

Sheights & Giggles makes Silver Heights a little funnier

'It's all hands on deck': restaurant owner


By: Emma Honeybun Special to FP Community Review

Posted: **2:01 AM CDT Wednesday, Apr. 26, 2023**

 Tweet

 Share 184

 Print

 Email

SILVER HEIGHTS

Scott Porteous and Eric Parent have been in the local comedy business for a while now — more than 20 and 10 years, respectively.

The two “won’t stop doing comedy until people stop laughing,” and their new Sheights & Giggles comedy night at Silver Heights Restaurant & Lounge (2169 Portage Ave.) is a good example of what they mean.

The weekly show, presented by Potholes and Punchlines (which is basically Porteous and Parent), made its debut on April 15 and will continue for as long as possible, according to the hosts.



Every Saturday night show will feature five local comedians, including one fifteen-minute headliner.

The first night was a success, Porteous said, with talented performers, an engaged crowd and good food served by the restaurant kitchen.

He and Parent have been working closely on this project with Silver Heights owners Tony and J.C. Siwicki. The brothers are the fourth generation of their family to run the business since it opened in 1957.

The four men are all visibly excited about what the show will become as it continues to develop and gain more traction.

“The way (Porteous and Parent) took this and ran with it was just fantastic,” Tony Siwicki said. “It was really the more excitement you had, the more excitement we had to make this thing actually work, and it’s just ‘boom boom boom,’ ideas after ideas.”

One future idea from Parent was a birthday club, whereby restaurant-goers will be able to phone in advance and have their birthday weekend put on file. That way, when the date comes around, they'll get a call back with a couple free tickets for that night.

It's all to build regulars, Parent said.

At its core, that's what the show is about — creating a consistent, local comedy venue to hold a friendly crowd of Winnipeggers, both onstage and in the audience.

"I really feel so comfortable in this room," Porteous said. "Specifically ... I'm very picky toward where I do (comedy.) Well, apparently. But in this room, I feel that (even) if I did bad, I would still be comfortable."

Silver Heights has always boasted of its neighbourly atmosphere, which helps make activities like a comedy night a success in the eyes of everyone involved.

Porteous and Parent said they have both developed their comedy routines from their personal experiences.

Porteous specializes in quips and one-liners. He takes advantage of his quiet demeanour to recount funny stories from his own life in his stand-up.

Parent takes a similar approach, saying he's found comfort in taking the things he's experienced in his life and creating comedy routines from them for others to relate to.

"I spent my entire life realizing that I was different from other people," he said. "...And I realized aggression and anger, it only gets you so far, and it was my charisma and my talking that got me to every place I've been to today ... that's what my skill was, it was entertaining others."

Porteous is currently focusing his career on comedy, preparing for multiple festivals in the fall, and when Parent isn't on stage, he's an insurance salesman.

Tickets for Sheights & Giggles are \$10 (plus tax) and can be purchased in advance at eventbrite.ca or in-person at the door. Seating is rush.