



## **OFF-JFL & Zoofest, in collaboration with Pabst Blue Ribbon, is making a splash this summer!**

**Montreal, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018** - OFF-JFL and Zoofest are fired up to announce this year's select lineup of sizzling shows. From July 19<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, comedy aficionados will unite for OFF-JFL's elite programming composed of today's celebrated names and faces in comedy as they perform in some of Montreal's most notable and intimate spaces. OFF-JFL continues to grow this year, lauding as the world's hottest hub for comedy.

### **SHOW-STOPPING SOLO SHOWS!**

There's no cooling down this summer as renowned stand-up stars are bringing the heat to Montreal's most iconic performance venues. Former *Weekend Update* anchor on NBC's *Saturday Night Live*, **Colin Quinn** is back to bring big laughs with his solo show run, *Colin Quinn: One In Every Crowd*. Notoriously filthy stand-up comedian, actor and podcaster extraordinaire, **Ari Shaffir** is set to destroy the room for two consecutive nights with his one-man show, *Ari Shaffir: Jew*. NBC's *Saturday Night Live* alum and star of the cult classic *Half Baked*, **Jim Breuer** will be returning to Just For Laughs for a four-night run of his solo show, *My Hand to God*. Canadian television actor and comedian, recognized for his time as a member of the sketch comedy troupe *The Kids in The Hall*, **Scott Thompson** is returning to OFF-JFL with his show *Après Le Déluge: The Buddy Cole Monologues*. Host of this year's *The Ethnic Show* and star of CBS' *Superior Donuts*, **Maz Jobrani** will also be gracing the OFF-JFL stage with a one-night-only solo performance. One of today's most in-demand comics and *The Nasty Show*'s fan-favourite, **Brad Williams**, will be performing three solo shows as part of this year's lineup. Actor, writer, stand-up, sketch and improv performer, and one of JFL's *New Faces* in 2015, **Chris Redd** is performing his solo show fresh off his debut season of NBC's *Saturday Night Live*.

Additional names and shows bulking up the OFF-JFL lineup include **Alex Edelman's** *Just For Us*, **Julio Torres' My Favorite Shapes**, **DeAnne Smith's Escape Room**, **Baron Vaughn**, **Janelle James & Tim Dillon**, **Baratunde Thurston's In The Future, We're All Dominican**, **Chad Daniels**, **Chris Distefano**, **Mike O'Brien's I've Been Doing Stand-Up My Whole Life**, **Sara Schaefer**, **Matt Braunger**, and many more to be announced!

## A CROWD FAVOURITE: CONCEPT and MULTI-COMIC SHOWS!

Back by popular demand, **Ari Shaffir's Renamed Storyteller Show** is returning to this summer's OFF-JFL lineup. Fans are invited to witness Shaffir and guests as they generously share what can only be their embarrassingly true real life tales in this popular series.

"Quiz Daddy", aka "Trap Trebek", aka **Scott Rogowsky** will be stepping out of the HQ smartphone trivia game with his smash talk show **Running Late with Scott Rogowsky**, which has featured all-star comics including Sarah Silverman, Paul Rudd, and Nick Kroll.

**Baron Vaughn** and **Open Mike Eagle** will co-host their show **New Negroes**, a term popularized during the Harlem Renaissance to imply an outspoken intellectual departure from long-standing racist ideology and institutions. Join them as they challenge black stereotypes and redefine the term "black people" as it is conventionally understood.

OFF-JFL's concept and multi-comic shows are guaranteed to burn up the summer. Festival regular and fan-favourite, **Alonzo Boddin**, is returning to the Just For Laughs' stage to play host for the revered **New Faces** series in OFF-JFL. There is no better fit than Alonzo to emcee an evening of laughs amongst comedy's most up-and-coming stars.

Fresh off its 100<sup>th</sup> show, **Rapp Battlez** is coming to OFF-JFL, hosted by brothers **Miguel and Freddie Rivas**. Long-time staple of the Toronto comedy scene (running on its eighth year!) Rapp Battlez gives some of Canada's most talented sketch comedians a platform to square off against each other for comedic, tête-à-tête rap battle supremacy. **Rapp Battlez** is a hilarious, off-the-wall mix of rapping, comedy and spectacle; think 8-mile meets WWE, only so, so much sillier!

