



Megan Grano

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Megan Grano is worried about the economic suffering of metro Detroiters. Or, at least, of those who live in the Grosse Pointes.

The Grosse Pointe Park native's satirical video, *Poor Grosse Pointe* features the improv comedian interviewing

people on the street in the Pointes and then in Detroit about how they're coping with the economic downturn. The video, which can be found on funnyordie.com, has garnered her a viral following.

"20/20 did almost the same video, except they took it seriously," Grano says. "But mine was a joke."

Grano got her start in a high-school comedy group, Second Suburb, after a visit to Chicago's Second City (in the era of Stephen Colbert and Steve Carell) got her hooked. After college, Grano moved to Chicago and repeatedly auditioned for Second City — a tough go, since the comedy-improv institution holds auditions just once a year, with hundreds of people vying for just a few spots.

"It all comes down to three minutes, and it's all improv, so if you get a crappy partner you're just screwed for a year," Grano says. "That happened to me more than once, where like, someone flies in from Kentucky and you're like, 'I waited all year for this!' And my cell phone went off during one audition, and it was set to an increasing volume ring so it kept getting louder."

But she got called back each time and eventually was hired. She spent several years performing on Second City's main stage and with its touring company. She also wrote a show with three other female comedians that was accepted into the prestigious HBO Comedy Arts Festival, and won a national video contest sponsored by the Oxygen network.

That success propelled Grano to move to Los Angeles, where making it is "way harder than Chicago," she says. She's landed voice-over jobs on *Family Guy* and *American Dad*, and is touring comedy festivals with her one-woman show about weddings.

"Weddings drive me crazy," she says. "It's kind of a narrative story about one girl's wedding and all the people involved in her special day."

The tour included a two-month run at Go Comedy! in Ferndale over the summer, and Grano says she hopes to return this year. But this time, Grosse Pointers might know to be on the lookout for a concerned citizen with a microphone and camera.