 (Concessions £4)

Time: 21.30

Box Office: 01865 305 305 / online <http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/BurtonTaylor/>

PRESS CONTACT:

Andrew Murray

T: 07810 321 470

E: andy@gelasticband.co.uk

Craig Holmes

T: 07766 018 979

E: craig@gelasticband.co.uk