

ComedySportz Houston moves on, looks for new home

By Natalie Harms | August 26, 2014 | Updated: August 26, 2014 2:17pm

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ComedySportz Houston members Samir Mojdeddi, Steph DeWaegeneer, Brendon Lara, Christine Wines, Ahmad Hernandez and Paige Wharton perform an ad lib story routine refereed by Chad Minchew for their show on Aug. 16. The group will perform their last shows at 8 and 10:30 p.m. Aug. 29 and at 10:30 p.m. Aug. 30 in their present Town & Country location. ComedySportz Houston members Samir Mojdeddi, Steph DeWaegeneer, Brendon Lara, Christine Wines, Ahmad Hernandez and Paige Wharton perform an ad lib story routine refereed by Chad Minchew for their show on Aug. 16. The group will perform their last shows at 8 and 10:30 p.m. Aug. 29 and at 10:30 p.m. Aug. 30 in their present Town & Country location.



ComedySportz Houston troupe is packing up its gym bag as it is closing the doors to its Town & Country location. The team will be performing one final time on Aug. 30, and then will move temporarily to the Holiday Inn on Eldridge until it finds a new home.

The soon-to-be former arena of ComedySportz Houston is located at 901 Town & Country Blvd., and founder and "head coach" Dianah Dulany, who created the team in Houston in 1990 after being a cast member in Milwaukee's troupe for four years, said that the building has been sold and the new owners have something else in mind for the space.

Dulany is taking the opportunity to find something bigger and better for ComedySportz and is looking in the same Houston West Chamber area.

"In a new location, we would like to be able to provide more seating, so that we can have more fans experience our show at the same time," Dulany said. "The other thing we would be looking for is a lobby that would also double as a pre-show party room and additional workshop space, so that we could have two separate trainings at the same time."

In the meantime, ComedySportz will have its usual Friday and Saturday night performances at 1112 Eldridge Parkway. As of now, the classes the troupe hosts are suspended until it finds a new home, but the private and corporate events portion of the business will remain the same.

The Holiday Inn location will have the same entertaining shows and serve the same sized crowd, of about 120 seats, with a few added perks for the audience.

"One of the biggest differences going into that space will be that the audience will have access to a full bar, and also access before and after the show to food at their sports bar that is within the Holiday Inn," Dulany said. "And they will be giving 15 percent discount on all food to anyone who purchases a ComedySportz ticket that night."

Dulany and the rest of the ComedySportz team are inviting patrons to come to the old location one final time for a remarkable last show.

"This final performance is going to be exciting because we will be having former players coming in from out of town and locally, as well as everyone in the current troupe who is available to perform," Dulany said. "There should be upwards of 25 to 30 improvisers you might see that night."

Looking back, Dulany said, "My fondest memories of this place include the private dance parties we had for several sweet sixteen girls, our annual anniversary shows with 25 or more players performing, weeks when we were putting on shows and workshops every available day and night, and the way everyone - from the very beginning - called it "our space" (not the space, or the ComedySportz space, but our space - they really took ownership of it and took care of it!)"

She said she has memories of many, many hilarious moments in the more than 2,000 shows the troupe presented.

"My funniest memories include one of our performers getting shocked while trying to hang speakers when we were first moving in (yes, just like when someone trips, if they are not really hurt, it's hilarious.), hecklers during our 10:30 p.m. shows. One guy in particular was finally told 'hey, dude, you're not in the show tonight!' 'His response was 'well, I should be!' "

Dulany said she would want a new arena as soon as possible, but realistically wants to find something by the first of the year.

"I'm staying positive," she said. "I know that there is the perfect place out there, we just haven't found it yet."