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**RALEIGH’S VILLAGE IDIOTS IMPROV COMEDY**

**APPEARING AT THE 2002 MEMPHIS COMEDY FESTIVAL**

**Raleigh’s Village Idiots Improv Comedy** will be making their first appearance at the annual Memphis Comedy Festival, being held at Bonkerz Comedy Club inside Bally’s Casino in Tunica, MS September 5-8, 2002.

The Idiots generally present a family-oriented experience in improvisational-comedy theatre that is aimed at the adult patrons, but is “safe” for the family. Numerous times throughout the year, the Idiots perform a late-night show that pushes the PG-13 envelope a bit. They pride themselves on not having to go blue to be funny, but if a scene goes there, they do not hesitate to stay true to their reality.

The Idiots will be joined by North Carolina-based singer/song-writer E. Richurd Russell, known to his fans simply as Churd. Churd will perform his own material at the festival, as well as providing musical accompaniment to the Idiots’ set. He has been a friend of and collaborator with the Idiots since 1997.

The troupe is led by Artistic Director Matthew R. Krevat and Assistant Director Falcon Arendell, both of whom have been with the troupe since 1997. Their combined experience includes performing and directing game-based improvisation, short-scene based improvisation, long-form theatrical improvisation, stand-up comedy, musical comedy, and scripted theatre. Many members of the cast also appear in NRACT’s scripted productions and Sans-Script Scriptless Theater, a long-form improvisational troupe appearing at NRACT under the direction of Arendell.

**Raleigh’s Village Idiots will be performing starting off the “Improv After Dark” set on the second day of the Memphis Comedy Festival, Friday September 6 at 11:15 p.m. Admission to all festival performances is free. For more information visit http://www.vertical-imbalance.com/mcf.htm or call the festival hosts, Vertical Imbalance, at 901-309-5422.**