



### THE GAS STATION ARTS CENTRE PROUDLY PRESENTS... WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL 2015: A FINE YEAR for WHINE & CHEESE

Cheeky, with subtle notes of whimsy and wit, and a bold, sometimes bawdy finish. Nervy, with a tart – dare we say acerbic – character, and a loquacious, laser-like brilliance. Alternately ribald, refined, explosive or droll, but with surprising complexity and depth.

No matter your preferred flavour profile, you'll get your fill of full-bodied laughs at this year's Winnipeg Comedy Festival (April 6–12), where we're uncorking another vintage year of superior stand-up and sommelier-approved gags.

For proof, look no further than the top-rated roster of talents we've assembled to serve as hosts of this year's Pantages Playhouse galas — true connoisseurs of comedy, if we do say so ourselves. First up is Gemini-winner Jeremy Hotz, who'll help kick things off Thu., April 9, at the aptly-named "Rest and Relaxation" show.

On Fri., April 10, Festival fave Ryan Belleville hosts our "Fish Out of Water" gala - in which comics will riff on the theme of fitting in and standing out - while later the same night, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* star Shaun Majumder oversees an evening of over-sharing at our "Too Much Information" show.

On Sat., April 11, we're changing things up and offering our first-ever matinee gala! At 4:15 p.m., join *Murdoch Mysteries* co-star and Newfoundland comic Jonny Harris while he explores work-related misadventures at the "Quit Your Day Job" show. Saturday's evening gala (7:15 p.m.) gives *Royal Canadian Air Farce* alum Jessica Holmes a chance to expose the highs and lows of gaining entry into "The Middle Ages."

As always, there are plenty of new additions to this year's lineup, including a *Mystery Science Theater 3000*-inspired look at classic Canadian television ("TV Dinner"), an urban-flavoured celebration of Peg City pride ("Portage Street Live"), an LGBTT-centric set ("50 Shades of Gay"), an evening of Francophone fun ("Lost in Translation"), and the launch of the newly-rebranded – but just as provocative – "WCF After Dark" show.

As well, we're excited to debut our own awards show, "The Mics", on Sun., April 13, when we'll celebrate stand-ups who've performed throughout the festival's 14-year history. During the same show, we'll host a roast of longtime friend-of-the-Fest John Wing, who among his many credits appeared on *The Tonight Show* years before current host Jimmy Fallon was even born!

And of course, we're happy to welcome back some longstanding Festival favourites, including CBC's The Debaters, the Rumor's Comedy Series (featuring Mark Forward, Pete Johansson, Mike MacDonald, David Pryde, Ivan Decker and Sterling Scott), and one-man shows by the likes of Wes Borg (*Three Dead Trolls in a Baggie*), Charlie Demers, and the aforementioned John Wing.

"As the song says, 'It's a very good year," said WCF Artistic Director Al Rae. "Like a great vineyard, we have something for every taste and price range, so drink up the comedy – I'm sure you'll be thirsty for more!"

For additional information or to schedule interviews, please contact: David Schmeichel • 204.619.1663 • publicity@winnipegcomedyfestival.com On the web: winnipegcomedyfestival.com



## 2015-A GOOD YEAR FOR COMEDY!

I was 37 years young with a six year-old daughter when Tom Anniko and I decided to approach the Gas Station Arts Centre with the idea of an annual comedy festival. Now that six year-old is 22 and I'm pushing 40. How time flies.

We decided to launch a wine theme this year. It seemed fitting, given our festival comes around as new crops are planted and a more celebratory vibe slowly fills the city. But also, while a brand or label may stay the same, the quality of the contents inside vary slightly from year to year. And this year, when we looked at the proposed lineup – the number and variety of shows and the significant cast of new arrivals – we felt confident and excited to stamp this vintage as gold label.

There are new shows we hope will become old favourites. **Portage Street Live**, our first venture into an 'urban' show at the Good Will Social Club on Portage Avenue, with Sterling Scott and a handful of other hip comics, hosted by our very own Paul Rabliauskas. We've also got a hot new **Alternative Show** with comics whose hilarity requires a refined and offbeat patter, which we've paired with **50 Shades of Gay**, happening earlier that same night at the Park Theatre.

