

GAS STATION ARTS CENTRE PRESENTS

WPG COMEDY FESTIVAL

10 YEARS OF HEAVENLY HUMOUR

Thou Shalt Laugh!
⚡ APRIL 1-10, 2011 ⚡

PRODUCED BY



FESTIVAL SPONSOR





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THE 2011 WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL



For Immediate Release

Thou shalt laugh at the 10th Annual Winnipeg Comedy Festival!

February 15, 2011 [Winnipeg] — In the beginning, there was... barely a comedy scene in Winnipeg. And Al Rae said "let there be a festival" and the comics came. Winnipeg saw that the comics were good, and they demanded another festival. Ten years later, the good people of Winnipeg still gather in April to celebrate this nearly mythical gathering of comics, and they call it the **Winnipeg Comedy Festival**. We say it every year [in our defense it really has been true each time!], but this is going to be our biggest festival yet. God may have created the world in six days and rested on the seventh, but there's no rest for the wicked! We just couldn't fit all our talent into a week - so this year it's TEN days long; **April 1-10, 2011**.

In celebration of our anniversary, we are bringing in one of Canada's biggest comedic talents; **Howie Mandel**. Hosting the Friday early gala "Misfortune Tellers", Mandel is undeniably the biggest name to ever perform in our festival. Five other galas feature some incredible hosts and laughable themes, including the much requested return of **Andrea Martin**, who's last WCF hosting outing was nominated for a Gemini, is back to host the musical gala "On That Note..." [Thursday night], **Nikki Payne** hosting "Does This Joke Make Me Look Fat?" [Friday late gala], and **Jon Dore** as host of "Crossing the Line" [Saturday late gala]. We're still confirming some very exciting hosts for "Hystereotypes" [Saturday early gala] and Best of the Fest [Sunday] shows! Some of our excellent gala performers include **Cathy Jones**, **Gavin Crawford**, **Sean Cullen** and **Jessica Holmes**.

We've also got a handful of CBC Radio's greatest shows recording live at the festival, including **Wiretap**, **DNTO**, and a few pilots they'll be testing on our audience as well! We've even added a second show of "Q" because the first one sold out within half an hour of Jian Ghomeshi's announcement in December.

Kevin McDonald has programmed a free lunchtime movie series of his five favourite comedy feature films. He will personally introduce each film and talk about its importance to the comedy genre, and he'll likely share his thoughts during the film too, because you just can't bottle that man's enthusiasm!

Many of our festival staples are back, including the always titillating "**Dark and Stormy**" and the little show that could "**Winnipeg Show**" that has become one of our strongest events! We are also bringing back the Aboriginal show [this year it's called "**Urban Unreserved**"]

From start to finish, the laughs are unstoppable. We open with our first ever official kick-off show "**First Gibbs**" with British import and Winnipeg Fringe best-seller Chris Gibbs. Also performing on the kick-off show is Winnipeg fave George Westerholm. We're co-presenting **Gerry Dee** at the Burton Cummings Theatre. We've got 36 shows, over 50 performers, tons of free programming, and it all wraps up with a roast of our, ahem, beloved Artistic Director Al Rae. Who could ever say anything bad about Al Rae? A lot of people. You won't want to miss this one. As an added bonus, it'll be at the Kum Koon Garden — delicious food AND great laughs at the expense of one of Winnipeg's most obnoxious Toronto exports.

The 10th Annual Winnipeg Comedy Festival: this shit's about to get biblical!

Tickets are available at www.winnipegcomedyfestival.com or 284-9477.
Early bird pricing in effect until March 12th.

For further information, please contact:
Anne Dawson, Director of Marketing & Communications
[204] 229-2762 or anne@winnipegcomedyfestival.com
www.winnipegcomedyfestival.com



Ten years.

That's five lifetimes if you're a rat. Just ask my rat. You celebrate 10 years with tin or aluminium, so if you see me with foil on my head, I'm celebrating - and also keeping the CIA from reading my thoughts.

We started with five shows, now we have 36. Winnipeg was a punch line, now it's one of the most respected comedy cities in the country. In fact, Just For Laughs came by this fall to check out our local talent. This year four local acts will be on our televised galas; we employ people year round and we get higher ratings than any other stand-up show on CBC.

We've lived thru three floods of the century and also the time the audio truck caught fire two minutes before the show.

We continue to be the main money earner for the Gas Station Arts Centre, which has also seen a lot of growth in the last 10 years. We lived thru the Bush Whitehouse and that year Ellen was a judge on Idol.

I feel like we're at the start of something. Twenty years doesn't seem that far off when you think you might wanna start having talks about the 15th anniversary party.

I couldn't have done it alone. I didn't do it alone. Our team is my family. They put up with me and in return we pay them next to nothing.

