

GAS STATION ARTS CENTRE PRESENTS

WPG COMEDY FESTIVAL



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE 2012 WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL: PREPARE TO HAVE THE LAST LAUGH!

APRIL 5-15/2012

February 22, 2012 (Winnipeg) – As any expert on misinterpreted Mayan prophecies can tell you, the year 2012 marks the countdown until the end of the world – a time when the earth shall be devastated by great cosmic catastrophes, and all humanity shall be snuffed out in a giant ball of flames... or something like that. All we know is that from April 5-15, we'll be gearing up for the End Days in the only way we know how – by launching one of our biggest, baddest, most world-beating festivals yet!

So while everyone else is busy battenning down that hatches, we'll be laughing in the face of whatever earthquakes, floods, and lakes of fire might lie ahead, not to mention the phantom planet that may or may not be hurtling towards the earth!

Since most of us will need a comforting presence to get us through all the destruction, we've enlisted one of TV's most enduring dads to help kick off the festivities: Canadian icon **Alan Thicke** (*Growing Pains*, *The Alan Thicke Show*), who'll serve as host for our telethon-themed Thursday evening gala. Fellow sitcom star and talk show host **Caroline Rhea** (*Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, *The Caroline Rhea Show*) will handle hosting duties for a "Women Who Kill" gala – featuring a lineup of devastating femmes fatales – while funnyman **Harland Williams** (*Dumb and Dumber*, *Half Baked*) will host a gala celebrating character-based comedy.

In addition to the hosts, we're bringing back a number of longtime friends of the festival – including proven crowd-pleasers **Sean Cullen**, **Elvira Kurt** and **Sherri D. Sutton**; acid-tongued wits **Nikki Payne**, **Scott Thompson** and **Debra DiGiovanni**; and local faves **Ryan McMahon**, **Dean Jenkinson** and **John B. Duff**. Our friends at CBC Radio will be on hand to tape episodes of **The Debaters**, **Definitely Not the Opera**, and – a first for the Festival – not-necessarily-the-news series **This Is That**. (Speaking of *The Debaters*, host **Steve Patterson** will also perform his one-man show **This Is Not Debatable**.) And Kids in the Hall alum **Kevin McDonald** returns with his nightly film fest at the Cinematheque, where he'll pay tribute to such classic comedy troupes as Laurel & Hardy, Monty Python, and the Marx Brothers.

Our days on Earth may be numbered, but we're still committed to a brighter future, which is why we're convening a "**Make It Better**" panel of experts on issues of bullying, gender and sexual orientation (among them, **Nikki Payne**, **Scott Thompson**, **Elvira Kurt**, and **Debra DiGiovanni**).

As always, the Winnipeg Comedy Festival is a work in progress, so stay tuned for additions or updates to the lineup. Tickets are available now at winnipegcomedyfestival.com, or by calling **Ticketmaster 1-855-985-5000** or the **Gas Station Arts Centre 204-284-9477**.

The Winnipeg Comedy Festival is a production of the Gas Station Arts Centre.

For more information or to inquire about media opportunities, please contact:

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Apart from the pretend gloom of our Mayan Apocolypto theme, the future of the Winnipeg Comedy Festival has never been brighter.

After last year's blockbuster 10th anniversary, we did spend a millisecond wondering if we should scale back and go gently into our second decade, but where's the fun in that?

So, it's a 10 day spectacular this year, and it would take that long to share all the great events we have planned, so rather than waste the trees, I'll give you some of my personal highlights.

All our hosts are amazing this year, but what a thrill to work with Alan Thicke, a man who - in the world of TV at least - is the closest thing you can get to a Renaissance Man. Not only did he write the theme music to Wheel of Fortune, Different Strokes and Growing Pains, he also starred for years in that landmark 80's sitcom, wrote for SNL and hosted his own late night talk show Thicke of the Night (opening each night with a song—he sings too).

And then there's the lovely Caroline Rhea, who we have been trying to get out for a few years, and who was damn sexy as Sabrina's Aunt (and don't pretend you never watched the show).

We always like to mix in some home improvement (and by home we mean the Planet Earth) so this year we're going to the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba to perform for their clients in the 28 day recovery program. There's also the Make It Better panel where gay and lesbian comics will share their stories for the benefit of young people who might be struggling with issues of gender and sexual orientation. That's followed by the All Girl Gay Show for a Sunday comedy service you won't soon forget.