And we have a new vineyard: The Club Regent Event Centre, a brand new venue with ample parking and stateof-the-art seating and sound design. What a great new room in which to see **CBC's The Debaters** and a fully expanded all-star **Winnipeg Show**. We also hand over the box office on our Tuesday night **Funny You Should Ask** show – starring the legendary Mike McDonald – to the Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba.

Since wine drinking is classy, we get a little theatrical with three amazing one-man shows at the Gas Station Arts Centre. Charles Demers' politically astute *Leftovers*, John Wing with a brand new show *Old Enough to Know Better*, and the thrilling return of Dead Troll Wes Borg in the comedy play HA! – one of the best plays ever written about stand-up comedy. And there's even a show from Hot Thespian Action.

And there's good eating too. We return with another intimate **Gastrocomique** show at Fusion Grill that comes with a lovely meal. This year, diners get a performance from Elvira Kurt.

On the other end of the price scale, we have lots of great outreach shows throughout the city, including three more great lunch-hour shows at the Millennium Library.

We've relabelled our Dark and Stormy Show as **WCF After Dark**, and this year we get more dark than dirty. If you enjoy longer-form stand-up, our **Rumor's Showcase Series** begins with a special Monday night show with the great Mike McDonald. And there's plenty of funny females in our second annual **No Bro Show**, which was a runaway hit at last year's festival.

And if you're not fully satiated yet, we wrap it all up with **The Mics**, our first of what we hope will be many awards nights. We honour a male and female stand-up, a dedicated volunteer and, in partnership with CBC Manitoba, allow our audience to pick their favourite performer from this year's crop. That night, along with stand-up performances from the winners, will culminate in a roast of John Wing, the only comic to have performed a fortnight's worth of shows with us since 2001.

So a little whine, a little cheese, but mostly fresh and delicious full-bodied funny from the best comics around the world.

See you in April!

Al Rae Artistic Director





#### ◆ 2015 WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL LINE-UP ◆

• GALA HOSTS •

Ryan Belleville • Jonny Harris • Jeremy Hotz • Jessica Holmes • Shaun Majumder

Aisha Alfa Chad Anderson Danish Anwar **Ryan Ash** Wes Borg **Graham Chittenden Bruce Clark** Lauren Cochrane **Tricia Cooper Caitlin Curtis Melanie Dahling Amber Daniels Tanyalee Davis** Ivan Decker **Charlie Demers D.J. Demers** John B. Duff Steve Dylan **Derek Edwards Sean Emeny** Matt Falk Mark Forward **Chloé Freynet-Gagné** Lori Gibbs Dan Glasswick **Tim Grav Mike Green George Grenier** 

#### • COMEDIANS •

**Shannon Guile Dean Jenkinson** Pete Johansson Keener **Julie Kim Rebecca Kohler Elvira Kurt** Caitlin Langelier **Shannon Laverty Derick Lengwenus Andrew Lizotte** Jon Ljungberg **Jacqueline Loewen** Cara Lytwyn **Chantel Marostica Mike MacDonald** Kevin McDonald **Aaron Merke** Garth Merkeley **Darcy Michael** Ryan Miller Shazia Mirza Ashley Moffatt **Tyler Morrison Efthimios Nasiopoulos** Matt Nightingale Andy Noble Tim Nutt Darryl Orr

Dom Paré **Steve Patterson** Tyler Penner **Eric Plamondon** David Pryde Al Rae Paul Rabliauskas Tim Rabnett Simon Rakoff J.D. Renaud Dan Robertson Adam Schwartz **Sterling Scott** Derek Seguin **Michelle Shaughnessy Erica Sigurdson Stephen Sim** Dana Smith **Rachel Sommer** Tom Steffen Jared Story **Big Daddy Tazz** Jane Testar Dan Verville Ben Walker Jordan Welwood Jonathan Wilson John Wing

