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## 'Caveman' as a marriage counselor? Ask after show

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Isaac Lamb will star in "Defending the Caveman," a one-man comedy, at the Omaha Community Playhouse.

The caveman had a bad cold.

But Isaac Lamb of Portland, Ore., who opens a four-week run of "Defending the Caveman" at the Omaha Community Playhouse on Wednesday, perked up on the phone as he described the one-man comedy he stars in about differences between the sexes.

"The fun thing is watching these couples come into the theater," Lamb said. "You can tell the guy doesn't want to be there. He doesn't want to see 'Cats.' But this show is guy-approved. Our tag line is: 'Drag him to a show he'll enjoy.'"

Once they get into the show, Lamb watches as couples elbow each other in recognition of what he's saying.

"When they leave, they're happier," he said. "The ultimate goal is to show how we need to be the way we are, how it's OK the way we are, how we can appreciate our differences rather than have them drive us crazy.

"It's nice to see them walk out the door with that feeling."

"Defending the Caveman" began as a riff by San Francisco stand-up comic Rob Becker in the early 1990s. His riff became about an hour and 45 minutes, including intermission, that made it to New York. There it became the longest-running solo show in Broadway history before Becker went on national tour.

Becker has now retired from doing his own show, turning it over to about six different "Caveman" actors who perform all over the country. Paul Perroni will perform the closing weeks of the Omaha run. Lamb last performed "Caveman" in April. Asked if he was feeling the need to brush up on the script, he laughed.

"If you do a show for six years, you're sort of not able to forget it," he said. "I have dreams in which I'm doing the show."

The set is a simplified living room that looks like something out of the Flintstones. But in place of animal hide, Lamb wears an oxford shirt and jeans, playing an everyman as well as about a dozen other characters during the show.

A typical bit: Our roots as hunters (men) and gatherers (women) have never left us. It's why men speak an average of 2,000 words a day, women 7,000. Hunters can't take a chatty Cathy into the woods, she'll get eaten or scare the food away. But Cathy, as a gatherer, knows her job is all about exchange of information, essential to survival.

"It's not just an excuse to laugh," Lamb said. "We want to send people away with the feeling that, yes, it's hard to be in a relationship, but it's so worth it. We want you to laugh your way into a greater appreciation of your soulmate or partner."

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