

APRIL 6-11, 2010
2010 2 COMEDY ODYSSEY



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FESTIVAL SPONSOR





THE 2010 WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL - AN ODYSSEY NINE YEARS IN THE MAKING.

February 22, 2010 (Winnipeg) – It's nearly that time of year again, when dozens of comics from across the nation hold the city hostage with big laughs and side-splitting mirth. Running **April 6-11, 2010**, it's our biggest festival yet, featuring **70 comics and 29 shows in six short nights**.

What makes this festival so big? Let's start at the beginning. Tuesday, April 6th we launch the festival with a bang by hosting the **Trevor Boris DVD Release/Homecoming 2010 show**. When Winnipeg's favourite farmboy-turned-Much Music-host Trevor Boris announced his intentions to return home to launch his new DVD with Warner Brothers, we decided to join forces and create a show celebrating Trevor and other fine Manitoba ex-pats Irwin Barker and Bruce Clark, as well as current Winnipeggers Al Rae and Chantel Marostica.

Wednesday marks our eighth year of the fantastic Opening Night show with the Manitoba Lotteries, hosted this year by none other than the prodigal son, Trevor Boris! The show has swollen from the traditional four to six talented performers; Greg Morton, Derek Edwards, Arthur Simeon, Scott Faulconbridge and Karen O'Keefe.

Next comes four nights of galas, including five recorded-for-broadcast CBC galas. We kick off on Thursday with the **Edumacation Show**, hosted by Gerry Dee and featuring half a dozen cerebral comics including David Hemstad and Jon Dore. Friday night we've got two fantastic galas. First up is **The Home Show** featuring some great Canadian icons including Patrick McKenna, Don Burnstick and Cathy Jones as well as American funny lady Tammy Pescatelli. Friday's late night gala is **Whose Canada is it Anyway?** where the various styles, creeds and lifestyles that make our country diverse all get a turn at the mic. Featuring Derek Seguin, Sam Easton, Franco Taddeo, Gilson Lubin and more. Finally, Saturday takes us out with the last two CBC galas; **True Story...** is hosted by Steve Patterson of The Debaters fame, with Derek Edwards, Mike MacDonald, John Sheehan, David Rakoff and more, followed by **The Obsessions Show** with host Peter Keleghan and comics Greg Morton, Glen Foster, Aaron Berg, Elvira Kurt and Trevor Boris.

Our final gala, the Best of the Fest, is in its second year at the Pantages Playhouse Theatre. Hosted by Elvira Kurt, this gala features (obviously) some of our very best talent from the course of the six day festival. Last year we had several last minute additions to the show, and it's more than likely to happen again this year, making it truly our biggest show, and the best bang for your buck overall! Current confirmed performers include Sam Easton, Barry Kennedy, Derek Edwards, Mike MacDonald, Jon Dore, David Hemstad and Ron Vaudry.

It's also our biggest year for our intimate venue/comedy club style shows. Last year's **Dark and Stormy** show was such a hit (and so beyond capacity!) that we've moved it to the Garrick. Not only is this show a guaranteed hit, but it's one that always has the comics clamouring over each other to get a spot, so expect last minute additions to the roster.

Kevin McDonald is back with his one-man show, **Hammy & the Kids**, and Aaron Berg brings his one-man show, **The Underbelly Diaries Redux**. Winnipeg's Fringe faves **Hot Thespian Action** have their own show with guest Greg Morton, and **The Winnipeg Show** is better than ever featuring some of the city's newest, hottest talent. And speaking of new, **The Shock of the New** features artistic director Al Rae's picks of the best newbies in the nation.

Of course, we always endeavor to give play to comedy's cerebral side. **The Debaters** is back to celebrate its fifth anniversary in the town where it all started. Brand new to our roster this year is **Storytellers**. This show features both comedic and serious storytellers alike, including rebel with a cause Paul Krassner, Canadian icon Gordon Pinsent and much more.

Check out our website for full details www.winnipegcomedyfestival.com.

The 2010 Comedy Odyssey: six nights, twenty-nine shows, six galas, seventy comics. Our biggest festival yet!
Tickets are available at Ticketmaster, www.ticketmaster.ca or 780-3333. Early bird pricing in effect until March 20th.

The Winnipeg Comedy Festival is produced by the Gas Station Arts Centre.

For further information, please contact:

Anne Dawson, Director of Marketing & Communications: 204.229.2762 or anne@winnipegcomedyfestival.com

AL-9000



Message from Artistic Director Al Rae.

This year our theme is **2010: A Comedy Odyssey**. It's not just a theme based on a shitty sequel to an incomprehensible so-called masterpiece. No sir, that's not how we roll. Nor is it just our way of avoiding the obvious by theming the fest after that bad musical "9" (based on "8½", that incomprehensible so-called masterpiece).

There's method to our madness after all. 2010 brings us back to 2001, which was the year it all began. Nine years ago around this time we were about to embark on a voyage into the unknown. Could we run a festival? Would it lift off the launching pad? Would I be able to book myself on a gala without looking lame? Riddles within questions.

Well, here we are. Welcome to the future, as Anna Paquin once said expensively on an MTS ad from the last century. Does it look like the past? In some ways yes, but there's so much new: that's where this missive will live.

Funniest hosts: We booked hosts this year based on funny. Down with stunt-casting, up with laughter.

Biggest cast: More comics this year than ever before.

The return of **Hammy and the Kids**. Must see!

All new **Winnipeg Show**: Comedy has boomed in this city in the last two years and our fully stocked Winnipeg show is your place to check it out.

Shock of the New: A brand new project featuring Al's picks of the best up and comers in the nation.

Storytellers: A brand new initiative proving that we are diligent about stretching the boundaries of comedy. Featuring the likes of Paul Krassner, a bona fide rebel with a cause, Canadian icon Gordon Pinsent, and more, this show has people that will open their mouths, and actually say something.

The Debaters, born in Winnipeg, is five this year.

Our team is the best in the universe. They are all CGI, but I love them anyway.

Oh, and all shows this year will be in 3D.

