

# MONEY, I SHRUNK THE KISS

GETTING OUT



## Gangrene Film Fest wants to rock 'n' roll half the nite



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# Get a big Gangrene MiniKiss

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**C**raig Nybo has a confession. Even as he fine-tunes his act for the 2010 Gangrene Film Festival, he was secretly lasting in the heart for cinema 2010. The reason: For the comedy shorts festival's 11th year, it is bringing in MiniKiss, a Long Island, N.Y., Kiss tribute band comprised of four little people, all 4 feet 4 inches or shorter — at ages when they take off their silver platform shoes.

We had the idea to get MiniKiss for the Gangrene Film Festival a couple years ago," said Nybo, who founded the festival with his brother and childhood friends. "I called and said I'd like to see you from Utah, and they said 'OK, let's do it.' We made a verbal agreement."

"So then a few months later, they are doing a Super Bowl commercial with Kiss for Dr. Pepper with others. We got worried thinking they would be too big for us. They launched a summer tour and were doing really well. But they were very receptive to still coming to Utah. I don't think we could have afforded them if we had called after the commercial."

Nybo told frontman Joe Finkle, the mini



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## Wanna see something really funny?

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**E**ven if it wasn't for the stellar opening act, MiniKiss, this should be a great year to check out the Gangrene Film Festival.

So says Craig Nybo, spokesman for the 11th annual comedy shorts event, scheduled for a week from tonight. "I think I can absolutely say the films this year are the funniest ones we've ever received," said Nybo, a Kayville resident. "That's why of them is funnier than the next. We had a good representation this year from all over the country and world. I am confident that if you show up, you will laugh your head off, not only at the show but at the surprises we have planned."

"If you ever thought of coming to

**PREVIEW**  
● **WHAT:** 2010 Gangrene Film Festival  
● **WHEN:** 7 p.m. Sept. 3 for MiniKiss concert and general-audience session; 10 p.m. for late session  
● **WHERE:** Keweenaw Convention Amphitheater, 403 N. Washburn Drive, Layton  
● **TICKETS:** \$10/session, \$15 for both sessions; \$50 for general session; \$50/family for both; www.gangrenefilmfestival.com or at gate.  
want to make.  
Several favorite filmmakers from previous years sent in quality work, and there are side-splitting films from newcomers. Nybo said one film he had ruled out for subject production values haunted him until he pulled it back out of the reject pile.  
"I couldn't stop thinking of it," he

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## Gangrene

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"This year more than most, even the later films are a very light PG-13 at most," Nybo said. "In past years, films we run later have had comedic violence or were a little crass. This year the crassness was dialed way down in the films we received."

"Making Funny Stuff" was made as a comedy show last, Nybo said. "If you can't stay for the late session, just hang around for this, which is the first film," he said. "It's three guys with a video camera, with no crew, and it's made on a shoestring budget; these guys are just so funny you want to hang out with them. It's a really nice surprise."

Here's the full list of Gangrene comedy shorts scheduled for this year's festival, with descriptions provided by the festival.

### General-audience session, 7 p.m.

- "Mundane Roadshow," by Pat Murphy, Ogden. A traveling anticlimaxer sells, well, nothing special, to nobody special.
- "Andy's Spic and Span," by Ryan O'Connell, Tallahassee, Fla. A compulsive cleaner with a superhero complex must combat his phobia of dirty drains to win his dream girl's heart.
- "The Neopreneons," by Joseph Nanni, Ontario, Canada. Do you want to be a neoprene person? Are you looking for inspiration to do good things? Well,

