

Anděl's Origin Story Con't

At the tender age of 17 she made the trek back to her homeland and began training with the masters at iO***. By day she folded sweaters at the Gap and made sandwiches**** but by night she trained. After a few years her training paid off and she was asked to join a group of elite comedy makers at The Second City to travel the country taking on every audience from Washington State to New Jersey. As her strength grew, so did her aspirations. She traveled to Amsterdam; land of weed and bikes where she mastered the art of quick comedy at Boom Chicago but all roads lead home and she settled in once more to create the show to end all shows***** on the Second City etc. But none of that prepared her for what happened next...

Success and years of fighting to be heard had left her hard and embittered and mutated her into something she hardly recognized. Outwardly successful she was inwardly***** battling the dark demons and losing. After being flown out for an SNL screen test***** she spiraled. No amount of laughter could save her. But improv could. Just as she was about to give up, give in and try telemarketing***** She found strength and solace in a funny place: the classroom. Leading others reminded her of what she had lost, what she could have again and what she wanted to help others find. Slowly but surely she found her voice and once again began to fight the good fight but this time with the right end in sight. Because the end is just the beginning and it's the journey that matters more ...

To be continued...

*This was edited to reflect that people now care about hockey

**The Valley

***Formerly Improv Olympic

****At Potbelly, if you've never eaten there, find one, fly there, eat there. Best sandwiches.

*****Aren't they all? Until they're over and you start the next one...

*****Is inwardly a word? Doesn't sound right.

*****This remains the most surreal experience of Andel's life. Lorne Michaels skin is like powder.

*****She would never. She hates talking on the phone. She won't even call her mother. She'd rather fly across the country.

"Andel is like putting together an U.S. Army Drill Sergeant, the Joker girl, a UN diplomat and a cookie selling girl scout - she mixes sound pedagogical skills with a volcano of positive energy, she helped me get to a state of self-confidence that allowed me to let loose and experiment with improv" - Alexandru Rusu, workshop student, Ro