## GAS STATION ARTS CENTRE PRESENTS WPG COMEDY FESSION

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 26th

#### - FREE SHOW -FESTIVAL PREVIEW

McNally Prairie Ink Cafe – 7:00pm TICKETS: Free

A Comedy Festival sneak peak show featuring stand-up comedy and improv comedy. Appreciate the written word while enjoying the hilarious spoken word. HOST: Al Rae PERFORMERS: Stephen Sim, Mike Green, Rachel Sommer, Caitlin Curtis

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 29th

#### - FREE SHOW -SUPPORTING ACT PODCAST The Purple Room - 8:00pm

TICKETS: Free Join us at the Purple Room for a live taping of The Supporting Act Podeast. HOST: Matt Moskal CO-HOST: J.D. Renaud, PERFORMERS: Al Rae, Stephen Sim, Melanie Dahling, Paul Rabliaskas

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1st

– FREE SHOW – PRE-FEST Park Theatre – 8:00pm

TICKETS: Free The April Fool's Day Comedy Special! The Winnipeg Comedy Festival brings comedy to the Park Theatre for all of Winnipeg to enjoy. We swear to you that this hilarious show is actually happening; trust us, we are really, really putting it on. HOST: Jared Story PERFORMERS: John B. Duff, Keener, Matt Nightingale, Dana Smith, Tyler Penner

## **MONDAY, APRIL 6th**

#### - FREE SHOW -RED RIVER COLLEGE NOTRE DAME CAMPUS

**The Cave – 12:15pm TICKETS:** Free *Free comedy show for RRC students* **PERFORMERS:** Erica Sigurdson, Paul Rabliauskus, Andrew Lizotte

#### WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#1)

Rumor's Comedy Club – 7:45pm TICKETS: \$20.00 Long-form comedy at the Tuxedo comedy nightclub. HEADLINER: Mike MacDonald

#### – WCF THEATRE SERIES – **"HA!"**

Starring Wes Borg Gas Station Arts Centre - 8:00pm TICKETS: \$15.00

"Ha!" is a one-man play that tells the story of the life of fictional Canadian stand-up comic Colin McLeod, as he navigates from humble beginnings in Saskatoon through the labyrinth that is the Canadian Show Business Industry. Performed by "Canadian Comedy Award" nominee Wes Borg, of "Three Dead Trolls in a Baggie," and written by Wes Borg and Chris Craddock. Directed by: J. McLaughlin

#### WCF: THE UPPER DECK King's Head Pub – 10:00pm

TICKETS: \$10.00 (18 + event-no minors) Our annual King's Head combo of polished locals and seasoned stand-ups. It's our school night version of Best of the Fest. HOST: Dan Verville PERFORMERS: Amber Daniels, Dan Glasswick, Paul Rabliauskas, Wes Borg

## **TUESDAY, APRIL 7th**

#### - FREE SHOW -RED RIVER COLLEGE DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

MAWS – 12:15pm TICKETS: Free Free show for RRC students PERFORMERS: Jordan Welwood, Sean Emeny, Dan Glasswick

#### HIGH SCHOOL SUPER IMPROV SHOW

Gas Station Arts Centre - 7:00pm TICKETS: \$5.00

The Manitoba Improv League has produced an improv program for Winnipeg's youth for well over a decade. Stephen Sim and Caitlin Curtis have assembled an All-Star cast of these improv students to put on a High School Super Show of Improv. HOST: Stephen Sim and Caitlin Curtis

#### WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#2)

Rumor's Comedy Club - 8:00pm TICKETS: \$12.00 HEADLINER: Pete Johansson

#### FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK

Club Regent Event Centre - 8:00pm TICKETS: \$25.00; Proceeds to Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba The legendary Mike McDonald, along with a stellar cast, make mirth and smash stigma in this onenight-only gala show to benefit Manitobans coping with mental health challenges.

