



>> The Flocked team: Clockwise from top left: Mark Geary, Steve Delahoyde, Kumail Nanjiani, and Andy Ross

## FARRAGO

# Get Flocked

**THE THIRD COAST** will feel a little love from Hollywood this month, when one winner receives a \$5,000 prize from the network executives judging the first Chicago Comedy TV Pilot Competition. Begun by founders of the Chicago Short Comedy Video and Film Festival, the competition encouraged Chicago comedians and filmmakers to try their hand at creating a TV sitcom. "The goal was that [Hollywood execs] might see some material from Chicago that wouldn't ordinarily cross their desks, and, ideally, that at least one of the pilots would end up getting optioned," says festival producer Marion Sours. *Flocked*, an entry produced by Lincoln Lodge comedy show cofounder Mark Geary, has made its way into the final round. "The making of a sitcom pilot is a monkey I've

been wanting to get off my back for a while," Geary says. The team behind *Flocked*—in which a con man attempts to fleece a wacky religious sect by becoming its leader—includes some top Chicago stage-and-screen talent: director Steve Delahoyde; writers Kumail Nanjiani, Jared Logan, and Andy Ross; and star Peter Grosz (left, who now writes for *The Colbert Report*). Geary admits a grudging fondness for the result. "I'm tough to please," he says. "I was prepared for my own pilot to be unbearable, but I actually quite enjoyed it."



—ROBERT BUSCEMI  
Chicago Comedy TV Pilot Competition. July 20th, 21st at 8:45 and 10:30. Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport. Tickets: 866-468-3401. For more on Kumail Nanjiani, see Starter on page 17.

## >> triple whammies



>> Marcia Ball

**FORGET WAITING FOR THE weekend.** In a city where winter spills into April, Chicagoans know how to savor every moment of a day—whether it's on lunch break or Sunday morning at Maxwell Street Market (the Veronica Lake Band starts playing at 9:30 a.m.). So head outdoors for one of these triple whammies of sunshine, good food, and great music.

**1 FitzGerald's** (6615 W. Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn; 708-788-2118) books nonpareil acts for its American Music Festival. Among others: Marcia Ball and Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun on July 1st. Next up? The Hacienda Brothers, Chicago Salty Dogs, and more on July 3rd. Music and food are best enjoyed outdoors; luckily, there's a lingerworthy patio at this great roadhouse.

**2** Carillons boast the widest dynamic range of any mechanical musical instrument, but don't take our word for it. Hear for yourself Sundays at 5:30. The **Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Carillon** (59th St. and Woodlawn; 773-702-2100) at the University of Chicago is the second-largest carillon in the world; its 72 bells span six octaves. Beforehand, swing by the University Market Deli (1323 E. 57th St.; 773-363-0070) for mozzarella subs dusted with basil—the perfect quickie picnic.

**3** Stimulate a couple of your senses at the **Museum of Contemporary Art** (220 E. Chicago; 312-280-2660) for outdoor jazz gigs on Tuesdays, 5:30-8. Don't prefer the patio? Then take your blanket and a Puck's boxed lunch down to the adjoining sculpture garden lawn. Or mosey over to the **Art Institute of Chicago** (Michigan at Adams; 312-443-3600), where concerts take place Thursdays and Fridays 5 to 9 throughout the museum.

**4** **Party in the Park** has free Thursday concerts (for those 21 and over) 4 to 7 p.m. at the Park Grill restaurant (11 N. Michigan; 312-521-7275). Brian Vander Ark (lead singer of The Verve Pipe) is onstage July 19th; The Alternate Routes, a rock band that got endless play on MTV's *The Hills*, perform July 26th.

**5** Next time your coworkers head for the cafeteria, make a break for it and catch a rehearsal of the **Grant Park Orchestra**. Rehearsals usually Tuesday through Friday (grantparkmusicfestival.com), usually from 11 to 1:30 in Pritzker Pavilion (Michigan and Randolph; 312-742-7638). If bagging it isn't your style, Park Grill restaurant (11 N. Michigan; 312-521-7280) can hook you up with rented lawn chairs and a picnic basket bulging with goodies.

—KATE ROCKWOOD

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## heads up

Historian Albert Walavich knows a lot about resting in peace. He's been responsible for Great Cemeteries of Chicago excursions for the Office of Tourism's *Neighborhood Tours* program; he knows every final resting place by heart. On August 11th, he'll lead a trip to look at the matchless architecture and funeral arts of Montrose and Bohemian national cemeteries (312-742-1190).