Peace out. Al



THE CREW

TREVOR BORIS (Opening Night Show)

Trevor Boris has come a long way from the farm he grew up on near Winnipeg. A two-time Canadian Comedy Award Nominee, he is one of the stars and producers of MuchMusic's hit show Video on Trial, has starred in his very own Comedy Now!, is coming off a very successful performance at the '08 Just for Laughs Festival, and filmed his first US stand up special One Night Stand Up in Washington, D.C.

GERRY DEE (The Edumacation Gala)

A former high school phys.ed teacher, Gerry has made quite the name for himself in Canada and across the border. He won Toronto's Funniest New Comic in 1999 and went on to tape his own half hour Comedy Now! special on CTV and The Comedy Network. In 2002, Gerry became the first Canadian in 27 years to win the prestigious San Francisco International Comedy Competition. He has attended a variety of comedy festivals including The US HBO Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen and The Montreal Just For Laughs Festival. Most recently Gerry finished third on NBC's Last Comic Standing.

PETER KELEGHAN (The Obsessions Gala)

A former member of The Second City, Peter co-wrote and starred in sixty episodes of the Gemini award winning series, The Comedy Mill. For 14 seasons he played Ranger Gord on The Red Green Show and created the role of Jim Walcott with Ken Finkleman for The Newsroom, which won an International Emmy. Peter has been on such series as Made In Canada, Billable Hours and Slings And Arrows. A busy voice-over artist, Peter can be heard on dozens of radio commercials and in animation series nationwide. Peter is a fifteen time Gemini Award nominee and a four-time winner in the category of Best Performance in a Comedy Program or Series. He was also nominated twice for a Canadian Comedy Award and for an Actra Award for his role on The Newsroom and was the 2008 recipient of the Actra Award of Excellence.

COMMANDERS

ELVIRA KURT (Best Of The Fest Gala)

Elvira is a Second City Alumnus who has had many years of comedic success in Canada and the US. She has starred in The Comedy Network's series' Popcultured with Elvira Kurt and Elvira Kurt: Adventures in Comedy and has had her comedy specials air on Comedy Central, HBO, Showtime, CTV, CBC and The Comedy Network. Kurt was voted Funniest Female Comic at the Canadian Comedy Awards and received a Gemini nomination for her one-hour comedy special Elvira Kurt: I'm A Big Girl Now. No slouch in the writing department, Kurt contributed to the CBS pilot and HBO special for Ellen DeGeneres.

TIM NUTT (The Home Show Gala)

Tim Nutt is a comic who can't be judged by his cover. Long-haired, bearded and "rough around the edges" audiences expect Nutt's material to match. But he surprises with razored-down punch lines and well conjured-up premises that place him as one of the top comics working today. Tim's way of cutting through the nonsense of everyday life has made him a favorite comic across the country. Tim is happy to be making his third Winnipeg Comedy Festival appearance.

STEVE PATTERSON (True Story... Gala)

Steve began his full-time comedy career in 1996 when he was fired from his full time copywriting job for making an ad about an amusement park "too amusing". Nominated for "Best Male Stand-up" at the 2007 Canadian Comedy Awards, Steve has emerged as a top international headliner and one of Canada's best comedic hosts. Before taking off as host on CBC Radio One's The Debaters, Steve starred in the CBC TV pilot, The Truth About and his own CBC Radio One special, Talking Funny with Steve Patterson.

THE CREW

FLIGHT TEAM

BOYD BANKS

Popular stand up comedian and actor, Boyd began his career in Edmonton, Alberta as a teenager. He has toured across Canada and is one of the favorite alternative comedians on the scene. In addition to stand-up comedy, Banks is a well known character actor. He is often recognized as a familiar face from several "zombie" movies including Dawn of the Dead and Land of the Dead. Boyd can also be seen in movies such as Jackie Chan's Tuxedo, Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle and the critically acclaimed Lars and the Real Girl. He has also appeared on many television series including CBC's Little Mosque on the Prairie and the new ABC series Happy Town.

IRWIN BARKER

Irwin is a comedy writer and performer currently working as a staff writer for the award-winning Rick Mercer Report. Irwin has made several appearances on CBC radio's Madly Off in All Directions, and is a regular writer/performer for CBC Radio's The Debaters series. He has appeared in numerous television comedy specials including Comics!, Comedy Night in Canada, The Winnipeg Comedy Festival and Just for Laughs International Comedy Festival. His comedic style has been described as "cleverly thought out introspection," and it has delighted audiences everywhere he's performed. Diagnosed in 2007 with leiomyosarcoma, Irwin's first year of cancer treatment was the subject of a CTV documentary entitled That's My Time.

AARON BERG

Originally from Toronto, Aaron was the winner of the 2007 COCA Comedian of the Year Award. He has travelled the UK, United States and Canada as a headliner. Aaron has been nominated for two Canadian Comedy Awards (2004-Best One Person Show, 2005-Best new Stand-up) and is the writer/performer of THE UNDERBELLY DIARIES, the sordid tales of his part time experiences as a male stripper. Aaron has also appeared in films including M. Night Shyamalan's Devil and the cult hit Detroit Rock City. Aaron has made guest appearances on CBC's The Border and The Debaters and ABC's Copper. His new solo show Machiavellian Messiah premieres in Toronto this summer.

STEVE BRINDER

Not only is Steve one of Canada's finest stand-up comedians, he is one of the nicest people you will ever meet. As well as being a stand-up comedian, Steve is a TV host and reporter, an actor and a popular school teacher. Steve has performed at the Evening At The Improv (Los Angeles, A & E Network), Cityline and Breakfast Television (reporter CITY TV), Just Kidding (Host, CTV), Grumps (Host, Men TV), The Martin and Lewis Story (CBS), Comics (CBC TV), the Halifax and Winnipeg Comedy Festivals and numerous corporate, community, charitable and educational functions. He has performed with Jim Carrey, Jay Leno, Howie Mandel, Alan Alda and Keanu Reeves among others.

