

[WHERE INSIDE]
My Chicago



Carisa Barreca

[Cast member at The Second City]

Carisa Barreca earned her acting, dancing and comedy stripes performing for The Second City aboard Norwegian Cruise Lines, at the UP Comedy Club in "What the Tour Guide Didn't Tell You," and at Lyric Opera with Patrick Stewart and Renee Fleming in "The Second City's Guide to the Opera". She is a founding member of Matter Dance Company and was voted "Best Choreographer" by the Chicago Reader.

What are the best things about performing in Chicago?

The best thing about performing in Chicago is the people. You won't find this amount of top-quality comedians anywhere else in the world. As a performer you feel lucky to be surrounded by this level of talent. As an audience member you will never stop laughing.



What local theater venues/talent inspires you?

Chicago is full of so much talent that you could spend every night of the week being inspired by something

new! Of course, the talent at Second City inspires me nightly. Some other heavy hitters in Chicago that are sure to inspire include Step-penwolf, the Lyric Opera and Hubbard Street Dance. Of course, you can't forget about the small but mighty venues in Chicago like Stage 773, The Neo-Futurists, iO Chicago and House Theater.

What's it like performing on such a historic stage?

It's an honor. I still get butterflies when I think of all the amazing people that have performed on that stage.

Your top spots for classic Chicago dining?

If you want an amazing hot dog there's Portillos, or off the beaten path there's Hot Doug's. It usually has a long line but it is definitely worth the wait. If you want

deep dish pizza there's Lou Malnati's and Pequod's, which has an excellent \$5 lunch special. For old-school dining in Chicago, you will need to check out Gene and Georgetti's for outstanding steaks and Sabatino's for perfect Italian food.

What are your tips for getting the most out of a Chicago winter?

There are so many things to do even during the coldest days. Whether it's a day



exploring the Museum of Science and Industry or wandering through exhibit after exhibit at the Art Institute, you can stay inside all day.

What's on your radar that you haven't done yet in Chicago?

The 1893 World's Fair has always intrigued me and although many of the structures were taken down or were destroyed, there is a beautiful Japanese Garden located on the site. When Chicago thaws I will definitely be visiting.

What are some of the Second City after-work hangs?

After a show the cast can usually be found getting a drink at Corcoran's or after hours at The Ale House... Performers have been going to them for nightcaps for years.

MY PERFECT DAY

9am

Coffee and donut at Glazed and Infused

A classic way to start the day—with a sugar rush and caffeine.

10am

Wander thru the Art Institute

You can see Renoir, Van Gogh, Monet along with 260,000 works of art! Pick just a few exhibits to explore otherwise you could spend all day here.

12pm

Lunch at The Purple Pig

If you are a wine, cheese, and/or meat lover, you have found heaven.

4pm

Walk Off Lunch

Take a quick walk up Michigan Avenue and window shop.

5pm

Sunset at the Hancock Building

Grab a cocktail at The Signature Room on the 95th floor of the Hancock Building and watch one of the most awe-inspiring sunsets.

8pm

Comedy at The Second City

For me, performing with the talented cast of The Second City etc's "A Clown car Named Desire" is part of a perfect day. However, if you were to follow this itinerary, this would still apply for you too. Go see one of the shows at the legendary Second City.

11pm

Swing Dancing at The Green Mill

In Uptown, The Green Mill, is a classy cocktail lounge that has been around since 1907. You can hear top-notch live music, get a perfectly mixed cocktail and sit in Al Capone's old booth. It's the perfect place to end a perfect day.

For Chicago's full interview and itinerary, go to wheretraveler.com

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