

## » ENTERTAINMENT

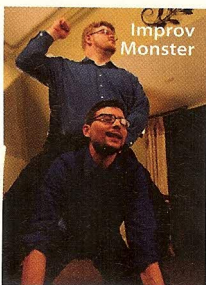
# Giggles & Guffaws

Atlanta's famed comedy clubs and hilarious improv troupes will have you in stitches.

**LAUGHING SKULL LOUNGE** Size matters, but don't underestimate the power of small. The Laughing Skull Lounge, with just 74 seats in the back of The Vortex Bar & Grill, is the world's smallest full-time comedy venue. Yet it's routinely voted Atlanta's best place to get your laugh on. "It's the top club in Atlanta," says Marshall Chiles, owner and professional comedian. "And it's one of the top clubs in the country. The room was designed with comedians in mind." During each 90-minute show expect to see "progressive, smart comedy," says Chiles. "It's fresh, but not family-friendly or blue collar by any means," thus audience members must be age 18 or older. Some of comedy's big names like Margaret Cho, Michael Ian Black, Chris Tucker, Jennifer Coolidge and others have taken the stage to test new material or record CDs. Each week showcases visiting national comics and a rotating mix of two dozen of the city's funniest local comedians. While headliners appear Thursdays through Sundays, new and aspiring comics also favor the venue: Open mic nights have grown so popular that they're now held twice a week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Shows often sell out, so purchasing tickets in advance is highly recommended. Food is not served inside Laughing Skull Lounge, but there's a two drink minimum. Fair Warning: This kind of funny can make drinks come shooting out of your nose. 878 Peachtree St. NE, 877-523-3288, [www.vortexcomedy.com](http://www.vortexcomedy.com).—HSP

## More Ha-Ha-Has

Side-splitting good times can also be had at these comedy and improv clubs:



### DAD'S GARAGE THEATRE

Scripted and improvised works in traditional and original formats are showcased, including the improv soap opera "Scandal!," a Japanese-style game show. Since opening in 1995, this mid-size theater has racked up numerous awards.

280 Elizabeth St. NE,  
404-523-3141,

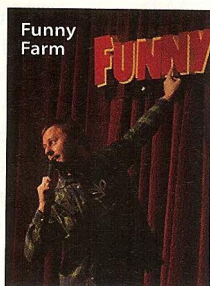
[www.dadsgarage.com](http://www.dadsgarage.com)

### EVENTS @ 590

Innovative "Improv Monster" performanc-

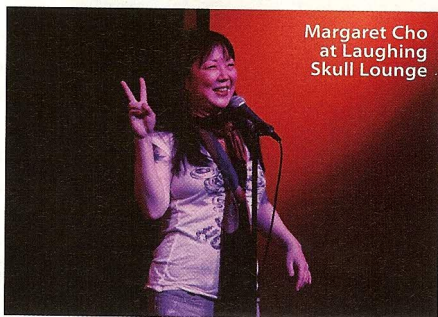
es use true stories from audience members as the source of character-driven—and funny—storytelling. During "Anytown: The Improvised Musical" the cast spins audience suggestions into a colorful story.

590 Mimosa Blvd.,  
Roswell, 678-226-9464,  
[www.groupmindproductions.com](http://www.groupmindproductions.com)



### FUNNY FARM COMEDY CLUB

Operated by the same dude who owns Laughing Skull Lounge, this 180-seat club is located inside Andretti Indoor Karting & Games and often showcases big name comedians such as Chelsea Handler.



11000 Alpharetta Hwy,  
Roswell, 770.992.5688,  
[www.funnyfarmcomedyclub.com](http://www.funnyfarmcomedyclub.com).

### UPTOWN COMEDY CORNER

During its 20-year history, this club has showcased new faces as well as some very recognizable ones like Mo'Nique, Steve Harvey, Chris Rock and Damon Wayans. 800 Marietta St. NW, 404-881-0200, [www.uptowncomedy.net](http://www.uptowncomedy.net)

### THE PUNCHLINE COMEDY CLUB

Atlanta's longest-running continuously operated comedy club is also the city's largest. Among the 3,000

comedians who've performed here are some of comedy's biggest names including Eddie Murphy, Jay Leno, Jerry Seinfeld, Dave Chappelle and Ron White. 280 Hilderbrand Dr., 404-252-LAFF, [www.punchline.com](http://www.punchline.com)

### WHOLE WORLD IMPROV THEATRE

This non-profit company, founded in 1993, is consistently voted one of the best improv troupes in town. The cast of talent performs Thursdays through Saturdays, and sometimes on Tuesdays. 1216 Spring St., 404-817-PLAY, [www.wholeworldtheatre.com](http://www.wholeworldtheatre.com)