DON BURNSTICK

Don is a Cree from the Alexander First Nation located outside of Edmonton. The youngest of 15 children, coupled with the fact of growing up on the reserve, taught Don a variety of means of defending himself, not the least of which became his use of humour. Don has been involved within the healing/personal wellness movement for the past 17 years and has utilized humour and performance to provide a holistic approach to healing. Don wrote and performs the one-man play HYPERLINK "../././AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Temporary Internet Files/Content.Outlook/4KTES7R7/orderalbum/pages/IamAlcohol_gif.htm" I Am Alcohol - Healing the Wounded Warrior. His highly acclaimed comedy show You Might be a Redskin - Healing Through Native Humour is a comedic performance that humorously portrays First Nations people, their habits, likes and dislikes.

BRUCE CLARK

Bruce Clark is a Winnipeg writer and comic who is one of the few Canadians to have performed on the Tonight Show. He has appeared at Just For Laughs and the Winnipeg Comedy Festival and is a regular performer in Las Vegas. He has sold several television scripts and screenplays and is the creator of the CBC Radio series Elmwood. Bruce is also the co-producer of this year's Winnipeg Comedy Festival Storytellers show.

THE CREW

FLIGHT TEAM

JON DORE

Ottawa-born comedian Jon Dore spent three years co-hosting Rogers Television's Daytime Ottawa, sharpening his skills to a fine point. For his work, creativity and quick improv skills, he received the Impression Award for best on-air personality in 2001. Many of Jon's hosting skills come from working as a stand-up on the comedy club circuit in Canada. Jon has worked with Montreal's Just For Laughs Festival since 2003 and had a sold-out run for his Toronto Just For Laughs Festival show. Jon's television credits include CTV's Canadian Idol, The Jon Dore Television Show on The Comedy Network, his own Comedy Now! special as well as Comedy Central Presents. Jon has been hailed by TV Guide as one of Canada's top "rising stars of the future", and has recently been named on Variety's Top Ten Comic's To Watch list.

SAM EASTON

Sam Easton was born and raised in Vancouver, Canada. His career started out with a bang by winning the Phil Hartman award and being nominated for the Tim Sims award, as well as two Canadian Comedy Awards. His acting skills have been showcased on many movies and TV shows. He recently starred in Final Destination 3, was a regular on the Showtime series The L Word as well as the CW series The Mountain. His one-hour comedy Special airs on both CTV and the Comedy Network.

DEREK EDWARDS

Standup comedian Derek Edwards's award-winning humour has made him one of the hottest properties in Canada. A regular at the Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal, where he was recently hailed as a "virtuoso at the peak of performance", Derek's comedic gift is in making the ordinary extraordinary. Derek is the only Canadian winner of the prestigious Vail, Colorado Invitational Comedy Competition, is a two time Gemini nominee and has been nominated five times as Best Standup Comic at the Canadian Comedy Awards. Derek is currently touring his one-man show, It's a Blunderful Life, in a 60 city cross-Canada tour.

SCOTT FAULCONBRIDGE

Scott Falconbridge was nominated for a 2009 Canadian Comedy Award as Best Male Stand up. Hilarious storytelling and improvisational wit have led critics to claim that he is "among the best stand-up comedians on the continent". It has also earned him regular appearances on CBC radio's popular The Debaters where he goes head to head with the best comedy minds in Canada. Scott recently opened for Howie Mandel at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa and is a regular at Just for Laughs.

GLEN FOSTER

A headliner on the Canadian comedy circuit for over twenty years, Glen has also performed in the US, Great Britain and Australia. He has starred in his own Gemini Nominated Comedy Network Special That Canadian Guy, where his hilarious but dead-on portrayal of the conflicted Canadian psyche struck a cord with the nation. Glen has also appeared on numerous other television shows including CBC's Comics, Just For Laughs, Open Mike and Comedy at Club 54. He has also written for a number of television shows, and has even provided humorous political commentary for CTV's W-Five.

SHANNON GUILLE

Shannon has been seen in professional shows such as Death of a Salesman (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre) and The History of Manitoba... (Manitoba Theatre Centre). She has taken part in several Fringe hits including The Clock In the Lobby and Eternal O. Shannon is also a member of Winnipeg's Hot Thespian Action. The group was selected as part of the Winnipeg Fringe Festival's Best of Fest two years in a row and was invited to the 2009 Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival.

DAVID HEMSTAD

Identified as a "Canadian Master" by Just for Laughs, there is little doubt that Dave Hemstad is one of the most talented comedians in the country. Twice nominated for a Canadian Comedy Award, Dave Hemstad has also made three appearances at the world famous Just for Laughs festival. He has made four appearances on CBC from the Halifax Comedy Festival, and has his own Comedy Now! special on CTV. He has performed on CBC Radio on both Madly Off in all Directions as well as The Debaters. An accomplished actor, Dave has made numerous guest appearances on television and in films.

THE CREW

CATHY JONES

Multiple Gemini Award winning writer and comedienne Cathy Jones celebrates her 24th consecutive year on CBC Television this year, having started at CBC Halifax in 1986 with Codco and this year completing her 17th year on This Hour has 22 Minutes. A founding member of the Codco comedy troupe, the well respected stand-up and character actress has won rave reviews for her one woman shows, Wedding in Texas and Me, Dad and the Hundred Boyfriends.

KEENER

Keener Dougherty has been making a name for himself on the Winnipeg comedy scene for over five years. From his over-analysis of sports and animal behaviours, to his strange past relationships, Keener will bring you into his quirky world with a little bit of edge and a whole lot of self-deprecation. Combining his standup and alternative comedy material, Keener produced his own one-man show, Keener Live in 2009. Currently he is preparing to launch a comedy show, which will be featured in the 2010 Winnipeg Fringe Festival. And after all is said and done, and you still can't remember his name... Don't worry, he has it written on his shirt.

DON KELLY

As a stand-up comic Don has performed across North America and has appeared on numerous television and radio comedy showcases, including his own national television specials on CBC's Comics!, CTV's Comedy Now!, the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, The Debaters and many other national and regional programs. Don is currently host and writer of the Gemini-nominated television show Fish Out of Water on APTN. The show explores Don's adventures as an urban Indian trying to learn the traditional skills and wisdom of Aboriginal peoples across Canada, with hilarious results.

