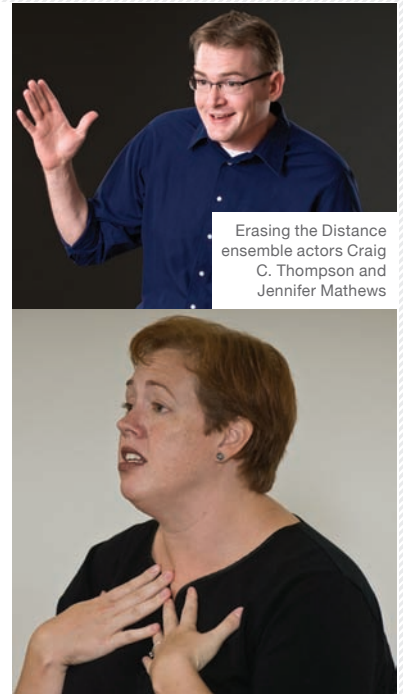


Theatre

ONE NIGHT ONLY: 'STRONGER THAN SILENCE: SURVIVING OUR SECRETS'

Erasing the Distance theatre company presents *Stronger Than Silence: surviving our secrets*, commemorating Sexual Assault Awareness Month and featuring veteran Chicago actor Cedric Young. In this one-night theatrical event Thursday, April 28, four professional actors will give voice to true stories of survivors of sexual violence, sharing perspectives on hope, healing, and forgiveness. April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and according to the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 1 in 3 girls, and 1 in 6 boys, are sexually assaulted before the age of 18. "Men, women, youth, and people of all ethnic, racial, and economic backgrounds have their innocence shattered and then must use every fiber of their being to recover and heal," said Brigid O'Shaughnessy, executive artistic director of Erasing the Distance, a not-for-profit organization that sheds light on mental illness through theatre. "This is not just a personal issue. It is a community issue and we must face it."

O'Shaughnessy was recently granted DePaul University's David O. Justice Award for her use of theatre to educate communities about mental health in non-traditional and creative ways. Young has performed on Broadway and at Chicago's Goodman, Steppenwolf, Lookingglass and Court Theatres along with television's *The Chicago Code*. *Stronger Than Silence: surviving our secrets* is brought to you by Community Counseling Centers of Chicago (C4) Quetzal Center. C4 was founded in 1972 to help people released from psychiatric hospitals into the Uptown and Edgewater communities. Its clients are survivors of rape, childhood incest and other forms of sexual violence. The performance will be 7 p.m. in the third floor Hoover-Leppen Theater at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. Refreshments will be at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are FREE, although a \$10 donation is suggested at the door. Reservations are recommended. RSVP at BrownPaperTickets.com.



Erasing the Distance ensemble actors Craig C. Thompson and Jennifer Mathews

Events Calendar



APRIL 21

Volunteer to read entries on stage or just listen to some sexy writing at **Erotic Fiction Contest**, the third annual benefit for the Chicago Women's Health Center. Includes a silent auction and a raffle. 7 p.m. at The Whistler, 2421 N. Milwaukee Ave. No cover. For more info visit www.whistlerchicago.com.

APRIL 22

Happy Earth Day! Enjoy an Earth Day benefit that includes wine, appetizers, dinner, an auction and performances by live bands and DJs at **Earth, Wine and Fire**. Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Drive from 6:30 - 11 p.m. \$25-\$35 For more info: www.earthwineandfire.com



Second City's South Side of Heaven Photo by MICHAEL BROSILOW

APRIL 23

Check out The Second City's 99th sketch revue, **South Side of Heaven**. *South Side of Heaven* is a thought-provoking, irreverent and hilarious new show from The Second City exploring the many fates that propel our world and universe. From the cultural divide between Cubs and White Sox fans to the delicate distinction between dancing and stripping, *South Side of Heaven* rejoices in the earthly and ethereal. A President, an outgoing Mayor and a creepy TSA agent are all just part of the natural flow of *South Side of Heaven*. 1616 N. Wells St. from 8 & 11 p.m. \$22-27. For tickets and more info visit <http://secondcity.com>.

APRIL 25

Chicago Improv Festival opening night The 14th annual showcase kicks off with performances by local ensembles Chicagoland and Four Horsemen. The Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway, 8 p.m. \$10. www.chicagoinprovfestival.org/web/

APRIL 26

Face the Strange: New music from the bleeding edge Musicians perform hour-long sets of original compositions. It's new music like you've never heard before. In a good way. Performing this month is Joan of Arc, whose recorded output has elicited critical praise by challenging the norms of traditional songwriting by deconstructing and reinterpreting both traditional rock and avant garde structuring techniques. Joan of Arc's Face the Strange performance will be the record release show for their upcoming album *Life Like*, to be released on Polyvinyl Record Co. on May 10. Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave., 6 p.m. Free.

Draw or sketch a costumed model at this monthly BYOB gathering for amateur and professional artists at **Living Flesh Drawing Pad**. Nineteen Hundred and One Gallery Theater, 1901 W. Belmont Ave., from 8-10 p.m. \$10. For more info visit www.1901.com

APRIL 27

The Oriental Institute and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies present the U.S. premiere of the documentary **Incredible Isfahan: Discovering Persia's Past**, which presents the zenith of Iranian splendor as showcased in the city of Isfahan, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Iranian documentary filmmaker Farzin Rezaeian combines contemporary views with compelling computer-generated images to explore its cosmopolitan history, artistic traditions and dazzling architectural monuments. Rezaeian will discuss the production and its companion book, which will be available. Professor John Woods of the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, who appears in the film, will provide introductory remarks. Complimentary reception. This program is free. No pre-registration required. 6:30 p.m. at 1155 E. 58th St., Chicago

