



The 16th annual Winnipeg Comedy Festival takes place April 3 - 9, 2017

SUBMISSIONS

The Winnipeg Comedy Festival is The Gas Station Arts Centre flagship event and has come to include year-round outreach programs, rural shows, workshops and television broadcasts that attract over 2 million viewers annually on CBC. The Winnipeg Comedy Festival is proud to be the highest rated comedy festival series on CBC Television.

The festival is accepting submissions from comics. We are looking for your cleanest set possible with a maximum length of 10 minutes. We are only taking submissions in link format or digitally sent videos.

You may email your press kits and headshots to: info@winnipegcomedyfestival.com . Links to websites with clips are acceptable. Here's some friendly advice:

- We may not reply upon receipt. We will contact you if we are interested
- Although we book US and international acts those spaces are limited due to Canadian content rules on the TV show
- Be unique. What do you as a performer offer that your peers can't?
- Have a point of view. What does your set have to say about its subject matter?
- Have a showcase set that's focussed and cohesive. Try to have a beginning, middle, and end. Nothing wrong with a joke salad, but for a themed gala, a set that coheres is king. One performer this past year did 10 solid minutes on nothing but his admiration for Mr. T. That's top notch.
- Don't showcase your crowd work, showcase your material.
- Be timely and relevant. I'm not saying be topical but please keep in mind our shows air a year after taping and beyond. Be forward-thinking in your writing and delivery.
- Behave professionally. Given a choice between two equally talented performers, if one's a professional, and the other doesn't answer emails, or misses deadlines, or misses call times, or won't take notes, or causes friction and drama among other performers, or is uncooperative, or complains constantly, or always goes long, or is rude to our volunteers, which do you think we'd like to work with again?
- Remember - we're not making a list of our 30 favorite comics, we're casting TV shows. We have 6 spots to fill in each of 5 shows. Each of those 6 spots is different and ought to touch on a different aspect of the gala theme.
- We are delighted that you took the time to have us consider you!

Winnipeg Comedy Festival 2017 (APR 3-9, 2017) Gala Themes on page 2!!

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Comics explore neighbours in a variety of contexts: nations, cities, the house next door, the apartment adjacent, your roommates ...

VIRGIN TERRITORY

First times, new experiences, breakthroughs, discoveries ...

Ex. traveling, becoming new parent, a medical crisis, first dates, a new job, a new city, new phase of life, a new love ... any material about experiencing something new or doing something you've never done before.

LADY LIKE

A look at being female in 2017: society's unrealistic expectations, the glass ceiling, double-standards, gender parity, mansplaining, toxic masculinity, etc. Comics who define their femininity on their own terms, and a male comic or two with their own observations.

I "HEART" LOVE

A look at the difficulty of finding and keeping the one thing everyone craves most. Are you looking for love? With a new love? Newly married? Divorced? Given up on love? Deep in love after 30 years? Tell us about your love life!

HOT MESS

We all want to look like we're in control and have it all together. But under the surface most of us are a hot mess of insecurities, self-doubt, bad habits, and neuroses. Comics confess their shortcomings, personal failings, and good intentions never met.

GUIDELINES

- **10 minute sets (edited to 4-7 for TV), TV-clean.**
- **Bits must be NEVER SEEN BEFORE on national Canadian TV (JFL, Halifax, Comedy Now, etc)**
- **A unique angle on the theme is always very welcome.**
- **The more specific and detailed your pitch, the better your chances. Feel free to send a video link, but not required.**
- **Feel free to pitch yourself for more than one gala.**