FLIGHT TEAM

BARRY KENNEDY

Barry has appeared in over thirty movies and TV productions, headlined at Canadian and US clubs from coast to coast, overseas for the Canadian troops, and at the Vancouver, Winnipeg and Montréal comedy festivals. He has written three novels—Through the Deadfall, The Hindmost, and most recently Rock Varnish—and can currently be seen as the host of Discovery Channel's Out in the Cold, in which he has the honour of indulging his passion for the country by meeting people who live and work in frigid climates from the Yukon to Hudson Bay, Newfoundland to the high arctic of Ellesmere Island.

PAUL KRASSNER

A co-founder of the Yippies with Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, Paul has led an extraordinary life. He's dropped acid with Groucho Marx and edited Lenny Bruce's autobiography. He's been a free-speech advocate and has been published in Rolling Stone, Playboy, Mother Jones and countless other magazines. He has written several books including Confessions of a Raving Unconfined Nut, Who's to Say What's Obscene and One Hand Jerking.

JACQUELINE LOEWEN

Jacqueline is a member of Hot Thespian Action, a Winnipeg group that has produced fantastically well received, sold-out shows for the last two years including Fringe hits Hands On and Hands Off. When not working with HTA, Jacqueline also performs in various independent and professional theatres around Winnipeg including Top Girls (Manitoba Theatre Centre), Macbeth (Shakespeare In the Ruins), and Surf (Prairie Theatre Exchange's Carol Shields Festival). Jacqueline can also be seen in the films Taken in Broad Daylight (Lifetime), Capture of the Green River Killer (Lifetime), and The Plague (Sony). She also works as a stunt performer in films such as The Assassination of Jesse James and a fight choreographer for shows at Prairie Theatre Exchange and Shakespeare In the Ruins, to name a few.

THE CREW

GILSON LUBIN

The St. Lucian born comedian, described as off-kilter, is a natural story teller who recently appeared on Russell Simmon's Def Comedy Jam on HBO. This laid-back comedian is a Canadian Comedy Award winner and tv personality most recognized from MTV Live Canada. Aside from family he credits comedians such as Bill Cosby, Dave Chapelle, Chris Rock as his influences.

CARA LYTWYN

Originally from Flin Flon, Manitoba, Cara is the 2008 winner of Winnipeg's Funniest Person with a Day Job, an annual contest held at Rumor's Comedy Club and is the current title holder of Winnipeg's Funniest Comic competition sponsored by the Winnipeg Free Press and Hot 103. She is the first and only female comedian to win either title. Armed with her quick wit and sassy self-deprecation, Cara performs with a fresh attitude and dynamic energy.

DYLAN MANDLSOHN

Dylan's rubber face and array of charismatic stand-up characters have made history by making him the first Canadian comic to be a back-to-back finalist at the prestigious San Francisco and Seattle Comedy Competitions. He has made appearances at Montréal's Just For Laughs and The Boston Comedy Festival and was selected to perform for The Comcast Network. Dylan recently starred in his own Comedy Now! special for The Comedy Network and CTV. As a writer Dylan is working and developing zany new concepts for his first comedy show and future DVD release.

MIKE MACDONALD

In addition to his successful and well received live performances all over North America, Mike MacDonald has appeared on numerous TV shows including Late Night With David Letterman, Just For Laughs, Showtime's Comedy Club All-Star Show and Comedy Central's The A List. His first special, Mike MacDonald; On Target was the first one-hour primetime special by a stand-up comic in the history of the CBC and easily won its time slot. Mike's next special, My House! My Rules! also won its prime time slot when it aired in Canada and was nominated for two Gemini Awards for "Best Writing" and "Best Performance" in a comedy special.

FLIGHT TEAM

CHANTEL MAROSTICA

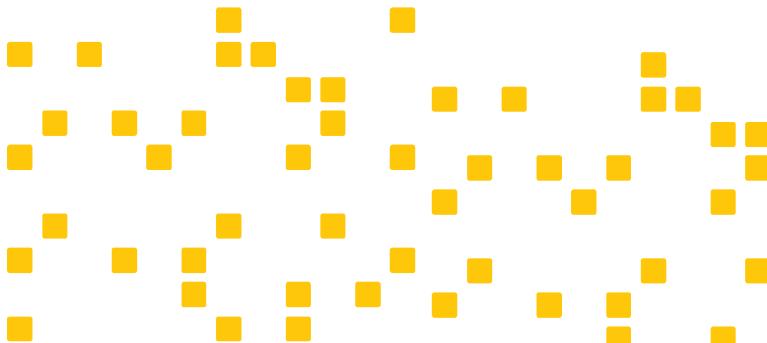
For the past six years, Chantel has traveled the comedy circuit from Thunder Bay to Montreal. In 2006 she made her first appearance at Montreal's Just for Laughs Festival and has been part of the improvised soap opera Soapscum at the Park Theatre in Winnipeg. Having performed at a number of comedy clubs in Canada, Chantel returns to the Winnipeg Comedy Festival where she first performed in 2008 as part of the Big Daddy Tazz & Friends show.

KEVIN MCDONALD

Kevin is widely known for his work on Kids in the Hall which he founded with friend [HYPERLINK "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Foley"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Foley) Dave Foley. He has also appeared on The Martin Short Show, Ellen, That 70's Show, Seinfeld, Friends, NewsRadio, Arrested Development, Corner Gas and Less Than Kind. In 2006 McDonald hosted a CBC TV special featuring several of Canada's best sketch comedy troupes. Sketch with Kevin McDonald won a Canadian Comedy Award. Kevin recently reunited with the Kids in the Hall at the Just for Laughs festival in Montreal and has a new Kids in the Hall mini-series on CBC called Death Comes to Town.

PATRICK MCKENNA

Patrick honed his comic skills with Second City troupes in Toronto and Vancouver, as well as by performing his stand-up comedy routines throughout Canada and the United States. His exuberance and talent was rewarded when he won a double Gemini at the Gemini Awards -- one for "Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Supporting Role in a Dramatic Series" for his work on Traders, and one for "Best Performance in a Comedy Program or Series" for his role Harold Green in The Red Green Show. Patrick has made guest appearances on numerous series including: Blue Murder, The Associates, Made In Canada, Trudeau and Blackfly. McKenna's most recently appeared in the film Everywhere.



