

# *New Theatre Opens in Bucktown!*

There's a new kid on the Bucktown block – Gorilla Tango Theatre.

Located at 1919 N. Milwaukee Ave., at the corner of Western and Milwaukee, Gorilla Tango Theatre (GTT) is a year-round live theatrical venue where audiences can go each week to see a wide variety of performances. From family shows to improv, from original and classic plays to sketch comedy, Gorilla Tango Theatre has something for everyone.

Created by Chicago native, Dan Abbate, GTT Chicago is the second of two theatres.

Born in Evanston, Dan began his theatre career early in life. Performing in such Chicago favorites as *Ruth Page's Nutcracker*, Dan started out dancing. "I took all the classes you could take – ballet, acting, singing, everything. And then as soon as I was old enough, I went into the Improv Training Center at Second City and then Improv Olympic." Starting his studies at the

tender age of 15, Dan attended Barat College in Lake Forest, IL where he majored in philosophy.

He moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to create the first Gorilla Tango Theatre. "I realized that Albuquerque had no improv scene. Since that was my interest, I thought I'd set about creating one." Opening in Summer 2004, GTT Albuquerque soon developed a following in the small city. "We were able to create a community there – of improvisers, of performers, of people looking for a place to do their work."

Dan soon realized that he missed his Midwest roots. "I wanted to try out this business plan in a larger more competitive environment. I was missing Chicago so, after batting around the idea of taking GTT to several other cities, I finally realized what I wanted to do was try it out here." It took over a year to find the current GTT Chicago location. Dan purchased the building in June 2006, and the design and permitting process soon began. Currently mid-construction, GTT anticipates being

open to the public November 2006. Says Dan, "I'm very excited to be back in Chicago. My time in New Mexico was wonderful, but – after all – there's nothing like coming home."

GTT is a for-profit company whose aim is to create quality art on a corporate business model. Offering kids and adult classes, corporate training, performances and more, Gorilla Tango is pleased to be the newest addition to Bucktown.

**Fall Session Classes (Fall Session begins October 28, 2006, registration happening now!):**

Children: How to be a Radio Star; Broadway Kids; and Creative Storytelling

Adults: Chicago-Style Acting Class; Grotowski Morning Workout; and Longform Improv Explorations - Class/Performance Run

## **Performances:**

A variety of shows begin at the Chicago location in November 2006. See Show Schedule on the website for complete information!

Visit GTT's website, [www.gorillatango.com](http://www.gorillatango.com), for class registration and more details, or contact us at 773-598-4549.