This year we are at it for 10 days. That's a lot of sleepless nights. In a good way. The shows feel good this year. Everything fits nicely and the music gala might be our most ambitious project ever. This year ends with a roast of me. What's to make fun of? I have the greatest job in the world.

Fuck, I'm old.

Al.



The 10 Day Schedule

Friday April 1

KELLY HUGHES LIVE!

Aqua Books / 7:00pm / FREE

FEATURING: Bruce Clark

Saturday April 2

GERRY DEE

Burton Cummings Theatre / 8:00pm / Tickets: \$47.45

Sunday April 3

CBC's "WIRETAP" — LIVE RECORDING

MTC Warehouse / 4:00pm / Tickets: \$22

FIRST GIBBS; A FESTIVAL KICK-OFF

MTC Warehouse / 8:00pm / Tickets: \$22

STARRING: Chris Gibbs, FEATURING: George Westerholm



The 10 Day Schedule

Monday April 4

KEVIN FEST

Gas Station Arts Centre / 12:00pm / FREE

Join Kevin MacDonald for some of his favourite comedic movies.

DAY ONE: "Young Frankenstein" [106 min].

INCONGRUOUS

Gas Station Arts Centre / 8:00pm / Tickets: \$15

The debut of Winnipeg writer Bruce Clark's play, inspired by the life and work of Irwin Barker.

Tuesday, April 5

KEVIN FEST

Gas Station Arts Centre / 12:00pm / FREE

DAY TWO: Kevin brings you "Love and Death" [85min].

HIGH SCHOOL IMPROV SHOW

Gas Station Arts Centre / 6:00pm / Tickets: \$5

COMEDY ACES

McPhillips Street Station / 8:00pm / Tickets: \$22

HOST: John Wing

ARTISTS: Nikki Payne, Big Daddy Tazz and Claire Brosseau

URBAN UNRESERVED

Gas Station Arts Centre / 9:00pm / Tickets: \$15

HOST: Wab Kinew

ARTISTS: Ryan McMahon, Paul Rabliauskas and Cara Lytwyn



The 10 Day Schedule

Wednesday, April 6

KEVIN FEST

Gas Station Arts Centre / 12:00pm / FREE
Day three: Kevin brings "Real Life" [99min] to the screen.

INCONGRUOUS

Gas Station Arts Centre / 7:00pm / Tickets: \$15

HOT THESPIAN ACTION — JUST THE HITS

Gas Station Arts Centre / 9:00pm / Tickets: \$22
The popular Winnipeg comedy troupe and festival favourite bring their greatest hits to their biggest fans.

Thursday, April 7

OUTREACH

Millennium Library / 12:00pm / FREE
Join Sherri Sutton on your lunch hour for some comedy so good you'll feel born again.

CBC's "Q" — LIVE RECORDING WITH JIAN GHOMESHI

Gas Station Arts Centre / 5:00pm / SOLD OUT

THURSDAY NIGHT GALA

Pantages Playhouse Theatre / 7:15pm
TICKETS: Early Bird until March 12th - \$34.95. After March 12th - \$39.95
TITLE: On That Note... The Musical Show
HOST: Andrea Martin
ARTISTS: Gavin Crawford, Cathy Jones, Sean Cullen and Jessica Holmes

DROLEMENT VOTRES 9

Cercle Moliere / 7:30pm / Tickets: \$15



The 10 Day Schedule

Thursday, April 7

RUMOR'S

Rumor's Comedy Club / 7:45pm / Tickets: \$15

CBC RADIO EXPERIMENTS

Gas Station Arts Centre / 9:00pm / Tickets: \$10

ACT 1: The End

ACT 2: The Lie Detective

STUDENT NIGHT!

Lo Pub / 9:00pm / FREE

Finally, a free night for starving, or fasting, students! Must be 18 years or older to attend.

MC: Darcy Michael

COMIC: Dan Licoppe

HEADLINER: Jimmy Tingle

Friday, April 8

OUTREACH

Millennium Library / 12:00pm / FREE

Come see John Hastings for some heavenly comedy.

KEVIN FEST

Gas Station Arts Centre / 12:00pm / FREE

DAY FOUR: "Heartbreak Kid" [106min].

CBC's "Q"—LIVE RECORDING WITH JIAN GHOMESHI

Gas Station Arts Centre / 5:00pm / Tickets: \$10



The 10 Day Schedule

Friday, April 8

FRIDAY NIGHT EARLY GALA

Pantages Playhouse Theatre / 6:45pm

TICKETS: Early Bird until March 12th - \$34.95. After March 12th - \$39.95

TITLE: Misfortune Tellers

HOST: TBA

ARTISTS: Trevor Willson, John Hastings and Elvira Kurt

KELLY HUGHES LIVE!

Aqua Books / 7:00pm / FREE

Nikki Payne pops in for a visit before hosting the Friday Night Late Gala.