THE CREW

FLIGHT TEAM

RYAN MCMAHON

Ryan mixes a traditional stand-up comedy sensibility with a loose improvised slacker style and he blends it all together with characters, multimedia, music and hilarity. Based out of Winnipeg, McMahon is a comedian/actor/writer that is making a name for himself as one of the most dynamic Native Comedians working in North America today. McMahon steers clear of tired, cultural stereotypes onstage, and instead, his live show combines standup, improv and sketch comedy weaving stories and characters in an original style of comedy that he calls – Indian Vaudeville.

AARON MERKE

Originally from Winnipeg, Aaron is a comedian and actor living in Vancouver. He has been a part of Second City's Touring Company and the artistic director of the False Idle Factor Theatre Company in Toronto. Aaron has appeared on Much Music's top-rated show Video on Trail and was the host and sketch writer for their comedy special LOL. He appeared on the Showcase TV series Retail and is in the movie Foodland. Aaron is also a regular on the Comedy Network's series House Party and HBO Canada's Less Than Kind, both filmed in Winnipeg.

GARTH MERKELEY

Garth is a member of Hot Thespian Action, a comedy group whose unique brand of witty, stripped-down, truthful comedy gives them universal appeal. Garth has appeared in professional theatre (Pippi Longstocking with Manitoba Theatre for Young People), many Fringe Festival hits (Eternal O, Rib, The Bald Soprano), and several productions with HTA and sister troupe Foolish Wit Productions. He spends the bulk of his time doing film work including Full Of It (New Line), The Plague (Sony), and two Lifetime Network MOWs Taken in Broad Daylight and The Christmas Hope.

RYAN MILLER

Ryan first started training at Manitoba Theatre for Young People when he was 7 years old. He quickly developed a passion for acting and continued to study at Prairie Theatre Exchange and at Manitoba Theatre and Dance School. Ryan is a founding member of Commedia Dell'Arte troupe Foolish Wit Productions. He has been acting at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival for the past 6 years and has received critical acclaim for his performances in shows like 'dentity Crisis, Heart's Desire, and the hugely successful productions of Hot Thespian Action. HTA's unique brand of witty, stripped-down, truthful comedy gives them universal appeal.

GREG MORTON

After working as an animator on the Scooby and Scrappy Doo Show, and providing voice-overs for Saturday morning cartoons, Morton focused his talents on stand-up comedy. He quickly became a club favorite in the US, Canada, Australia, and the UK. Greg regularly headlines in Las Vegas, and Atlantic City Showrooms and can be heard on the Nationally syndicated radio program, The Bob & Tom Show. One of Greg's musical parodies which has been gaining momentum online, sang to the tune of "Candyman," is his own "Obama Man." Currently the song has logged over 3 million hits on You Tube. His slapstick, physical, style, improvisational skills, and talent for mimicry create a show that leaves audiences gasping for breath.

MICHAEL MUHAMMAD KNIGHT

A true outsider, Michael was raised Catholic but converted to Islam after reading Alex Haley's Autobiography of Malcolm X. He has written several novels and his 2002 novel The Taqwacores (described as a Catcher in the Rye for young Muslims) was made into a feature film that just premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

KAREN O'KEEFE

Karen is sassy, silly, and always witty. Hailing from Canada's Northwest Territories, she now lives and laughs in Calgary. She shares her take on dating, drinking, and getting along with other humans, usually while in front of an audience. In 2006, Karen was featured on the CBC Radio One series So You Think You're Funny? where she was named one of their top five new Canadian comics to watch. Since then she has gained exposure on XM satellite radio's Laugh Attack, The Debaters on CBC radio, and performed at the 2009 Halifax Comedy Festival.

THE CREW

FLIGHT TEAM

NIKKI PAYNE

Nikki is a comedienne who hails from Nova Scotia and is one of Canada's most original comics. Her no-holds-barred style of comedy and her lisp are two things which make Nikki stand out as an innovator in the Canadian comedy scene. She is the recipient of three Canadian Comedy Awards and two nominations for Gemini's. Her Comedy Inc. special on CTV was one of the networks most viewed. She has appeared on NBC's Last Comic Standing and is a regular on Much Music's Video on Trial.

ROLLIN PENNER

In the old days, Rollin used to write and perform a weekly comedy sketch for CBC Radio called The View From Greenfield. The "fame" which this brought him led to the opportunity to turn the Greenfield sketches into a live show, which Rollin performed across the country. Then one day a concert presenter requested that Rollin bring his show to Virden, Manitoba, but also requested that he bring a back up band for the musical part of his performance. So immediately Rollin set out to find a suitable band and the result was Rollin Penner and The Traveling Medicine Show. Their debut album, This and That, was released this past September.

GORDON PINSENT

This Canadian treasure has established himself as actor and writer; engaging in many disciplines including novel, play and screen writing, stage, radio, television and film. He wrote and starred in the seminal Canadian film, The Rowdyman and later went on to write the novel. Since then he has gone on to become one of Canada's most recognized actors and was made a companion of the Order of Canada in 1998. Gordon has appeared in such television series as The Red Green Show, Due South and Power Play. His film credits include Who Has Seen the Wind, The Shipping News and Away from Her.

DAVID PRYDE

David Pryde is a Montreal comic whose humor is often called "cerebral", a word which he hasn't looked up but assumes means "hilarious". He has performed comedy for CBC Radio's The Debaters, numerous Just for Laughs festivals, and was nominated this year for a Canadian Comedy Award for Best Male Stand-up. He is excited to attend his first Winnipeg Comedy Festival and will try to be the cerebralist he can be during his visit.

DAVID RAKOFF

David is the author of the books Fraud and Don't Get Too Comfortable. His next book, Half Empty, will be published in Fall of 2010. A two-time recipient of the Lambda Literary Award for Humor, David's writing has appeared in The New York Times, Newsweek, Wired, GQ, Gourmet, Vogue and Harper's Bazaar, among others. David has appeared numerous times on The Late Show with David Letterman, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, and The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. He can be seen in the movies Capote (fleeting) and Strangers With Candy (fleeting; mutely). He also wrote the screenplay adaptation for, and acts in Joachim Back's film, The New Tenants, which has just been nominated for the Oscar for Best Live Action Short.

