



DAVID KADLUBOWSKI/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

The Galapagos are (from left) Bill Binder, Jose Gonzalez, Shane Shannon, Jon Jahrmarkt (bottom) and Mark Jordan.

Buddy, can you spare a line?

Comedy troupe raising funds for NY bash

By Randy Cordova

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Improv fans know the troupe Galapagos for performances that are inspired, original and a whole lot more thoughtful than what you get on a typical *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*

Members of the Valley troupe have been conducting fund-raisers to help finance a trip to New York City, where they've been invited to perform in the Del Close Marathon, a prestigious affair that involves 120 troupes from North America.

Meet the members of Galapagos:

Galapagos fund-raiser

What: Galapagos improv fund-raiser during "Hello Blue Monday!"

When: 8 p.m.-2 a.m. Monday.

Where: Bikini Lounge, 1502 N.W. Grand Ave., Phoenix.

Cost: Free. For each Pabst Blue Ribbon longneck beer sold, the troupe receives \$1 toward the New York City trip.

www.galapagosimprov.com.



Bill Binder

30, of Phoenix.

Hometown: Rochester Hills, N.Y.

Memorable character he has created: I played a 16-year-old who stumbles across a man who fell in a well. His own predicament didn't seem to concern me as much as the fact that I now had a driver's license.

Most embarrassing onstage moment:

I was once in a fairly serious scene, when someone labeled me as a "werewolf with SARS" which I attempted to pull off as honestly as possible ... but failed.



Jose Gonzalez

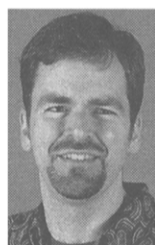
27, of Phoenix.

Hometown: Phoenix.

Memorable character

he has created: In a show that took a serious turn, I played an expectant, single mother who discovers that she's HIV positive. It could've ended up horribly offensive or *After School Special-ish*, but seeing her through to the christening of her child is something that's always stayed with me.

Most embarrassing onstage moment: During an LA Improv Festival workshop, I tried to initiate a split scene as a lost baby. I ended up onstage alone, speaking garbled baby talk with my fingers in my mouth — in front of a well-known teacher and a class full of great improvisers.



Jon Jahrmarkt

37, of Phoenix.

Hometown: Scottsdale.

Memorable character he has created: As Frankenstein's monster, I wore a sad, distant and unchanging grimace, and I hardly moved during the scene as the other performers carried on, learning to dance and preparing for evil.

Near the end of the scene, the monster was able to concentrate and learn a dance with the tiniest movements of his hands and feet. The other players said they were mystified by the audience reaction until they saw that their monster had come to untalented life.

Most embarrassing onstage moment: One night we were performing a scene from a play as if it were written in the year 2050. My character was revealed as a robot, and I malfunctioned, throwing myself against the back wall of the stage.

To the delight of audience and players, I crashed completely (and harmlessly) through the slipshod wall and out of sight.



Mark Jordan

27, of Chandler.

Hometown: Litchfield Park.

Memorable character he has created: An 80-foot-tall Southern gentleman whose son had run away to experience the real world.

Throughout the performance, I was on a mission to save my son from the cruel real world that would not understand him because of his size. During my travels, I enlisted the help of a farmer who rode in my pocket and the crew of a warship that I carried in my hand.

I eventually found my son, and he had made friends with two other lost boys, of normal size, and was helping them get home.

Most embarrassing onstage moment: During the first show of a two-show set I became deathly ill, with some type of evil stomach virus. I was in the middle of a performance and I had to hold back a stomach coupe. I was on stage and sweating and freezing from the chills. I could not concentrate on the show and I had no exit. So I fought. I made it through both shows and barely escaped a truly embarrassing bodily function mishap. It still is not one of my proudest moments.



Shane Shannon

27, of Mesa.

Hometown: Orlando

Memorable character

he has created: I was a little boy that befriended a giant and roamed the countryside in his pocket. Also, a loving prostitute that acted as a life coach.

Most embarrassing onstage moment: When I was in another troupe, I was really sick and had to do an improvised rap song. I started to dry heave, so I fell on the floor and started screaming "It's a drive by!" That sucked.

My character was revealed as a robot, and I malfunctioned, throwing myself against the back wall of the stage. To the delight of audience and players, I crashed completely through the slipshod wall and out of sight.

Jon Jahrmarkt