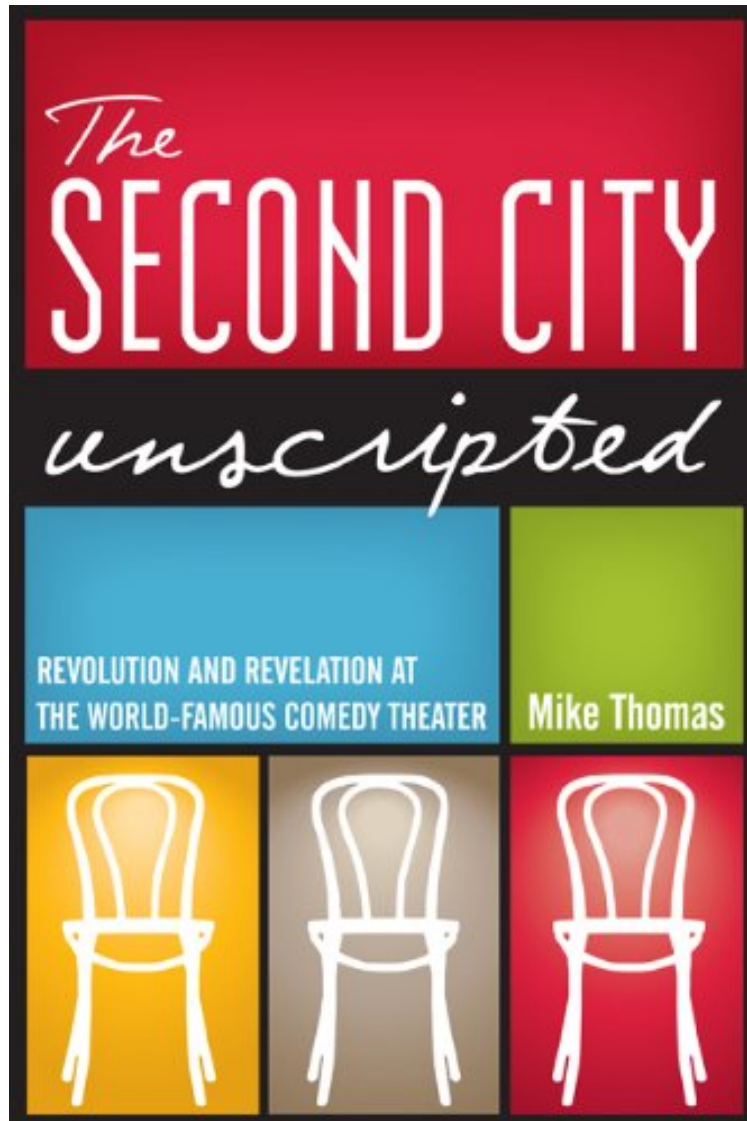


[Mobile book] The Second City Unscripted: Revolution and Revelation at the World-Famous Comedy Theater

## The Second City Unscripted: Revolution and Revelation at the World-Famous Comedy Theater

*Mike Thomas*

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**Mike Thomas : The Second City Unscripted: Revolution and Revelation at the World-Famous Comedy Theater** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Second City Unscripted: Revolution and Revelation at the World-Famous Comedy Theater:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. oral history By Quinzyl I was a medical student/resident physician in

Chicago from 1964-1975. During those years Old Town in general and Second City in particular were where entertainment was happening. I remember 2nd City for bentwood chairs, John Belushi, Van Camps Beans, and vodka tonics. It was intellectual and interactive, and even though in those days I didn't read the NYT, I thought I was as hip as the U of C crowd. I love this book's format compiling pieces related by the luminaries. (Here I'm also thinking of the similar book about Hunter S Thompson). These guys have shaped the nature of humor on TV, on stage, and in the movies for the last 50 years. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Mic Mic Micwild1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Essential History of Culture, Humor, and Satire By Joseph R. Coons The Second City unscripted is an excellent book for any aspiring improv artist or fan of comedy. It tells the history of the greatest improv theater in the country, Second City, and through the words of the cast, creators and writers it weaves a story that helped shaped comedy as we know it. This book is expressly told by the very people who were there and who have experienced the magic of Second City firsthand. From its origins of being considered the "second city" to New York to being the premiere comedy college, this book details comic satire and how its changed from generation to generation. An superb fun and fascinating read, anyone can enjoy this book. The backstage drama, the mounting public pressure, the career launching success of this small theater in Chicago make its history a rich and intensely funny read.

Since its modest beginning in 1959, The Second City in Chicago has become a world-renowned bastion of hilarity. A training ground for many of today's top comedic talents including Alan Arkin, Dan Aykroyd, Stephen Colbert, Tina Fey, Bill Murray, and Amy Sedaris it was an early blueprint for improv-based sketch revues in North America and abroad. Its immeasurable influence also extends to television, film, and the Broadway stage. Mike Thomas interviewed scores of key figures who have contributed to Second City's vast legacy its stars as well as those who worked and continue to work behind the scenes to create this entertaining and informative oral history. The story is equal parts legendary highlights, gossip, and insight into how the theater's brand of comedy was and is created. Unprecedented in scope and rife with colorful tales well told, The Second City Unscripted is an essential account of this iconic show business institution.

From Publishers Weekly For 50 years, Chicago's Second City Theater has been the training ground for legendary comedians. From John Belushi to Stephen Colbert, many of America and Canada's finest comic talents have honed their skills on Second City's stage, and this collection of interviews brings together comedians and behind-the-scenes players to bare the secrets of the comedy laboratory where improv was birthed by lesser-known genius Del Close. From the egos, parties and conflicts to the camaraderie and familial ties, the world of Second City is brought together deftly through the testimony of its inhabitants, filling in readers curious about show business and comedy history as well as individual comedians (also including Joan Collins, Alan Arkin, Bill Murray, Eugene Levy, Bonnie Hunt, Tina Fey, Amy Sedaris, and others). Though occasionally meandering, Thomas corrals his subjects' testimony in a historical framework paralleling the larger baby boomer narrative, progressing from fringe revolutionaries to institutional stalwarts. Testimony is funny, sentimental and hopeful, making this a winning collection for any fan of comedy's last half-century. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. His top-notch lineup of comedian . . . upholds a bedrock law of improv: never try to be funny. Much of the humor here emerges naturally, as it should. Thomas carves his interviews into snippets, grouping them by topic; when things gel, its like listening to these people swap stories on grungy backstage couches. Lynn Harris, New York Times