DAN ROBERTSON

Dan grew up in Winnipeg. An animation filmmaker and avid astronomer, Dan has sprung his geeky sci-fi jokes on stages from Toronto to Los Angeles. Dan often refers to himself as bi-sci-fi owing to the fact he adores Star Wars and Star Trek equally. With jokes clean enough for the brain surgery theatre and far out enough for Carl Sagan, Dan's deadpan, Vulcan delivery might leave you wondering "What would Kirk do?" at every crossroads in your life.

DEREK SEGUIN

A much loved headliner with the Yuk Yuk's chain of comedy clubs, Derek has worked with some of Canada's best; like Russell Peters, George Strombolopoulos, Steve Patterson, Jeremy Hotz, Mike McDonald, Sugar Sammy, Mike Wilmot, Mike Ward and the list goes on, often at their behest. Following last summer's French Comedy Bastards show, which was a huge critical and commercial success at Just for Laughs, demand for Derek's appearances have skyrocketed. He has appeared at the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, The Global Vancouver Comedy Festival, the Halifax Comedy Festival, and The Grand Rire du Québec Comedy Festival just to name a few.



THE CREW

JOHN SHEEHAN

John is a comedian from small town Newfoundland, and for a province whose population is about that of half a city block in Toronto that's saying something. He has performed at the Halifax Comedy Festival, twice at the St. John's Comedy Festival where he garnered rave reviews, and has toured with Yuk Yuks. John was also featured in the premiere episode of CBC television's *The Republic of Doyle*, took part in CBC radio's *The Debaters*, and has a steadily growing list of corporate clients.

ARTHUR SIMEON

Arthur Simeon is simply unique. Born and raised in Kampala, Uganda, Arthur moved to Canada as a teenager and has taken the Canadian comedy scene by a fiery storm. An intelligent and enchanting performer, Arthur is a storyteller like few before him, bringing a unique perspective to being an African in North America. He has been nominated for a Cream of Comedy award, and has been featured on CBC's *Accent on Toronto* and *The Debaters* series. He has also been to the prestigious *Just For Laughs* Festival in Montreal and toured with Russell Peters. A truly remarkable journey continues as Arthur sets out to build an international comedy career.

FRANCO TADDEO

Franco is able to reach out to the outsider in all of us. Together we laugh and celebrate being stranieri in America. His comedy, like our lives, is neither rooted nor stuck in "nonna's old world". Hilarity ensues when old world meets the new world with only us as its translators! It is comedy about the immigrant as the Hero not the victim. It is empowering while being damn entertaining. Franco performs nationwide and has appeared on both CTV and CBC. Having just returned from a triumphant 18 city cross country tour, he'll walk you down that memory of our youth, just in case you happened to "fuggedabout" it.

FLIGHT TEAM

BIG DADDY TAZZ

For more than a decade and a half, Tazz has been delighting crowds at fundraiser, corporate events, festivals and television. He recorded his own *Comedy Now!* special in 2008 and has appeared in many national festivals including *Just for Laughs*, the *Moncton Comedy Festival* and of course, the *Winnipeg Comedy Festival*. At the 2008 festival, Tazz earned the moniker "Marathon Man of Mirth" after performing an unprecedented 8.5 continuous hours of stand-up.

JANE TESTAR

Jane is a longtime member of the Winnipeg improv troupe, *Outside Joke* and *Hot Thespian Action*. HTA has produced fantastically well received, sold out, shows for the last two years including *Fringe* hits *Hands On* and *Hands Off*. When working with scripts, she tends to stick to sketch comedy with *Hot Thespian Action* and writing for CBC Radio's *Comedy Factory*. However, she is known to do the occasional full-length play, such as *Little Munsch On the Prairie* at *Prairie Theatre Exchange* and *Théâtre du Grand Cercle's Bouche à oreille*. Jane last appeared in *Prairie Spirits*, the sequel to the *Winnipeg Fringe Festival* favourite, *The Good Daughter*, by Ginny Collins.

RON VAUDRY

Ron Vaudry is a twenty-five year veteran of stand up comedy and is one of Canada's top comedians. He has appeared on *Open Mike* with Mike Bullard, *Yuk Yuk's: The TV Show*, *The Arsenio Hall Show*, *Comedy at Club 54* and has had his own CBC *COMICS* special. Ron has appeared at *The Seattle Comedy Competition*, *The Edinburgh Fringe Festival*, *Just for Laughs*, *Funnyfest* and *The Great Plains Comedy Festival*. He headlined the *Yuk Yuk's* chain as one of their best for decades as well as *Toronto & Montreal's* top comedy clubs.

JOHN WING

A stand-up Comedian for more than twelve years, John is described as "a savage amusement" or "a very dry comedic martini". He has made his deadpan, sarcastic wit a style to be reckoned with. At the 1993 *Montreal Just for Laughs* Festival, John's performance was strong enough to earn him a Gemini nomination. Since moving to the U.S. in the late 80's, John has made appearances on *The Tonight Show*, *Fox's Comic Strip Live*, *MTV's Half Hour Comedy Hour*, *VH-1's Stand Up Spotlight*, and *A&E's An Evening At The Improv*. He has worked in comedy clubs and colleges in thirty states and in every Canadian province.

2010 - THE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

HIGH SCHOOL IMPROV SHOW

Gas Station Theatre – 7:00pm

Tickets: \$5

High School Improv League Teams battle it out for ultimate supremacy.

TREVOR BORIS HOMECOMING SHOW/ DVD RELEASE

Gas Station Theatre – 9:00pm

Performers: Trevor Boris, featuring Chantel Marostica, Irwin Barker, Al Rae & Bruce Clark

Tickets: \$20 - Limited DVD giveaways

Trevor Boris returns home to launch his new DVD with Warner Brothers. Featuring other fine Manitoba ex-pats Irwin Barker and Bruce Clark, as well as current Winnipeegers Al Rae and Chantel Marostica.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

OPENING NIGHT GALA

McPhillips Street Station – 8pm

Host: Trevor Boris

Performers: Greg Morton, Derek Edwards, Arthur Simeon, Scott Faulconbridge & Karen O'Keefe

Tickets: \$21.95

Our annual kick-off event hosted by Manitoba Lotteries always features some of the best talent of the festival!