Musical comedy trio and 2017 *New Faces Creators*, **The Cooties**, are bringing their distinct talents to this summer's festival in a three-night musical comedy and stand-up event, **Amp'd: The Music & Comedy Show** with Special Guests **Garfunkel and Oates** (Kate Micucci and Ricki Lindhome). The Cooties - Ethan Edenburg, Eric Jackowitz and Jacob Jeffries - are professionally trained musicians with an impeccable ability to blend sketch, music and mixed media into an unforgettable comedic experience.

Spotlighting the best of Aussie and Kiwi talent, **Late Nite Down Under** will be returning for two nights in OFF-JFL this year, and will include some of the funniest comics from the other side of the globe.

## WE LOVE OUR LOCALS AND WE KNOW YOU DO TOO!

Montreal's comedy community continues to rock, especially in this year's local line-up. Established hometown favourite concept shows, *Tinder Tales*, *LadyFest* and *Life Lessons: a Live Comedy Talk Show* with **Keith Waterfield** and **Leighland Beckman**, are joined by the likes of *Crystal Palace* featuring **Crystal Slippers**, **Thomas Leblanc** and **Tranna Wintour**, *Rad Dads!*, **Dan Ramos' COMEDY**, *Employees of the Year in Libro Magico*, *The Rerun: Friends (a comedic Live Read)*, *An Evening with Leighland Beckman* and **Emery Fine's A Night of Books and Reading**.

Improv fans won't want to miss shows like *Films in Focus*, *Colour Outside the Lines*, *The Blender*, *Dice of Destiny*, *Hell Ya/F#ck No*, Montreal's sketch comedy darlings in **Hot Raw Fire** in *Hot Raw Fire: All You Can Eat*, *Infamous*, *All Alone: A solo character Comedy Review*, Montreal's premiere video sketch show *Video Island*, *You're Hood's a Joke* and many, many more! In addition to these concept shows, married comedic duo **Jess Salomon** and **Eman El-Husseini** will also be performing at OFF-JFL this year with two co-headlining shows, *The El-Salomons*.

...BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!

This new programming only adds to the arsenal of premium talent already announced as part of the OFF-JFL lineup, including comedian-actor and one of the favourites from NBC's *30 Rock* **Judah Friedlander**; Canada's own comedian-actress **Sabrina Jalees**, who guest-starred on Amazon's *Transparent*; *Saturday Night Live* cast member **Melissa Villaseñor**; unfiltered comedian **Godfrey** in his *Yea...I Said It...* show; 20-year vet and *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert* regular **Tom Papa**; and *Life In Pieces* actor-comedian **Nick Thune** pairs up with *The Good Fight's* **Michael Ian Black** for their co-headlining show.

OFF-JFL will also feature comedians **Aparna Nancherla**, **Todd Glass**, **Neal Brennan** in his *Here We Go tour*, **Chris Gethard**, **Fortune Feimster**, **Gary Gulman**, **Mike Ward**, **Big Jay Oakerson**, *What's Your F@#king Deal* and countless others that bring their comedy A game to the stage.

And if you're still waiting for it... back by popular demand, the festival has lined up fan favourites: *Fest At The Nest*, *Midnight Surprise*, *Hosts with the Most*, *Best of The Fest* and the ever so popular, *The Alternative Show* hosted by **Andy Kindler**.

OFF-JFL & ZOOFEST OFFER THE MOST DIVERSE LINEUP OF TODAY'S TOP COMICS  
PASS IT ON!

Boasting the most affordable passes of the fest, OFF-JFL & Zoofest offer festival-goers with the most bang for their buck, providing pass holders with access to both series. One single pass allows you to reserve your tickets in advance for all OFF-JFL and Zoofest shows! Select any 3 or 6 shows for only \$49.99 and \$89.99. And for \$119.99, pass holders receive additional perks, including the offer of up to 3 free shows per night. Now, that's a summer sale!

This year's lineup is overflowing with over 200 of the boldest and brightest comedians from across the globe, shows for both Franco and Anglophiles, storytelling events, hit musical comedies, multi-comic showcases featuring prestigious performers, the most talked about concept shows, and MTL-centric showcases celebrating local legends. We're overwhelmed just writing about it.

More talented names to be announced shortly!

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