

# The Prince of Banter & The King of Glib

Often compared to a contemporary Abbott and Costello, Kim Thomassen and Gust Alexander were junior high school buddies from Minnetonka, Minnesota who liked to make each other laugh. They remained friends through high school and honed their comic skills in the Minneapolis club scene in the late 1980s.

Today, under the playful moniker "The Stagebenders," Thomassen and Alexander are America's top comedy duo, playing to sell-out crowds and rave reviews.

The Stagebenders' act is a non-stop, fast-paced hurricane of interactive comedy that has to be experienced to be believed. Once they whip their audience into a comedy frenzy, no other comic ever dares perform after them.

Die-hard fans include Geena Davis, The Kinks and the legendary Bud Friedman (the Stagebenders headline regularly at "Improv" all over the United States). TV and film appearances include *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*,

ABC's *America's Funniest People*, MTV's *The Jenny McCarthy Show*, *TREKKIES 2* and the Coen Brothers' *The Naked Man*. They have been featured in national publications such as *Esquire* and – believe it or not – *Mechanical Engineering*.

In addition to headlining at Harrah's Las Vegas every Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Stagebenders have performed countless corporate shows for a variety of Fortune 500 companies, including AT&T, MCI, Honeywell and Frito Lay.

After fifteen years, their act has been honed to perfection. Their current project is *The Stagebenders TV Show*, a scripted, half-hour sitcom. If it leaves the audience anywhere near as frenzied as their stage show, even Abbott and Costello wouldn't want to follow them.

