



COURTESY NEUTRINO

The Neutrino Toronto project mixes improv comedy with guerrilla filmmaking. The audience gives the teams themes or objects to inspire the movie, which is filmed, edited and ready for viewing in one hour.

On your mark, get set, action!

Filmmakers offer a new way to see improv

BY MICHAEL PEELING

Comedy improv groups across North America have a new way to ply their trade using DIY moviemaking technology.

Neutrino Toronto, a team of local improv performers has joined forces with a group of guerrilla filmmakers to make a series of short movies for audiences to watch as they are made.

Jen Radomsky, a producer and actor for Neutrino Toronto, saw a Chicago production, then met the original New York City group,

which has been licensing the concept to other groups since 2002.

Her co-producer David Ivkovic reflects on how things got started a year ago in Toronto with help from the pioneering group.

"From there, we just took off," Ivkovic says. "They've been really cool with wanting to start something up here with a local group."

Neutrino has put together groups in such cities as Chicago, Seattle, Detroit, San Francisco and Washington.

Each production is broken into a few teams of two to four actors. Each team gets a theme or an object from the audience to inspire the film's subject, before it runs off to shoot a completely improvised one-hour film near the venue.

A tape is shot, edited, scored and mixed, then sent back into the

venue for the audience to watch as the next sequence is being shot by the next team. The goal is to present a seamless filmic experience.

Neutrino Toronto has enlisted an exceptional list of local improv talent from the Second City and Bad Dog Theatre troupes, including Jack Mosshammer (*Train 48*) and Jan Caruana (*Mean Girls*).

"They were intrigued and really excited to be a part of it because we have 20 cast and crew working for free," Ivkovic says. "It's really amazing to see everyone so dedicated to it."

■ The movie magic begins at 8 p.m. Tomorrow. \$10, The Drake Hotel, 1150 Queen St. W. No advance ticket sales. Visit neutrinotoronto.com for details.

National Post
mpeeling@nationalpost.com