



Geek Girl Burlesque

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by Kristi McKay.

It's a new generation for Chicago burlesque theater and the inspirational success of Geek Girl Burlesque at Gorilla Tango Theatre over the past year is proof. While seductive costuming and burlesque strip teases may catch the media's attention, it's their unique pop-culture lampoons that have helped this collaborative production team create its own, dare I say, "Enterprise" known as Geek Girl Burlesque.



After noticing the pattern of marketable shows emerging at Gorilla Tango that included both burlesque and parodies, Kelly Williams, part owner of GTT, along with her husband Dan Abbate, melded minds and collaborated with MsPixy, a current cast member of Belmont Burlesque Revue. In October of 2010, "Boobs and Goombas: A Super Mario Burlesque" was born. Comprised of sketch comedy and scantily clad Super Mario-themed burlesque dancers, this show scored big points with audiences; soon after Geek Girl Burlesque was born. Not surprisingly, "Goombas" launched this team into out-of-this world success, going from its original production schedule of twice a week for a month to a more permanent spot in the GTT schedule and still running over a year later, more often than not to sold-out houses.



While it seems that the master-minds behind "Goombas" may have found the scientific formula to keep this show going in a town full of theatrical choices, this was only the beginning for the trio. Several other shows have been invented under the Geek Girl Burlesque umbrella, including "A Nude Hope: A Star Wars Burlesque", "Fellowship of the Boobs: An LOTR, WoW, D&D, RPG Burlesque" and "TEMPLE OF BOOBS: An Indiana Jones Burlesque". In addition, the sketch group The Nerdologues were approached and invited to join forces with Geek Girl Burlesque to write "Boobs of Khan: A Star Trek Burlesque". By commissioning out their shows, Abbate, Williams and MsPixy will ensure their brand stays a unifying force between a traditional theatrical approach and story-based, plot-integrated burlesque show, while allowing Chicago's premiere female comedians illuminate the stage.

Traditionally, burlesque portrays women as being unapologetically confident and ultra sexy and there are plenty of venues in Chicago to experience it for yourself; but it's only at GTT that you can experience a full comedic parody of your favorite childhood entertainment: complete with new plot twists, plus boobs. It's a win-win situation designed to stay true to the fans and make it enjoyable and accessible to any audience member.

Understandably, the striptease feature may draw the late-night audience to GTT, but it will be the smart pop-culture references, deconstruction of plot, brilliant jokes and comic timing of actresses that will keep self-proclaimed nerds and science fiction fans coming back time after time.

Shows run every Friday and Saturday nights at 11 p.m. A full schedule of all of the Geek Girl Burlesque shows can be found at www.gorillatango.com. And, keep your eye out for their newest production, based on Dr. Who, due out in 2012.