



## CALL FOR 2022 GALA SUBMISSIONS

The 21th Annual Winnipeg Comedy Festival is May 2 – 8, 2022.

The festival is accepting submissions until November 30, 2021.

Please email your submission to: [submissions@winnipegcomedyfestival.com](mailto:submissions@winnipegcomedyfestival.com)

### Please tell us:

- **which theme(s)** you are pitching for (themes below)
- **where you would be flying from**
- your **contact info** and if you have **representation** (and their contact info if applicable)

### Important:

- **Be TV-clean.**
- **8-10 minutes** sets are ideal.
- **Video links preferred.** Written submissions, or links to websites with clips also accepted.

### Themes:

Below are six themes, **FIVE OF WHICH** will become our five TV galas. Feel free to submit to more than one gala.

#### ***Die Laughing***

*Material about death and dying, and how we cope with it or don't. How death is viewed in different cultures or at different times in history. How we grieve, the five stages. Funeral stories. Near-death experiences. The business of death - cremation, burial, green alternatives. Fans of dead celebs, dying wishes, wills, estates, being an executor, life insurance, organ donation, things we learn about our loved ones after they die like secret lives, euthanasia, ideas about the afterlife, heaven, hell, reincarnation, etc.*

#### ***Naughty Bits***

*All things sex and sexuality. Give us your best TV-friendly takes on your sex life, kinks, likes, dislikes, crossed wires, awkward moments, seduction, rejection, one-night-stands, sex after a certain age, society's love-hate push-pull relationship with sexuality.*

### ***If It Makes You Happy***

*A feel-good celebration of all the things YOU are passionate about – tell us about your hobbies, favourite activities, pastimes, stupid human tricks, side hustles, goals met, dreams pursued, if you've shifted gears or made a change, your personal growth stories, your recovery stories, this is autobiographical material about what you love or are especially good at or have accomplished that makes you proud. If it makes you happy, we want to hear your jokes about it!*

### ***The Great Outdoors***

*Everything relating to outdoor activities - camping stories, outdoor sports stories, beach stories, boating stories, road trips, hiking, the generational differences and kids today being averse to outdoors, e-bikes, e-scooters, being afraid of nature, loving nature, how the pandemic forced many typically indoors things to be outdoors, comedy outside, comparing indoors and outdoors, adventures, lifestyles, regional differences, differences between city and country, tree-planting, bad weather stories, etc etc. If it happened outside, tell us about it!*

### ***Choppy Waters***

*Tell us how you're navigating the choppy waters of the changing world today, how you're trying to overcome the hurdles we all face in these uncertain times, adjusting to the new normal, unrest, learning to "people" again, climate change, free speech, gender issues, politics, the fracturing of society via rampant tribalism, bandwagon-hopping, blind allegiances but also shifting ones, contrarian viewpoints, hot takes etc. Is the new normal feeling normal yet?*

### ***Misguidance Systems***

*We all look to our parents, teachers, and other leaders for guidance. But what happens when that guidance is ... misguided? This is a show about all the people – parents, teachers, religious leaders, politicians, role models, television, the internet, news media, the dominant culture – that taught us (and often still teach us) things we later learn are wrong or ass-backward or only half-true. What misguided beliefs were you fed as a child? What misguided beliefs are we still being fed? What bad advice? Fear tactics? Biases? Stigmas? What did you buy into? Were there urban legends you heard growing up? How did it shape you? Share where you're at on your journey of figuring out the truth!*

### **Some friendly advice:**

- Please don't send one 10-min set and tell us you think it could fit into any or all the themes.
- Please don't send a set filled with F-bombs and the assurance the jokes work just as well without them. Take one evening to do the set TV-clean and show us.
- Please showcase your material, and not your crowd work.
- Be timely while being timeless. Keep in mind our shows air a year after taping and beyond, so avoid topical jokes that date your material.
- 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 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.

**We know putting your heart and soul into a submission is hard work. We greatly appreciate you taking the time! Good luck, and may this be your year!**