



EXTRA! EXTRA!!! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!

Unique comic publication set to premiere at gallery exhibition August 7th.

Over 110 years from their birth, newspaper comics are showing their age. Today's newspaper comics are much-maligned... and deservedly so. Today's small strips, with mostly predictable, safe themes and bland characters are a pale shadow of what newspaper comics were in their wild and colorful youth.

Before movies caught on, newspaper comics were the world's first pop culture phenomenon. Happy Hooligan was a household name many years before anyone had heard of Charlie Chaplin. How many people have heard of Happy Hooligan today?

Now, as newspapers are going bankrupt on an almost daily basis, few readers are left who would buy a newspaper primarily for the funnies... this was not always the case. If the funnies had remained the vital cultural force they once were, would people today be so willing to give up their newspapers?

The International Cartoonist Conspiracy, Big Time Attic, and Altered Esthetics gallery have collaborated to produce an oversized newspaper comics section like they would do it today if they still did it like they did it in the old days.

It is called **BIG FUNNY**, and it is both.

The 48-page oversized newspaper will premiere at Altered Esthetics this August featuring poster-sized comic artwork from 45 artists. Please join us as we celebrate!

In addition to having copies of **BIG FUNNY** for sale (\$5 each), the opening reception will include: Original artwork from the publication, examples of historic comics pages (some over a century old), a retrospective of unseen comic artwork by William Ede, live music from The Roe Family Singers and the *little funny* sideshow - a vintage cigarette machine repurposed to vend mini-comics and comic art!

A celebration of the Newspaper Comic Strip

OPENING RECEPTION
Friday August 7, 2009
7:00pm-11:00pm

ALTERED ESTHETICS
1224 Quincy Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413.
612.378.8888

WEBSITE
cartoonistconspiracy.com/
bigfunny

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

Altered Esthetics is a community-based art gallery and arts advocacy organization located in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. We believe artists represent a true voice of society and our mission is to support and expand a vibrant arts community.
alteredesthetics.com.

(contact: Jamie Schumacher - jamie@alteredesthetics.org, 612.378.8888)

The International Cartoonist Conspiracy is a loose international organization of professional and amateur cartoonists, united by a passion for cartooning. Any cartoonist anywhere can join simply by declaring themselves a member, and can start their own local cell if inclined. Our feats have been many; we have been responsible for numerous publications, a variety of gallery shows and other events, and have organized open comic jams every month since December 2002.
CartoonistConspiracy.com
(contact: Steven Stwalley - steven@stwalley.com)

Big Time Attic is the cartooning studio of Zander Cannon and Kevin Cannon (no relation). The Cannon Brothers specialize in nonfiction graphic novels like the recently published T-Minus: The Race to the Moon. bigtimeattic.com
(contact: Kevin Cannon - kevin@bigtimeattic.com)