

CITY LIGHTS

by **ELIZABETH GUIDER**



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Off B'way troupe finds humor in 'Order'

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THESE ARE THEIR STORIES: You know a show has imprinted itself indelibly on the popular imagination when comedians finally get around to parodying it.

That's what's about to happen to "[Law & Order](#)" as a group called ETC (as in Experimental Troupe Comedy) readies an Off Broadway spoof of the long-running [Dick Wolf](#)-produced legal franchise, now in its gazillionth year on NBC (and everywhere else).

ETC principal Jamil Ellis said all four of the troupe's key players are fans, and have many friends who have appeared in one of Wolf's skeins. (The franchise is the biggest single TV employer of Gotham theater actors ever.)

The show, which debuts at the Peoples Improv Theater March 25, is being advertised thusly: "Missing Jerry Orbach? Unable to handle a day without a fix of the only show that people still watch on NBC? Hungry for grotesque details about an impossibly complicated crime? Wait no longer!"

Ellis said the 11-year-old Etc. (which also includes Anne Johnson, Gene Perelson and Chris Chan Roberson) tackles the iconic drama by taking plotlines from audience suggestions -- live and via the Internet ([www.opensourcecomedy.net](#)), and utilizing written sketches and multi-media video. Theater folk who have been on Wolf's shows are expected to show up and participate in the performance as well, per Ellis.

Each "episode" of the play, as it were, will also feature an up-and-coming comedy act from the New York area.

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