



MEDIA RELEASE

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STREETFEST: For a FUNomenal time!

Q: What's the most FUNomenal event in Edmonton this summer? A: The **Edmonton International Street Performers Festival, of course!** Festival performances are set to fill **Sir Winston Churchill Square** with FUNtastic performances from **July 8–17, 2016**. The Festival features over 1500 outdoor performances from an international cast of dynamic street artists, and promises to inspire and amaze audiences with a lineup of over 40 professional performers including rovers, dancers, comedy characters, musicians, magicians, jugglers and more! For more information visit www.edmontonstreetfest.com or call 780-425-5162.

From returning festival favourites to brand new acts, patrons will explore a variety of entertainment that is sure to keep everyone in a FUNbulous mood!

FUNtastic Newbies!

- **Cirque No Problem** is a comedy show that combines the traditional and modern circus. The ambiance and characters take their inspiration from the traveling circus companies of the 1920 and 30's. The technical equipment is especially designed to create massive effect (double trapeze, rope walking device) by using minimum gear and keeping the easy going atmosphere of a street show. The show is served with clever humour and public participation. It may sound complicated but it's really "No Problem".
- Born with the gifts of flexibility, curiosity, and goofiness, **Jonathan Burns** now uses these unique talents to astonish audiences around the globe. Over the course of his career, Jonathan has appeared on The Late Show with **David Letterman**, **The Jay Leno Show**, The Late Late Show with **James Corden**, dubbed "Extremely funny" by The New York Times, and was named "Variety Artist of the Year" by Campus Activities Magazine – TWICE! When he's not performing he can usually be found in an airport terminal or spending time with his family.

FUNbulous NEW Shows

- **Phileas Flash** is an international award winning British artist. The combination of his acclaimed balloon art and high octane entertainment, puts his work in hot demand worldwide. Look out for him roving around StreetFest this year and be ready to join in the fun!
- Joyous and filled with energy, **Andrea House** can be found singing and playing guitar, dressed as a silly character, or shaking a tail-feather in Kids' World! This year, look for Andrea all around The Square and in the late night events. Whether she is singing for Comedy Cares in the hospital, roving, or dancing with toddlers, Andrea can't wait to meet your family and celebrate the day!

- **John Ulyatt and Annie Dugan** are back from their StreetFest hiatus to bring you the Giant Magic 8 Ball. The co-founders of Edmonton's award winning Firefly Theatre & Circus are here for you to ask a question, and be amazed at the answer.
- **Shannan Calcutt** has performed everywhere from Saskatoon's Wash 'n Slosh Pub to the Sydney Opera House. Her work has been profiled in art magazines American Theatre and Border Crossings and broadcast on CBC Radio and Canada's Bravo! Network. CBC declared her "a national treasure."
- **Rhythm Speaks** is a dance crew that destroys boundaries and stereotypes. The crew fuses traditional pow-wow dance moves with b-boying/b-girling, sharing peace, love, unity and fun in the process. Bringing a newly staged show Rhythm Speaks is proud to be at Edmonton StreetFest

FUNomenal favourites!

