



Gorilla Tango Theatre founder Dan Abbate.

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Gorilla Tango Theatre aims to be a hub for Chicago show-seekers

BY KATE TEMPLIN / PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANNA KNOTT

Chicago has always been a theater town, brimming with venues big, small, silly and self-important. So when Windy City-native Dan Abbate, 26, decided he was ready to add to the bustling local performance scene, he knew his offering had to stand out from the pack.

The result is Gorilla Tango, a new theater in Bucktown with a randomly chosen name but a clearly defined purpose: to become a community performance center that offers live shows in a variety of genres, including improv, drama and comedy, at least five nights a week. "We want to be an option like a movie theater," says Kelly Williams, a member of the theater's improv ensemble. "We hope people say, 'Let's stop by and see what's playing at Gorilla Tango tonight.'"

After opening last month, the theater (approximately 15 minutes from downtown by taxi) is now on its way to achieving its community-oriented goal. And for visitors, it's a great place to drop by if you're dying to see a show but haven't purchased tickets in advance. This month's offerings include Dickens-inspired political satire *An American Carol*, improv show *Animal Jeans* and comedy *Have a Kung Fu Christmas*. But new shows are added often, so call to see what's on stage tonight! ■

**GORILLA TANGO THEATRE** 1919 N. MILWAUKEE AVE., 773.598.4549,  
WWW.GORILLATANGO.COM