

# 'Caveman' goes beyond stand-up comedy

Jaclyn Masterson  
A&E Editor

EAST LANSING — The longest running solo play in Broadway history, "Defending the Caveman" comes to the Wharton Center Feb. 22-23.

"Defending the Caveman" is a laugh-out-loud insightful play that is filled with hilarious scenarios that celebrate the differences between men and women and also how they relate," according to the press release by the Wharton Center.

The play was written by comedian Rob Becker over a three-year period during which he made an informal study of anthropology, prehistory, psychology, sociology and mythology.

"Defending the Caveman" is internationally known in 30 countries; some include the U.S., Canada, South Africa, Iceland, Sweden and Germany and is performed in over 15 different languages.

**For a brief history of the Isaac Lamb, star of the play, read *The Lookout* interview below.**

**Q: What is "Defending the Caveman" about?**

A: "It's about men and women really, I mean, it's about men and women being different which is not a revolutionary idea, but it takes the perceptive that men and women

evolved from a hunter and gatherers society when we were cave people.

And in modern times, we maintain the same instincts we had when we were evolving.

The man has the hunter instinct; the need to collectively do things as a group of one focused goal without a lot of talking.

**Q: Is that what the name came from, "Defending the Caveman?"**

A: "Yeah, that's why it's called "Defending the Caveman." The guy who wrote it, Rob Becker, he did an informal study of history and anthropology and stuff and formed his own theory about his relationships in his life and with his wife and all that.

That based it all on this caveman metaphor."

**Q: How would you describe the play to someone who has never seen it before?**

A: "It's a marriage of stand up comedy and theater.

I mean it's not a stand up comedy show, but it's not purely theatrical either. It's very funny, it's the stand up aspect of it.

It's just one guy, it's me, up on stage and I'm just a normal guy.

I'm not dressed up in a little loin cloth or anything, so all the gentlemen can breathe easy.

It is theatrical, but it's not theatrical in a way like "Cats" is theatrical. But it

definitely tells a story and it has a script and it has a very definite purpose and message to impart in making people laugh.

It's the kind of show you can go and take your wife, or husband, or boyfriend or whoever and have a night of having to be able to poke each other in the ribs with your elbows.

But also walk away with a pretty positive message about your relationship."

**Q: Describe how is being alone on stage?**

A: "Well, it's not something I've ever been before. I never did any stand up or any one man shows; most of my background is in musical theater, so it was a foreign thing to me.

At first I think it was a big challenge mostly just having to carry the energy of the work load all by yourself.

The show is an hour and 45 minutes long and so it's quiet of a bit of stuff to remember and it's quiet of a bit of stuff to get across all on your own.

I come to really appreciate the experience of it. It's the best training I've ever had as an actor.

Learning how to make people laugh.

Learning how to punch a joke up or take a joke down or change the timing here or figure out how to build a sequence of jokes there. It's just like comedy school every time go