The Debaters is roomier now with two shows at the Burt. And speaking of CBC, DNTO is back and we're joined by the new CBC radio hit show This Is That, where the truth is always fiction, and funny to boot.

I get to think of funny stuff to do, but that doesn't make it real. That part is the hard work and dedication of our staff and our sponsors and volunteers and to not thank them is no laughing matter.

That's just a spicy Mayan taste - now I've got you hooked, check out our website for more! Unless the world ends, then - no refunds!

Al Rae
Artistic Director

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2012 WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL LINE-UP

HOSTS:

Caroline Rhea
Alan Thicke
Harland Williams

ARTISTS:

Nicole Arbour
Johnny Bagpipes
Don Burnstick
Sarah Cornell
Sean Cullen
Melanie Dahling
Debra DiGiovanni
Lou Dinos
John B. Duff
Stevie Ray Fromstein
Jen Grant
Cheryl Hann
Dean Jenkinson
Simon King
Matt Kirshen
Rebecca Kohler
Elvira Kurt
Laura Landauer
Nigel Lawrence
Andrew Lizotte

Cara Lytwyn
Patrick Maliha
Chantal Marostica
Kevin McDonald
Terry McGurrin
Ryan McMahan
Darcy Michael
Doug Mutai
Steve Patterson
Nikki Payne
Perry Perlmutar
Al Rae
Evany Rosen
Jon Steinberg
Sherri D. Sutton
Big Daddy Tazz
Scott Thompson
John Wing
Fraser Young

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2012 WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

THURSDAY APRIL 5

KEVIN FILM FEST: Comedy Troupes

Film: Kids in the Hall: Brain Candy
Cinematheque: 7:00pm

TICKETS: \$8

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS IMPROV

Gas Station Arts Centre: 8:00pm

TICKETS: \$12, \$8 (students)

FRIDAY APRIL 6 GOOD FRIDAY

KEVIN FILM FEST: Comedy Troupes

Film: Night at the Opera
Cinematheque – 7:00pm

TICKETS: \$8

SATURDAY APRIL 7

KEVIN FILM FEST: Comedy Troupes

Film: Life of Brian
Cinematheque: 7:00pm

TICKETS: \$8

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS IMPROV

Gas Station Arts Centre: 8:00pm

TICKETS: \$12, \$8 (students)

MONDAY APRIL 9

A LAWYER WALKS UP TO THE BAR...

CLEA Fundraiser
Gas Station Arts Centre: 8:00pm
Reception to Follow

Performers: Sean Cullen, Sherri D. Sutton,
Cara Lytwyn, John Wing, and Al Rae

TICKETS: \$50

TUESDAY APRIL 10

HIGH SCHOOL IMPROV

Gas Station Arts Centre: 6:00pm

TICKETS: \$5

COMEDY ACES

McPhillips Station Casino: 8:00pm

Host: Steve Patterson

Performers: Sherri D. Sutton, Al Rae,
Dean Jenkinson, Terry McGurrin, Fraser
Young, Doug Mutai

TICKETS: \$22, 18+ only

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2012 WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY APRIL 11

KEVIN FILM FEST: Comedy Troupes

Film: **Bedazzled**
Cinematheque: 7:00pm

TICKETS: \$8

THIS IS THAT

Gas Station Arts Centre: 7:00pm

TICKETS: \$15

RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES

Rumor's Comedy Club: 8:00pm
Performer: **Matt Kirshen**

TICKETS: \$15, 18+ only

**Steve Patterson's One-Man Show:
THIS IS NOT DEBATABLE**

Gas Station Arts Centre: 9:30pm
Performer: **Steve Patterson**

TICKETS: \$22

THURSDAY APRIL 12

KEVIN FILM FEST: Comedy Troupes

Film: **Way Out West**
Cinematheque: 7:00pm

TICKETS: \$8

**MANITOBA LOTTERIES THURSDAY
NIGHT GALA: TELETHON**

Pantages Playhouse Theatre: 7:15pm

Host: **Alan Thicke**

Performers: **Lou Dinos, Johnny Bagpipes,
Laura Landauer, John Wing**

TICKETS: \$39.95

DNTO

Gas Station Arts Centre: 8:00pm

Host: **Sook-Yin Lee**

TICKETS: \$15

RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES

Rumor's Comedy Club: 8:00pm

Performers: **Nigel Lawrence**

TICKETS: \$15, 18+ only

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2012 WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY APRIL 13

