

ENTERTAINMENT

Comedian Mike Young brings young talent home

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By **GABRIEL OUZOUNIAN**
Special to The Oakland Press

Although the night before Thanksgiving is known as the occasion when people come to visit their hometowns and pack local bars, Southfield native Mike Young is bringing a night of comedy with him when he comes home for the holiday.

The comedian, who now resides in Los Angeles, has teamed up with other entertainers to bring his "Young American Comedy Tour" to the Detroit City Theatre.

Produced by his brother Robert Young, the tour was founded by Mike Young two years ago when he began gathering young comedians for a two-hour improv show from a Los Angeles comedy club called The Comedy Store. The show gained popularity, and it soon grew into a tour traveling to 30 different cities.

Young, who currently resides in Los Angeles, now wants to make the show a reoccurring event in Detroit, with tours continuing to travel the country. He said that this year's tour is "going great" and that he believes the show is featuring the best young comedic talent the country has to offer. Yet even with extensive travel plans consisting of 31 cities and 50 shows, he still enjoys coming home to perform in Michigan.

"It's been a little nerve-racking, because everyone knows you so well, but I love coming home," said the Southfield native. "The goal is to make this show a monthly event here in Detroit, and I'm going to keep building it until we have different comedians every month. "I've got guys asking to be on the show constantly, and I think it's going to be the biggest tour in the city."

Young said he idolized classic comedians such as Eddie Murphy, Richard Pryor, George Carlin and Woody Allen. He also said that being funny was a "good way to not make enemies."

"Growing up in a diverse culture, I think that humor was the key to getting along with everyone," Young said. "I was always the funny kid, the class clown, and I remember that when I saw Eddie Murphy's 'Delirious' concert, I thought, 'Oh my God, you can actually make a career out of being funny.'

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