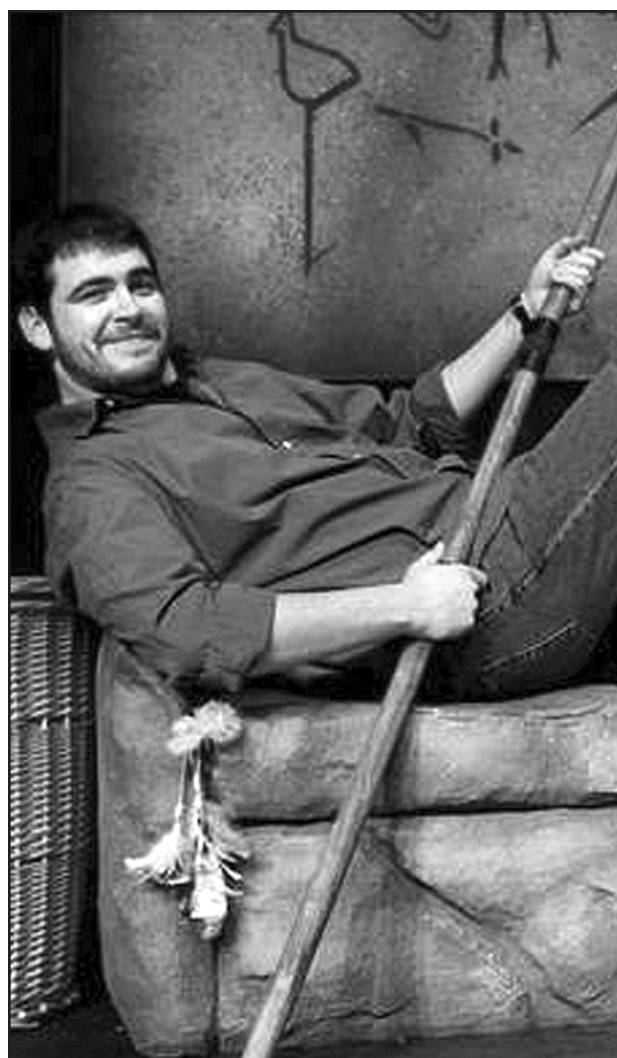


Photo courtesy of www.defendingthecaveman.com

**Straight out of the primordial soup:** Star and only cast member of "Defending the Caveman" Isaac Lamb is coming to the Wharton Center Feb. 22-23. Lamb describes the play as, "A marriage of stand up comedy and theater."

there.

And the audience, having a different audience every night keeps it so fresh and plus I think every actor at its very core, is ego-driven.

This is very pleasing to your ego; standing up in front of hundreds of people and making them laugh whenever you

want."

**Q: Is "Defending the Caveman" comparable to any other play?**

A: "It is a one man show, Jackie Mason stuff or like Lily Tomlin or anything like that; it's very similar to those. Those guys are all stand up comedies who created

their own one man shows."

**Q: What would you say to encourage more audience members to see the play?**

A: "Well, I think the best thing to say about the show is that, it's very funny. But it also has a really sweet message about marriage, and about relations in general.

I don't think that's a message we get in our culture quite a bit.

It mostly comes from television it's like the same story every time; some sort of insensitive sloppy guy marries a hot wife and every episode he does something in the beginning to piss her off, then they spend the whole episode fighting with each other and at the end he has to apologize.

And that's like the most unrealistic view of marriage I ever seen; that's not how it works. Marriage is hard, but it also is really good and it takes a lot of work to make it work and we don't ever see anyone telling us that, I think especially in America.

I think that the show is as successful, mostly because it is funny, but mostly because it's really positive about that whole chose; the chose to live with someone for your whole life.

For more information, visit [www.defendingthecaveman.com](http://www.defendingthecaveman.com)

## Chocolate lovers to gather for MSU Museum benefit

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EAST LANSING — Have a sweet tooth? If so, the 19th Annual MSU Museum Chocolate Party Benefit is sure to satisfy on Sunday, Feb. 24 at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center.

The event will feature award-winning desserts by culinary experts competing against one another with their edible chocolate creations.

The event will be open to the general public for taste-testing.

The competitors will showcase their key ingredient, chocolate, by presenting tortes, cheesecakes, truffles, fountains and many other creations for the attendees to enjoy.

According to Lora Helou, MSU Museum communications manager,



Photo courtesy of Pearl Yee Wong

**Delicious Treats:** The MSU Museum Chocolate Party benefited the public to taste-test creations by local chefs and culinary students while they competed for awards.

the competitors have been preparing for this event for a couple of months.

"The more ambitious their entries are it'll take a

lot more trial and error or research and development," Helou said.

A great deal of chemistry partakes in the com-

petitors' chocolate designs, which involve heating, cooling, pulling and twisting, along with color effects, according to Helou.

The sweet shops, bakeries and restaurants in the Lansing area will distribute their latest products for attendees to sample as well, according to Helou.

Bake N' Cakes has been attending the benefit for more than 12 years and this year will distribute gourmet cupcakes, according to owner, Jeff Johnson.

"Yes, there's definitely chocolate involved," Johnson said.

The competition will be judged accordingly and awards will be presented to the competitors.

There will also be a "People's Choice" award where attendees pick their favorite creation.

"We get professional pastry chefs and teachers from around the state that act as judges," Helou said.

"The judging is based on taste and use of chocolate and table displays."

The benefit presents a new theme each year to showcase the competitor's creative work of art.

"This year's theme is based on the movie, 'Ratatouille,'" Helou said.

"Which is kind of all about a hectic, chaotic, inspired kitchen in Paris, France; so it's giving them the inspiration for this year's competition,"

Aside from the tasty treats, the event will raise money for the MSU Museum collections, according to Helou.

She also said culinary collections will be displayed at the event, giving attendees a visual aide of

what the event supports.

The festivity started 20 years ago with a Chocolate Themed house party hosted by the museum director and was a bit hit, according to William Matt, MSU Museum event coordinator.

"The event grew to include the public, a professional competition, a live demonstration, and close to 10,000 samples of chocolate from the finest boutiques and restaurants," Matt said.

Some of the MSU Museum's board members were in the food industry which included, Great Lakes Gourmet, Bake 'N Cakes and Fabianos. Their history in the industry also helped kick-start the event.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.museum.msu.edu](http://www.museum.msu.edu) or call (517) 355-2370.