- This pint-sized entertainer will have you on the edge of your seat as she comedically bends and contorts her body into freakily mind-boggling positions. If you want to see something memorable and entirely out of the norm watch **Bendy Em** squeeze herself into a tiny 16" Perspex Box balanced on a 7ft rig. This show should not be missed!
- **Aytahn Ross** has been seen live by over a million people around the world. This comic gentleman, vaudevillian and circus artist will teach artsy-fartsy circus skills at the Be Your Own Busker workshops. Also don't miss one of his feature shows as **The Great Balanzo**.
- Part charlatan, part super-villain and full time furniture enthusiast, **Chairman Jim** returns to StreetFest. Catch his show on Churchill Square, see him in Late Night Madness or learn the tricks of his trade in the Be Your Own Busker Juggling Workshops.
- **Nigel Martin**, aka **Mr. Spin**, is a comic, Vaudevillian performer who has been entertaining large and enthusiastic audiences worldwide for the last 20 years. With his ferocious energy and endearing, charismatic wit, Nigel Martin is a true comic genius and one of Australia's finest jugglers.
- Combining two of Canada's main exports, comedy and natural resources, **Mike Wood** is a comedian with a degree in mine engineering. He has been making people laugh for money since 1994. Mike Wood's comedy and engineering careers are now, themselves, part of a clever balancing act that may someday pave the way for home ownership.
- Local artist **Jason Kodie** returns as the **Mellifluous Mr. Bombo** on his roving piano. Be on the lookout for his mobile melody maker cycling about and producing the delightful and exquisite sounds from then and now.
- It's a fish! It's an alien! It's a perfectly posh pair out for their first ever al fresco adventure! Edmonton actor/dancer/professional dreamer Amber Borotsik is teaming up with clown Morgan Nadeau to mix up some street side silliness and infuse your summer with a dose of whimsy with **Something Fishy**.
- **Nick Nickolas** combines brilliant sleight of hand with a plethora of cracking one liners, interspersed with interactive audience amazement. Nick's a masterful magician, an outstanding entertainer, has performed and won awards in a magnitude of situations worldwide the last 20 years.
- **Rick Kunst** began his professional career in Florida, performing street theatre at Epcot Center in the early 1980's. Today he runs his own company, Men in Tights, where he performs Shakespearean improvisation and can be seen in commercials and television.
- Keep an eye out for our FUNbulous Festival staples. We welcome back our balloon artists **Dan the Balloon Man** and Stephen Dubetz aka **Pretzel**; our face painters **Cindy Lou**, **Lady Dolphin**, **Miyako**, **P'Wan** and caricaturist **Simon Glassman**.

It's FUNreal, It's FUNusual, It's **Late Night Madness** - an adult-only showcase filled with laughter and a different FUNomenal StreetFest cast each night. The FUNtertainment will tickle your funny-bone with everything outrageous, crazy and even a little naughty. Get ready for a FUNforgettable night of anything-goes comedy. **Friday, July 15** and **Saturday, July 16** at **11:11pm** at the **Stanley A. Milner Library Theatre** downtown. Featuring a different cast of StreetFest artists each night, this year's Late Night Madness is directed by **Mike Wood** (Friday) and **Nick Nickolas** (Saturday), with musical direction by **Jason Kodie**. Tickets are available for \$25 at the door; advance tickets are available for \$21 on-site at the Information Station, or online at edmontonstreetfest.com Late Night Madness is generously sponsored by The Ranch Roadhouse.

Troupe du Jour shows offer audiences the best of the fest with nightly performances at **10pm** in The Square. Showcasing a different cast of performers each night, the hour-long variety shows are suitable for the whole family and honour the pass-the-hat tradition. Special thanks to Global Television for their sponsorship and to MacLab Enterprises for their generous matching of all Troupe donations up to \$5000.

Located on the north east corner of Churchill Square, **Kids' World** offers non-ticketed, accessible performances, activities, and interactive playtime catered specifically to our little patrons. Director and Designer of Kids' World, **Harvey Anderson**, returns to help create smiling faces eager to hear the story of the "**Town of the little dog and the FUNtastical parade**". **Bob Rasko** entertains with his beloved character "**Farmer Bob**". We welcome AMJ Campbell Edmonton as our Kids' World Equipment Sponsor.

Festival patrons are invited to the **newly located north east corner of Churchill square** to try out the **Be Your Own Busker** workshops which take place daily from 11:30am to 5:30pm (July 17: 11:30am to 2:30pm). Having the opportunity to release that juggler from within...learn from the best on the street including **Aytahn Ross** (aka The Great Balanzo), and **James O'Shea** (aka Chairman Jim). This year's Equipment Sponsor for Be Your Own Busker is Civic Service Union 52.

StreetFest is once again proud to present **Comedy Cares**, an award-winning outreach initiative delivering healing smiles and chuckles to hospitals and care facilities – including the Stollery and Glenrose - in the Edmonton area. Visits this year are generously sponsored by the Kipnes Foundation and AMJ Campbell Edmonton.

StreetFest Info: 780.425.5162 or www.edmontonstreetfest.com

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