

## Charlotte comedy troupe announces gay shows

Two nights at The Perch to help fund PRIDE Charlotte

by David Stout . Q-Notes staff

An argument between two redneck Nascar fans has sparked a war of insults and the jibes are becoming increasingly inflammatory. Without warning, one clod uses the nuclear option: "Well, you're a faggot." Visibly stunned, his hayseed opponent scrambles for a topper. After a few beats he replies with distinct self-satisfaction, "No, you're a faggot!" The audience howls at the razor-sharp satire. It's another riotous night at The Perch.

For the uninitiated, catching a show at The Perch is like sitting in the studio gallery during a broadcast of "Saturday Night Live" or "Mad TV." The cast of 11, working in various configurations, presents around a dozen sketches at each 9 and 11 p.m. performance Fridays and Saturdays. House band Space Monkey spices the show with between-scene blasts of chunky rock and funk.

After a two-year hiatus this comedy tempest now rages in a new home at 1212 Central Avenue. The exterior of the stand-alone brick building, which is only a couple blocks from the original location, is nondescript, save for a

single lighted sign. Inside, the decor is hipster DIY down to the seating — a Bohemian assortment of thrift store sofas, loveseats and easy chairs that accommodate about 110.

The Perch's motto is "Cheerfully offending since 1994." The cast does its best to live up to the billing.

At a recent performance there were bits about having sex with "mongoloid" girls, zombies who prefer eating genitals to eating brains and a scathing parody song called "Gastonia" (sung to the tune of "Rocky Top") that was gut-busting. The show opened with selected audience members being coaxed into revealing their first names, cities of origin and favorite sexual positions.

The Perch isn't "gay" in the strict, rainbow flag sense, but over the years they've presented scores of gay-themed sketches and a queer sensibility infuses nearly all of their comedy. (Plus, as the male cast members are proud to announce, they love "dick jokes.") To show just how much they support the local LGBT community, the troupe is partnering with PRIDE Charlotte for a pair of upcoming benefit shows.

The special performances are set for Thursday, Aug. 10, and Thursday, Aug. 24, starting at 8 p.m. both nights. The shows will

be a greatest homo hits kind of thing, as the cast resurrects its best gay material from over the years. Admission is \$12 per person. Proceeds from the shows will help fund PRIDE Charlotte 2006, to be held Aug. 26 at



The Perch cast have been 'cheerfully offending since 1994.'

Gateway Village (corner of W. Trade and Cedar) from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Pride festival will feature entertainment and speakers on the main stage, a dance tent, kids' area, retail and food vendors and information tables for local LGBT organizations. ▽

**info:** PRIDE Charlotte benefit shows at The Perch, 1212 Central Ave., Aug. 10 and 24 at 8 p.m. Admission is \$12.

## DJ visits home

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phase of his career.

He explains, "I'd accomplished everything I'd set out to do at the P-House, and that's great, but I need to feel challenged. I didn't want to get complacent and start coasting. It was important to me to go out while I was still at my best. Tackling new projects, like coming home to North Carolina and turning out PRIDE Charlotte, is where my head is these days."

Anthony's headlining turn at the Dance Tent (from 1:30-4:30 p.m.) will be augmented with sets from local DJs Lin Benfield (Disco from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.), Bob Shaffer (Deep House from 12:30-1:30 p.m.), DJ Foxy (Top 40 House from 4:30-5:30 p.m.) and DJ Logic (European Breaks from 5:30-6 p.m.). Later that night DJ Anthony will spin in the Vision Lounge at Velocity as part of the official Pride afterparty.

As a special commemorative, Anthony has created an exclusive hour-long PRIDE Charlotte 2006 Dance Mix that can be downloaded for free at [www.pridecharlotte.org](http://www.pridecharlotte.org). "I thought it would make a cool keepsake," he says. "Long after Pride is over, you can pop in your burned CD or play the MP3 on your computer or iPod and remember the fun and energy of the day." ▽

**info:** DJ Anthony at PRIDE Charlotte 2006 Dance Tent, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Official afterparty at Velocity, 10 p.m. until.

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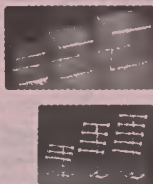
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