

steppenwolf

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THROUGH NOVEMBER 11, 2012

GOOD PEOPLE

BY PULITZER PRIZE-WINNER DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE
DIRECTED BY ENSEMBLE MEMBER K. TODD FREEMAN

Featuring ensemble members **Alana Arenas**,
Mariann Mayberry and **Molly Regan**
with **Will Allan**, **Keith Kupferer** and **Lusia Strus**

SUBVERSIVELY FUNNY!

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candidate...every politician currently serving
and every voter, too.”

—Chicago Sun-Times



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Shear comb-eddy

By Julia Borcherts | FOR REDEYE

Monique Madrid may try to cut you, but, hey—it's for your own good. The comedian and licensed cosmetologist takes the stage as her alter ego, an over-the-top, always fabulous stylist named Monica Barcelona, in “Bitch I’ll Cut You,” her improv comedy show set in a beauty salon during which one lucky audience member gets a makeover and another gets an onstage haircut.

Madrid—who performs improv and sketch comedy on stages across Chicago, toured with The Second City on Norwegian Cruise Line ships and recently competed in the local “Impress These Apes” comedy challenge contest—debuted “Bitch, I’ll Cut You” at the Chicago Women’s Funny Festival in June and brings the, ahem, cutting-edge comedy back to the stage in all its gossip-dishing glory for one night at The Annoyance. We called her to find out more.

Which came first—comedy school or beauty school?

Cosmetology school, actually, when I was 19. I grew up in Independence, Mo.—it’s a little suburb of Kansas City—and I went to school specifically so I could move to a big city someday and pursue comedy and acting without waiting tables. [Laughs.] I was pretty dumb at 19, but that’s the one smart decision I made. The economy may be bad but you always need a haircut; women will always buy lipstick.

How did Monique Madrid become Monica Barcelona?

She started out as a bowling character. My husband and I always have a “bowling” name when we go out. I always play Monica Barcelona, and he’s Dale Portugal.

What happens when the audience walks into Monica Barcelona’s salon?

There’s an assistant that welcomes everybody. And then I bring a couple different people up on stage. We start to chat and get to talking. One person gets their makeup done. The second person gets an actual haircut.

And the nice thing is we explore the fact that when you go to a salon, you really open up to your stylist and it’s kind of this intimate deal. So it’s just talking and getting to know people in that same way that I would if I were actually working in my salon, only it’s a little more heightened, of course, ’cause it’s this fun character.

But I hope to make sure that the person up on stage with me is feeling comfortable. I’ll take good care of them.

So people shouldn’t be afraid to volunteer?

No, not at all. She may be this fun, crazy character but you will come out with a good haircut.

I always let people know, as Monica, “Hey, if you don’t love what Monica does, her cousin—hint, hint—Monique Madrid will take care of you”—just so that they know the comedy isn’t in the haircut itself.

BITCH I’LL CUT YOU

Go: 9:30 p.m. Thursday at The Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway
Tickets: \$10; 773-561-4665;
annoyanceproductions.com



Which celebrity would be Monica’s dream client?

Monica might actually appreciate the crazy, wild side of Snooki—she is into making people feel fabulous. Her little catch phrase is “Oh, you is beautiful!”

Rather than being, like, “Oh, I gotta fix you,” it’s about bringing out whatever is already beautiful about you. That comes from my own philosophy of, I like to make people still feel like themselves—unless they’re asking for some sort of dramatic makeover. Everybody’s beautiful as is. It’s just finding little ways to enhance you and make you feel even more beautiful.

So how might that play out onstage during the makeover?

I’m really into making eyes pop. It’s one of the most requested things I get. I think everybody wants their eyes to really sparkle and shine but also, that is my little focus area.

So I’ll find a way to make them look even bigger and bolder—nothing crazy unless they want that or seem to be game for anything. But especially ’cause it’s a 9:30 show, we’ll get you done up all fabulous and then, hey, get yourself a date that night or something!