THE WINNIPEG SHOW

Gas Station Theatre – 10:30pm

Host: Big Daddy Tazz

Performers: Chantel Marostica, Dan Robertson, Jeremy Williamz, Bruce Clark, Barry Kennedy, Keener, Ryan McMahon & Aaron Merke

Tickets: \$21.95

Some of Winnipeg's greatest comics gather to show their true colours and kick off the festival with a bang.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

THURSDAY NIGHT GALA:

THE EDUMACATION SHOW

Pantages Playhouse - 7:15pm

Host: Gerry Dee

Performers: David Hemstad, Karen O'Keefe, Dylan Mandlsohn, John Wing, Jon Dore, Steve Brinder & Nikki Payne

Tickets: Earlybird- \$34.95. After March 20 - \$39.95

DRÔLEMENT VÔTRES 8

CCFM - 7:30pm

Performers: Derek Seguin, Michel Roy, Vincent Dureault

LOL

Gas Station Theatre – 8:00pm

Tickets: \$17.95 OR get both Gas Station Theatre shows (LOL & Aaron Berg) for just \$25

A live recording of CBC's hit radio show LOL (Laugh Out Loud) - Canada's new home for comedy. Every week LOL features the best and funniest comics in the business. Recorded at festivals and comedy clubs across the country, LOL is the show to hear to stay on top of the Canadian comedy scene.

UNDERBELLY DAIRIES REDUX - AARON BERG ONE-MAN SHOW

Gas Station Theatre – 10:30pm

Tickets: \$17.95 or get both Gas Station Theatre shows (LOL & Aaron Berg) for just \$25

He was a bodybuilding steroid freak. He was a stripper and stud-for-hire for women and men. What's a nice Jewish boy doing in a life like this? Aaron Berg lays bare his life of sexual misadventures in a bracingly candid and frequently hilarious one-man show.

2010 - THE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

FRIDAY NIGHT EARLY GALA: THE HOME SHOW

Pantages Playhouse – 6:45pm

Host: Tim Nutt

Performers: Scott Faulconbridge, David Pryde,
Patrick McKenna, Don Burnstick, Cathy Jones
& Tammy Pescatelli

Tickets: Earlybird- \$34.95. After March 20 -\$39.95

HOT THESPIAN ACTION WITH GUEST APPEARANCE BY GREG MORTON

Gas Station Theatre – 8:00pm

Tickets: \$17.95 OR get both Gas Station Theatre shows
(HTA & The Shock of the New) for just \$25

Local sketch troupe and Fringe fest faves present a
combination of new sketches and fan favourites. Special
guest Greg Morton is a perfect compliment for HTA with
his slapstick and talent for mimicry.

FRIDAY NIGHT LATE GALA: WHOSE CANADA IS IT ANYWAY?

Pantages Playhouse – 9:15pm

Host: TBA

Performers: Derek Seguin, Don Kelly, Sam Easton,
Franco Taddeo & Gilson Lubin

Tickets: Earlybird- \$34.95. After March 20 -\$39.95

THE SHOCK OF THE NEW

Gas Station Theatre – 10:30pm

Host: Jon Dore

Performers: Sam Easton, Chantel Marostica, Arthur
Simeon, Jeremy Williamz, David Pryde, Aaron Berg &
Cara Lytwyn

Tickets: \$17.95 OR get both Gas Station Theatre shows
(HTA & The Shock of the New) for just \$25

Featuring some of our Artistic Director's favourite
up-and-coming talent in the comedy world.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

THE DEBATERS

MTC Warehouse - 1pm

Host: Steve Patterson

Tickets: \$21.95

A live recording of CBC radio's hit The Debaters, which
pits comics in a debate on some of the hottest topics of
the hour. Featuring six debates and 12 comics!

STORYTELLERS

Gas Station Theatre – 4:00pm

Performers: Gordon Pinsent, Barry Kennedy, Paul
Krassner & Michael Muhammad Knight

A brand new annual series of comic/serious storytellers.
Chapter One: The Outsiders. An intimate look at cultural
icons and iconoclasts.

SATURDAY NIGHT EARLY GALA: TRUE STORY...

Pantages Playhouse – 6:45pm

Host: Steve Patterson

Performers: Derek Edwards, Mike MacDonald, John
Sheehan, David Rakoff and others.

Tickets: Earlybird- \$34.95. After March 20 -\$39.95

HAMMY AND THE KIDS – KEVIN MCDONALD'S ONE-MAN SHOW

Gas Station Theatre – 8:00pm

Tickets: \$30

Kevin McDonald recounts the story of his success with
Kids in the Hall set against the backdrop of his childhood
with Hammy - his alcoholic father.

SATURDAY NIGHT LATE GALA: THE OBSESSIONS SHOW

Pantages Playhouse – 9:15pm

Host: Peter Keleghan

Performers: Greg Morton, Glen Foster, Aaron Berg,
Elvira Kurt & Trevor Boris

Tickets: Earlybird- \$34.95. After March 20 -\$39.95

2010 - THE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

THE DARK AND STORMY SHOW

The Garrick Theatre – 10:30pm

Host: Boyd Banks

Performers: Ron Vaudry, Sam Easton, Derek Seguin,
Karen O'Keefe, Jon Dore, Jeremy Williamz &
Chantel Marostica

Tickets: \$21.95

The return of our most popular show, our dirtiest, grimmest show has moved to a larger venue to accommodate all of our dirty, grimy fans. Last-minute additions to the performer list are almost guaranteed!

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

THE DEBATERS

MTC Warehouse - 1pm

Host: Steve Patterson

Tickets: \$21.95

A live recording of CBC radio's hit The Debaters, which pits comics in a debate on some of the hottest topics of the hour. Featuring six debates and 12 comics!

BEST OF THE FEST GALA

Pantages Playhouse – 7pm

Host: Elvira Kurt

Performers: Sam Easton, Barry Kennedy, Derek Edwards, Mike MacDonald, Jon Dore, David Hemstad & Ron Vaudry. Last minute additions are almost always a guarantee!

