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Make 'em laugh

Burbank teen tickles funny bones and is finalist in contest.

By Molly Shore, The Leader

BURBANK -- Brice Keltner is only 16, but already she is bringing the house down with her brand of humor.

Her comic talents landed her as a finalist, one of seven and the only girl, in the teen category of the national Laugh Across America contest today through Saturday at the Stardust Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.

"When I was younger, I would perform at the dinner table for my parents," Brice said.

Her parents not only gave her the encouragement to clown around, she said, they also provide her with some of her best material.

"I'm learning how to drive right now, so I pick on that," Brice said.

One of her comedy lines is her mom's advice to her while driving and filing her nails is to make sure her knee has full control of the wheel.

"I don't think, when I take the DMV test, they'll be too thrilled with that trick," she said.

Brice's mother, Vicki Keltner, said every parent wants their child to find something they excel at.

"We found out Brice was oriented in the visual arts, so we promoted it. We put her in piano and tap and dance. The comedy talent and personality was there," she said.

Michael Schwartz, who teaches stand-up comedy for Burbank Parks and Recreation, had Brice in his class four years ago. Even then, she showed promise as a comedienne, he said.

"She's a gutsy young lady, that's for sure," he said.

Agent Bill Bowley of Don Buchwald & Associates was first introduced to Brice through his agency's youth division, and was immediately impressed with her and her family's work ethic, he said.

Calling Brice a triple threat, Bowley said, "she can act, she can do voice-overs and she writes her own stand-up comedy."

Brice, who had been home-schooled, has enrolled in Burroughs.

"She's going to have a wealth of material to draw on in high school," Bowley said.