DROLEMENT VOTRES 9

Cercle Moliere / 7:30pm / Tickets: \$15

RUMOR'S

Rumor's Comedy Club / 7:45pm / Tickets: \$15

FRIDAY NIGHT LATE GALA

Pantages Playhouse Theatre / 9:15pm

TICKETS: Early Bird until March 12th - \$34.95. After March 12th - \$39.95

TITLE: Does This Joke Make Me Look Fat? The Beauty/Body Show

HOST: Nikki Payne

ARTISTS: Carla Collins, Mrs. Hughes, Big Daddy Tazz, Pete Johansson, John Wing, Ryan Belleville, and Dana Alexander

THE WINNIPEG SHOW

Gas Station Theatre / 10:30pm / Tickets: \$15

HOST: John B Duff

ARTISTS: Bruce Clark, Cara Lytwyn, Dan Licoppe, Ryan Ash

RUMOR'S

Rumor's Comedy Club / 10:30pm / Tickets: \$15



The 10 Day Schedule

Saturday, April 9

CBC's DNT0 — HAVE I GOT A STORY FOR YOU!

Gas Station Arts Centre / 4:00pm / Tickets: \$15

HOST: Sook-Yin Lee

ARTISTS: Diane Flacks

SATURDAY NIGHT EARLY GALA

Pantages Playhouse Theatre / 6:45pm

TICKETS: Early Bird until March 12th - \$34.95. After March 12th - \$39.95

TITLE: Hystereotypes

HOST: TBA

ARTISTS: Ryan McMahon, Jimmy Tingle, Sherri Sutton, Darcy Michael, Darryl Lenox and Nile Seguin

RUMOR'S

Rumor's Comedy Club / 7:45pm / Tickets: \$15

INCONGRUOUS

Gas Station Arts Centre / 8:00pm / Tickets: \$15

SATURDAY NIGHT LATE GALA

Pantages Playhouse Theatre / 9:15pm

TICKETS: Early Bird until March 12th - \$34.95. After March 12th - \$39.95

TITLE: Crossing the Line

HOST: Jon Dore

ARTISTS: Dan Licoppe, Maureen Langan, Claire Brosseau, Sean Keane, Mike Ward, John Wing and Darren Frost

THE DARK AND STORMY SHOW

Gas Station Arts Centre / 10:30pm / Tickets: \$22

HOST: Pete Johansson

ARTISTS: Nikki Payne, Jimmy Tingle, Maureen Langan, Mike Ward and Darren Frost

RUMOR'S

Rumor's Comedy Club / 10:30pm / Tickets: \$15



The 10 Day Schedule

Sunday, April 10

KEVIN FEST

Gas Station Arts Centre / 12:00pm / FREE

On this, the final day of the festival, come bask in the brilliance of "Monty Python & the Holy Grail" [91min].

BEST OF THE FEST

Pantages Playhouse Theatre / 5:00pm TICKETS: Early Bird until March 12th - \$34.95. After March 12th - \$39.95

HOST: TBA

ARTISTS: Nikki Payne, Elvira Kurt, Jimmy Tingle, Maureen Langan, Darryl Lenox and Sean Keane

THE DARK ROAST — AL RAE ON A SPIT

Kum Koon Garden / 7:30pm / Tickets: \$55

HOST: Steve Patterson

ARTISTS: John Wing, Elvira Kurt, Bruce Clark and George Westerholm

We are still working on creating the most heavenly festival ever,
and more names will be announced in the coming weeks.



2011 Winnipeg Comedy Festival Lineup

HOSTS:

JON DORE
JOHN B. DUFF
JIAN GHOMESHI
JONATHAN GOLDSTEIN
PETE JOHANSSON
SOOK-YIN LEE
ANDREA MARTIN
KEVIN MCDONALD
STEVE PATTERSON
NIKKI PAYNE
JOHN WING

ARTISTS:

DANA ALEXANDER
RYAN ASH
RYAN BELLEVILLE
CLAIRE BROSSAU
BRUCE CLARK
CARLA COLLINS
GAVIN CRAWFORD
SEAN CULLEN
GERRY DEE
DIANE FLACKS
DARREN FROST
CHRIS GIBBS
ANDREW GROSE
SHANNON GUILLE
JOHN HASTINGS
JESSICA HOLMES
MRS. HUGHES
CATHY JONES
SEAN KEANE
WAB KINEW

ELVIRA KURT
MAUREEN LANGAN
DARRYL LENOX
DAN LICOPPE
JACQUELINE LOEWEN
CARA LYTWYN
RYAN MCMAHON
GARTH MERKELEY
DARCY MICHAEL
RYAN MILLER
PAUL RABLIAUSKAS
NILE SEGUIN
SHERRI SUTTON
BIG DADDY TAZZ
JANE TESTAR
JIMMY TINGLE
MIKE WARD
K. TREVOR WILSON
PETE ZEDLACHER

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GAS STATION
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We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our partners:

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