Tickets: Earlybird- \$34.95. After March 20 -\$39.95

Some of the festival's funniest performers stick around to the very end to give it their all in this final, hilarious gala!

GOING TOO FAR – COMEDY PANEL

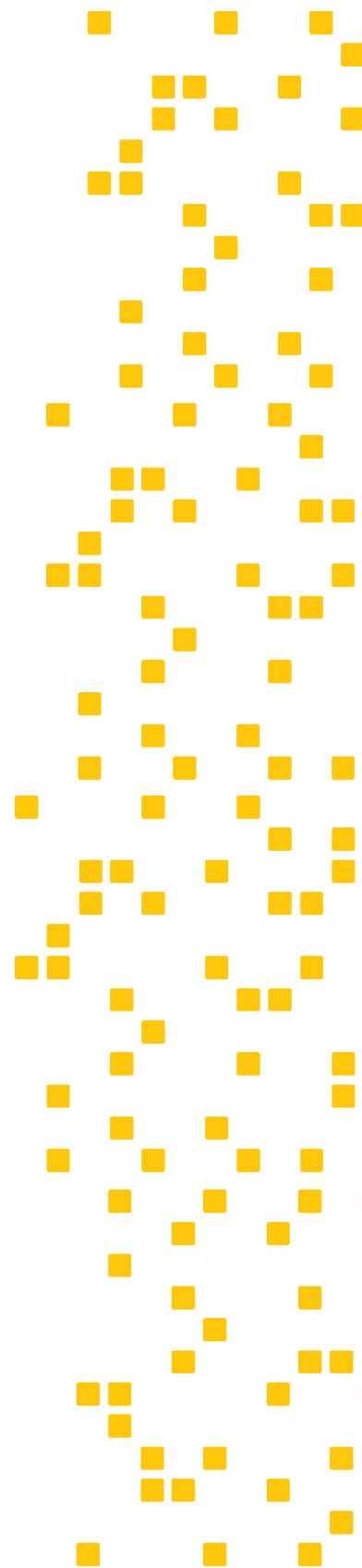
Gas Station Theatre – 7:30pm

Moderator: Bruce Clark

Panelists: Paul Krasner, Chantel Marostica and others.

Tickets: \$12.95

Where's the punchline in the sand?



OUTERSPACE & RURAL TOUR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

RURAL TOUR - CLEARWATER
Improv at the High School – 2:10pm
FREE workshop for students only

Clearwater Memorial Hall - 8:00pm
Tickets: \$20
Contact Jackie Johnson, 873-2646

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

**SNEAK PEEK/
PREVIEW OF THE WINNIPEG SHOW**
McNally Robinson – 7:00pm
FREE Outreach Event

Winnipeg Comedy Festival's Artistic Director Al Rae and local comedians Dan Robertson and Chantel Marostica get the crowds going with a sneak peek at the Winnipeg Show a week before the festival kicks off.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

**KELLY HUGHES LIVE!
SHOWCASES THE 2010 WCF**

Aqua Books – 7:00pm
FREE Outreach Event

Performers: Al Rae, Dean Jenkinson & Ryan McMahon
Artistic Director Al Rae and Winnipeg-born writer, comedian and musician Dean Jenkinson join Kelly Hughes on Winnipeg's only live talk show.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

RURAL TOUR - WINKLER
PW Enns Centennial Concert Hall,
783 Mountain Avenue, Winkler – 8:00pm
Tickets: \$20 available at Centennial Ticket Office

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

OUTREACH PROGRAMMING
Millennium Library – 12noon
FREE Outreach Event

Join Derek Seguin and Steve Brinder on your lunch hour for some stellar comedy.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

OUTREACH PROGRAMMING
Millennium Library – 12noon
FREE Outreach Event

Come see Elvira Kurt and Barry Kennedy for some out of this world comedy.

**KELLY HUGHES LIVE!
SHOWCASES THE 2010 WCF**
Aqua Books – 7:00pm
Performers: Elvira Kurt, Ron Vaudry,
Barry Kennedy & George Westerholm
FREE Outreach Event

Winnipeg's only live talk show, Kelly Hughes Live! is a free weekly show hosted by self-proclaimed Mayor of Winnipeg's Cultural City Hall, Kelly Hughes, at his diamond-in-the-rough used book store, Aqua Books.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

TEEN IMPROV WORKSHOP
Gas Station Theatre – 1:00pm
FREE Outreach Event

Join Scott Falconbridge and David Pryde Saturday afternoon for a 2-hour Improv Workshop. Must be 13 or older. Only 20 spots available so sign up early by sending an email to amanda@winnipegcomedyfestival.com

The CBC Winnipeg Comedy Festival

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COMEDY IS CULTURE

Winnipeg Cultural Capital of Canada 2010 supports the Winnipeg Comedy Festival

In celebration of Winnipeg's Cultural Capital year, the Winnipeg Cultural Capital of Canada 2010 (WCCC 2010) program is supporting festivals throughout the year specifically to expand their audiences, especially across cultural lines. At this year's Winnipeg Comedy Festival, WCCC 2010 is thrilled to be supporting the festival's efforts to engage a broader and more diverse audience.

"Canada is known for its output of great comedic talent, and Winnipeg especially," says Carol Phillips, Executive Producer of Winnipeg's Cultural Capital year. "We are excited to help the festival grow their audience, bring in more Winnipeggers, and give them a good laugh."

As part of the festival funding, WCCC 2010 is supporting Story Tellers, a new initiative that will engage comedic storytellers and audiences to develop understanding of other cultures through the age-old tradition of storytelling.

The Winnipeg Cultural Capital of Canada 2010 program is being produced by the Winnipeg Arts Council on behalf of the City of Winnipeg. In addition to unique events, WCCC 2010 will be supporting festivals like the Winnipeg Comedy Festival all year long, including the upcoming Jazz Winnipeg Festival, WSO's 2010 Indigenous Festival, the Asian Drumming Festival, and many more.

**For more information visit www.artsforall.ca
or contact Alix Sobler, Marketing and Communications at alix@winnipegarts.ca**