**MANITOBA LOTTERIES
FRIDAY EVENING GALA:
CHARACTERS**

Pantages Playhouse Theatre: 6:45pm

Host: Harland Williams

Performers: Patrick Maliha, Sarah Cornell,
Sean Cullen, Scott Thompson

TICKETS: \$39.95

RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES

Rumor's Comedy Club: 7:45pm

Performers: John Wing

TICKETS: \$15, 18+ only

THIS IS THAT

Gas Station Arts Centre: 8:00pm

TICKETS: \$15

**MANITOBA LOTTERIES
FRIDAY LATE NIGHT GALA:
OBSERVATIONAL COMEDY DISORDER**

Pantages Playhouse Theatre: 9:15pm

Host: TBA

Performers: Jen Grant, Nigel Lawrence,
Simon King, Terry McGurrin, Fraser Young,
Matt Kirshen

TICKETS: \$39.95

RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES

Rumor's Comedy Club: 10:30pm

Performer: Jon Steinberg

TICKETS: \$20, 18+ only

THE WINNIPEG SHOW

Gas Station Arts Centre: 10:30pm

Performers: Andrew Lizotte, Melanie Dahling,
Aisha Alfa, John B. Duff, Ryan Ash,
Chantal Marostica, Paul Rabliauskas

TICKETS: \$15

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2012 WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY APRIL 14

DEBATERS

Burton Cummings Theatre: 2:00pm
Host: **Steve Patterson**

TICKETS: \$22

UNRESERVED

Gas Station Arts Centre: 6:30pm
Performers: **Ryan McMahon,
Paul Rabliauskas, Don Burnstick,**

TICKETS: \$15

MANITOBA LOTTERIES SATURDAY EVENING GALA: THE CHOSEN SHOW

Pantages Playhouse Theatre: 6:45pm
Host: TBA

Performers: **Perry Perlmutar, Jon Steinberg,
Stevie Ray Fromstein**

TICKETS: \$39.95

RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES

Rumor's Comedy Club: 7:45pm
Performer: **Jen Grant**

TICKETS: \$15, 18+ only

Steve Patterson's One-Man Show: THIS IS NOT DEBATABLE

Gas Station Arts Centre: 8:30pm
Performers: **Steve Patterson**

TICKETS: \$22

MANITOBA LOTTERIES SATURDAY LATE NIGHT GALA: WOMEN WHO KILL

Pantages Playhouse Theatre: 9:15pm
Host: **Caroline Rhea**

Performers: **Debra DiGiovanni, Nicole Arbour,
Nikki Payne, Rebecca Kohler,
Sherri D. Sutton, Cheryl Hann, Evany Rosen**

TICKETS: \$39.95

RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES

Rumor's Comedy Club: 10:30pm
Performers: **Simon King**

TICKETS: \$20, 18+ only

THE DARK & STORMY SHOW

Gas Station Arts Centre: 10:30pm
Host: **Scott Thompson**

Performers: **Nikki Payne, Rebecca Kohler,
and John B. Duff**

TICKETS: \$22, 18+ only



2012 WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SUNDAY APRIL 15

DEBATERS

Burton Cummings Theatre: 2:00pm

Host: **Steve Patterson**

TICKETS: \$22

MAKE IT BETTER PANEL

Outreach Event

Gas Station Arts Centre: 1:30pm

Moderator:

Guests: **Nikki Payne, Scott Thompson, Chantal Marostica, Elvira Kurt, Darcy Michael, Debra DiGiovanni, and Sherri D. Sutton**

FREE EVENT

THE ALL GIRL GAY SHOW

Gas Station Arts Centre: 3:30pm

Performers: **Chantal Marostica, Sherri D. Sutton**

TICKETS: \$22

MANITOBA LOTTERIES BEST OF THE FEST

Pantages Playhouse Theatre: 7:00pm

Performers: **Nikki Payne, Debra DiGiovanni, Jen Grant, Fraser Young, Jon Steinberg, Patrick Maliha, Doug Mutai, Don Burnstick**

TICKETS: \$39.95

We are still working on creating an apocalyptic festival, and more names will be announced in the coming weeks. It's not like the world is ending soon... Oh. Wait... Guess we'd better hurry up!

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