Napier Thicketon to stay the beast who is responsible.  
• "The Adventures of Cap'n Blackbone and the Crew of the Fedid Sledgoy," by Mike Ferrell, Gangrene Productions. The first of many animated episodes that follow the intrepid Cap'n Blackbone and his swarty pirate crew.  
• "This is the News," by Steve Kring, Los Angeles. A competitive eating champ will put his guts to rest by recapturing the taste of victory by mentoring a braah young singer.  
• "Street Cred," by Martin Lemire, Suffolk, Fla. An up-and-coming rapper, DJ Koolage, gets a lesson on the ins and outs of the rap game.  
• "Carasson," by Joseph Krause, Detroit. Detroit artist Zelds and the Lubliner play fantasy wrestlers of themselves in this silent short, showing their own music as score. Superstar Herr Krause is jealous of the renamed inventors. Dr. Sauer's success mounts a campaign to exceed the doctor's fame.  
• "Wipe and Fold," by Ron Fleischer, Chicago. A 90-second mock public service announcement informing children how to conserve toilet paper.

## MiniKiss

From 3

Gene Simmons, that MiniKiss would bring down the house. "He told me, 'We always bring down the house.'"

### The big mini idea

Finkle, a musician, got the idea for a Kiss tribute band of little people like himself about 11 years ago, when he was moving his records and pulled out a Kiss album. "I said Finkle, from his hospital room, after a long week-end of shows in Wisconsin, led to exhaustion and dehydration. He'd be back in top form by Gangrene, he said. "I remember thinking it would be so cool for little people to dress up as Kiss, so I started putting it together. The past

seven years, especially, we have been very popular. MiniKiss even spawned a copycat band, Tiny Kiss. But MiniKiss is the original, Finkle said. MiniKiss band members dress in leather-studded costumes and sport dramatic black and white makeup like that of Kiss, the hard rock band that peaked in popularity in the 1970s and 80s. Other Kiss wannabes also dress in leather, although blood-spitting and corpse language will not be part of the Layton MiniKiss show, which will be family friendly, Nybo said. But Finkle will be flicking his tongue, pointing tongue, at Gene Simmons. "We chose our characters, and then I discovered I have this really long tongue," he said. "Caitie has been to a couple of Kiss concerts but has no idea how fans react to that band. But he said members of MiniKiss have had women's parties hung at them, and female audience members often whipped off their own T-shirts. "When we have done gigs, we have been asked to sign a lot of different body parts," Finkle said, adding that he's happy the official tour is over so he can get home to his wife and 9-year-old daughter and begin work on a children's holiday album, "MiniKissmas." Finkle loved meetings members of Kiss at the Dr. Pepper show, he said. Gene Simmons was "cool," and offered solid advice on the music business, Finkle said. In his show, MiniKiss sang Kiss hits, along with a few songs from other '80s bands. "I think everything from the '80s was cool," Finkle said. "I grew up on the music, I think there are three things that make us unique. We are a Kiss tribute band, we do other '80s music, and we are little people. We are three good things in one."

Finkle said he doesn't know why the general public is so intrigued by little people. "I really don't know what brings them in, but I think it's great," he said. "I love being on stage, doing what we are doing."

### Comedy first

Gangrene brings in a different novelty act every year, with performers ranging from stunt jumpers to Elvis impersonators to knife and rope-throwing clowns. "We knew we wanted to do a show based on rock 'n' roll, and we are pulling fun at rock 'n' roll," Nybo said. "We wanted how we could do a spin on it, so our fans would understand where we were coming from."

### Late session, 10 p.m.

"Making Funny Stuff," by Glen McDermid, Toronto, Canada. A loose narrative about three guys trying to create a sketch comedy show.  
• "The Baker," by Mike Thompson, Los Angeles. A competitive eating champ will put his guts to rest by recapturing the taste of victory by mentoring a braah young singer.  
• "Street Cred," by Martin Lemire, Suffolk, Fla. An up-and-coming rapper, DJ Koolage, gets a lesson on the ins and outs of the rap game.  
• "Carasson," by Joseph Krause, Detroit. Detroit artist Zelds and the Lubliner play fantasy wrestlers of themselves in this silent short, showing their own music as score. Superstar Herr Krause is jealous of the renamed inventors. Dr. Sauer's success mounts a campaign to exceed the doctor's fame.  
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