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## **JUST IN TIME FOR GRADUATION, A WORLD-PREMIERE ORIGINAL MUSICAL BY PROUD CHICAGO LIBERAL ARTISTS**

This spring, Underscore Theatre Company, Chicago's new musical theatre company, is proud to announce the world premiere performance of the company's original production, "Liberal Arts: The Musical!" at The Second Stage.

Written by founding members Alex Higgin-Houser, David Kornfeld, Laura Stratford, and Brendan Siegfried, "Liberal Arts" uses *summa-cum-laude*-grade lyrics and a diverse array of musical styles from rock to tango to stomp in order to tell the story of five freshmen and one senior as they navigate their way through life, love, and deconstruction theory at Secular Liberal Arts College (SLAC), only to find that their expensive education has left them flush with student loans and short on, well, "practical experience." It's a bitter valentine to the liberal arts by liberal artists that solves "The Derivative of Love," penetrates the anatomy of "Bromance," and figures out what to do when you're "Sexiled." Cast member Harrison Gibbons calls it "a delightfully nerdy and surprisingly sweet story of losing and finding yourself." Director Alex Higgin-Houser adds, "the show captures the hope, excitement, and utter, utter desperation felt by an art history major the moment she steps into the world."

Prior to "Liberal Arts," the company produced a fully interactive run of "The Rocky Horror Show" at The Underground Lounge in October 2011 and collaboratively wrote and produced "Grind: The (coffee shop, comic book) Musical!" for the Midwest Fringe Tour, performing to sold-out audiences in Kansas City, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, and at Chicago's own Dream Theatre. "Rocky" delighted costumed and prop-armed audiences, and "Grind" earned five stars in the Kansas City Stage, rave reviews at the Minnesota Fringe, and attention and recommendations across the board, from publications like Metromix, the Pioneer Press, the City Pages, the Chicago RedEye, and TimeOut Chicago. The company has been called "ridiculously talented" by KC Stage and an "energetic, talented, brave, strong collaborative group" by IndyFringe. Liberal Arts professor of English says of the show, "I was completely blown away. It was *sick*."

"Liberal Arts: The Musical!" will perform Thursday through Sunday from previews on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> to opening April 14<sup>th</sup>, and will run through May 13<sup>th</sup> with Sunday matinees at 3pm and all other performances at 8pm. Tickets are \$20 General Admission and can be purchased on Brown Paper Tickets, through

liberalartsthemusical.com, or at the door. Get ready for some schoolin', come down to the Second Stage...because there's only four more years until real life in this not-to-be-missed, world-premiere original musical!

For additional information about "Liberal Arts: The Musical!" or Underscore Theatre Company, contact Laura Stratford or visit [underscoretheatre.org](http://underscoretheatre.org).

### **About the Company**

Underscore Theatre Company is a team of producing artists dedicated to creating out-of-the-park original and repurposed works of theatre, music, and musical theatre. Having worked together since 2009, the company has collaborated on two world-premier musicals, touching on subjects ranging from the liberal arts to Hurricane Katrina and from Puccini to Cappuccinos. We think that musicals offer something more than other performing arts, with music, words and actor interpretation coming together to cut to the quick, underscore the action, and keep you singing all the way home. Over the next few years, we want to keep making new, genre-bending musicals, and to keep pushing the limits of how singing, speaking, and moving can work together to create something awesome.

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