HOST: Al Rae PERFORMERS: Erica Sigurdson, Mike MacDonald, Hot Thespian Action, Chantel Marostica, Adam Schwartz, Andrew Lizotte

#### WCF: THE UPPER DECK

King's Head Pub – 10:00pm TICKETS: \$10.00 (18 + event-no minors) Our annual King's Head combo of polished locals and seasoned stand-ups. It's our school night version of Best of the Fest. HOST: Ben Walker PERFORMERS: Andy Noble, Aisha Alfa, Sterling Scott, Andrew Lizotte

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8th

#### COMEDY LUNCH HOUR SPECIAL

Millennium Library – 12:15pm TICKETS: Free Noon hour is one of the funniest hours of the day.

Not only will you get to be entertained with Comedy Festival acts... you can eat your lunch. (Warning: please do not choke on your lunch) **PERFORMER:** Paul Rabliauskus, Ivan Decker, John Wilson

#### GASTROCOMIQUE

Fusion Grill - 6:00pm TICKETS: \$150.00 Multi-course meal and an intimate show at the high-end Academy restaurant. Featuring dazzling entertainment from Elvira Kurt.

#### THE WINNIPEG SHOW

Club Regent Event Centre- 7:30pm TICKETS: \$20.00

Our long-running favourite show is moving on up to the deluxe Event Centre. Big Daddy Tazz is our lovable host and we welcome Aisha Alfa home from Toronto. Special Guest Comic: Jon Ljungberg. HOST: Big Daddy Tazz PERFORMERS: Matt Falk, Melanie Dahling, Dan Verville, Aisha Alfa, Jared Story, Jordan Welwood, Jon Ljungberg

#### – WCF THEATRE SERIES – OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER

Starring John Wing Gas Station Arts Centre - 8:00pm TICKETS: \$20.00 A one-man show of new material from the only comic to have headlined every WCF. PERFORMED BY: John Wing OPENING ACT: Wes Borg

#### WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#3)

Rumor's Comedy Club- 8:00pm TICKETS: \$12.00 HOST: Mark Forward PERFORMERS: Sean Emeny, Simon Rakoff

#### WCF: THE UPPER DECK

King's Head Pub - 10:00pm TICKETS: \$10.00 (18 + event-no minors) HOST: Bruce Clark PERFORMERS: Tom Steffen, Sean Emeny, Cara Lytwyn, Jon Ljungberg, Pete Johansson

## THURSDAY, APRIL 9th

#### COMEDY LUNCH HOUR SPECIAL

Millennium Library – 12:15pm TICKETS: Free PERFORMERS: Erica Sigurdson, Steve Dylan, J.D. Renaud

#### – WCF THEATRE SERIES – LEFTOVERS

Starring Charles Demers Gas Station Arts Centre - 7:30pm TICKETS: \$15.00 As the resident left-winger on CBC's The Debaters, Charles Demers is used to wringing laughs from lost causes -- in this one-man show; he's firing punchlines against capitalism, and will have you laughing all the way to the barricades. WRITTEN BY: Charles Demers DIRECTED BY: Marcus Youssef

#### **T.V. DINNER**

A multimedia improv show Metropolitan Entertainment Centre by Canad Inns - 5:00pm Cocktails 6:00pm; dinner 7:00pm show TICKETS: \$40.00 with dinner (floor seats) \$15.00 no dinner (balcony) Don't touch that dial! Sit back and enjoy your TV Dinner as world-class improv comedians grab the mic and improvise the soundtrack to your favourite classic Canadian TV shows. PERFORMERS: Wes Borg, Stephen Sim, Ryan Belleville, Kevin McDonald, Tricia Cooper

#### MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES > present THURSDAY GALA

Pantages Playhouse Theatre - 7:15pm TICKETS: \$35.00 THEME: Rest and Relaxation The masterful Jeremy Hotz hosts a night of comedy dealing with the stresses of unwinding in the modern world. HOST: Jeremy Hotz PERFORMERS: Mark Forward, Ivan Decker, Tanyalee Davis, Tim Rabnett, Efthimios Nasiopoulos, Sterling Scott

#### WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#4)

Rumor's Comedy Club- 8:00pm TICKETS: \$12.00 HEADLINER: David Pryde

#### HOT THESPIAN ACTION UNCORKED Gas Station Arts Centre - 9:30pm

Gas Station Arts Centre - 9:30pm TICKETS: \$18.00

The much-loved fivesome bring their fastpaced and dexterous comedy sketches to the Gas Station with a pleasing blush of old and new vintage sketches. Act One of this sketch comedy show features the sketch comedy artistry of Bucko, Wes Borg and new sketches created at the Winnipeg Comedy Festival under the direction of Kevin McDonald (The Kids in the Hall). Act Two of this sketch comedy show features the headlining act, and Winnipeg's number one sketch comedy troupe, Hot Thespian Action.

#### WCF AFTER DARK

Metropolitan Entertainment Centre by Canad Inns - 10:30pm TICKETS: \$22.00 (18 + event-no minors)

TICKETS: \$22.00 (18 + event in minors) Rebranded and ready to shock and awe, it's our annual Dark Show. Provocative comedy for smart grown-ups.

PERFORMERS: Erica Sigurdson, Tim Nutt, Derek Seguin, Darcy Michael

# GAS STATION ARTS CENTRE PRESENTS

## FRIDAY, APRIL 10th

#### LOST IN TRANSLATION, **PERDU EN QUOI?**

Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain -8:00pm

#### **COMEDY LUNCH** HOUR SPECIAL

Millennium Library – 12:15pm TICKETS: Free PERFORMERS: Tom Steffen, David Pryde, Amber Daniels

#### ▲ MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES ▶ present FRIDAY EARLY GALA

Pantages Playhouse Theatre – 6:45pm **тіскетя:** \$35.00 THEME: Fish Out of Water Festival fave Ryan Belleville hosts a hilarious night about fitting in and standing out. HOST: Ryan Belleville PERFORMERS: Darryl Orr, Danish Anwar, Caitlin Langelier, Derek Edwards, Sean Emeny, Rebecca Kohler

#### - WCF THEATRE SERIES -"HA!"

**Starring Wes Borg** Gas Station Arts Centre- 7:30pm тіскетя: \$18.00

#### WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#5)

Rumor's Comedy Club– 7:45pm **тіскетs:** \$15.00 HEADLINER: Sterling Scott

**TICKETS:** \$15.00 What better way to celebrate Canadian comedy than to have an improv show in both official languages. We take the English improvisers and truck them over the river to meet the French improvisers on their own turf. What kind of hilarious miscommunication will take place? It's a battle of wits and tongues... no, not French kissing tongues... probably not. PERFORMERS: Stephen Sim, Caitlin Curtis, Chloé Freynet-Gagné, George Grenier, Eric Plamondon

#### present

FRIDAY LATE GALA Pantages Playhouse Theatre - 9:15pm TICKETS: \$35.00 THEME: Too Much Information The beloved This Hour Has 22 Minutes star hosts a night of hilarious oversharing. HOST: Shaun Majumder PERFORMERS: DJ Demers, Steve Dylan, Tim Nutt, Ashley Moffatt, Shannon Laverty,

Pete Johansson

#### PORTAGE STREET LIVE

The Good Will- 9:30pm **тіскетs:** \$15.00 An urban comedy show on Winnipeg's other main street. Hip, hot and hilarious. HOST: Paul Rabliauskas PERFORMERS: Ryan Ash, Dom Paré, Rebecca Kohler, Derek Seguin, Sterling Scott, Shannon Laverty, Chad Anderson

#### **THE NO BRO SHOW 2**

Gas Station Arts Centre-9:30pm TICKETS: \$18.00 Our last all-women gala was a smash and we have another great batch of comediennes this time around. HOST: Tricia Cooper PERFORMERS: Erica Sigurdson, Chantel Marostica, Michelle Shaughnessy, Rebecca Kohler, Caitlin Langelier, Dana Smith

#### WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#6)

Rumor's Comedy Club-10:30pm Tickets: \$15.00 **OPENER:** Tanyalee Davis HEADLINER: Ivan Decker

## SATURDAY, APRIL 11th

#### **CBC'S THE DEBATERS**

Club Regent Event Centre - 2:00pm TICKETS: \$30.00 A mainstay of CBC Radio One born at the Winnipeg Comedy Festival. A fertile mix of fact and funny as comics debate issues from the topical to the trivial with huge laughter as the only and just reward. HOST: Steve Patterson

#### MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES present SATURDAY EARLY GALA

Pantages Playhouse Theatre - 4:15pm TICKETS : \$35.00 THEME: Quit Your Day Job We're excited to offer a matinee gala show for the first time in festival history! This hilarious Newfoundland comic and co-star of Murdoch Mysteries hosts an afternoon of job-related misadventures and memories. HOST: Jonny Harris PERFORMERS: Graham Chittenden, Bruce Clark, Derick Lengwenus, Julie Kim, Rachel Sommer, Michelle Shaughnessy

#### MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES > present C + D + D C + D + D C + D + D C + D + D C + D + D C + D + D C + D + D C + D C + D C + D C + D C + D C + D C + D C C + D C C + D C C + D C C + D C

SATURDAY LATE GALA Pantages Playhouse Theatre - 7:15pm TICKETS : \$35.00 THEME: The Middle Ages Not a show about the 1400s! Jessica Holmes is our elegant and too young host of a show that

shares the highs and lows of growing old in the 21st century. HOST: Jessica Holmes PERFORMERS: Erica Sigurdson, David Pryde, Lori Gibbs, Dom Paré, Derek Seguin, Shazia Mirza

#### WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#7)

Rumor's Comedy Club- 7:15pm TICKETS: \$17.00 HEADLINER: D.J. Demers

#### – wcf theatre series – LEFTOVERS

Starring Charlie Demers Gas Station Arts Centre - 7:30pm TICKETS: \$18.00

#### **50 SHADES OF GAY**

The Park - 8:00pm TICKETS: \$15.00 Two shows in one! First up, the return of the Queen of Awesome, Chantel Marostica. Followed by a great night of LGBT humour, along with coming out stories! HOST: Darcy Michael Act I: Battlestar Marostica with Chantel Marostica <u>Act II:</u> Coming Out Swinging Too with Hot Thespian Action, Caitlin Langelier, Tom Steffen, Ashley Moffatt

#### WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#8)

Rumor's Comedy Club-10:00pm TICKETS: \$17.00 HEADLINER: Steve Dylan

#### THE ALTERNATIVE SHOW

The Park – 10:30pm TICKETS: \$15.00 (adult content) A five star field of the best in alternative comedy. If you're in the know you already knew about this show. HOST: Mark Forward PERFORMERS: Darryl Orr, Wes Borg, Tim Gray, Dan Robertson, J.D. Renaud, Derick Lengwenus, Sean Emeny, Ashley Moffatt, Tyler Penner

## SUNDAY, APRIL 12th

#### **CBC'S THE DEBATERS**

Club Regent Event Centre – 2:00pm TICKETS: \$30.00 HOST: Steve Patterson

#### WCF PRESENTS: THE MICS

(Award Show plus Roast of John Wing) Club Regent Event Centre - 7:00pm TICKETS : \$22.00

Our first annual awards show. We present a Mic (as in a microphone) Award to the best male and female stand-up from festivals past, as well as the CBC Audience Award to the best comic of the 2015 Festival. Along with our annual Volunteer Award. HOSTED BY Simon Rakoff

ROAST: Our second WCF Roast. We honour and dishonour John Wing, who among his many credits once performed on the Tonight Show, several years before the current host Jimmy Fallon was born. HOSTED BY Tyler Morrison PERFORMERS: Rebecca Kohler, Al Rae, Bruce Clark, Simon Rakoff, Darcy Michael



## We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our partners.







**TELEVISION GALAS RECORDED BY:** 

























Canadian Heritage

Patrimoine canadien