



JFL NorthWest Unveils Highly Anticipated Lineup of Comedy Greats & Best of the West

Inaugural Festival to Take Place February 18-27, 2016

Tickets on Sale Friday, December 11 at 10:00am PST at JFLNorthWest.com

(Vancouver, BC) – JFL NorthWest is pleased to announce the comedy lineup for its inaugural festival, which will take place from Thursday, February 18 to Saturday, February 27, 2016 at multiple venues across Vancouver.

**TREVOR NOAH • WANDA SYKES • LEWIS BLACK • MIRANDA SINGS • JEREMY HOTZ
JANEANE GAROFALO • RON FUNCHES • TODD BARRY • KYLE KINANE • HASAN MINHAJ
NICK THUNE • WES BARKER: STUNT MAGICIAN • THIS IS THAT LIVE • BERT KREISCHER
HARI KONDABOLU • THE NASTY SHOW WITH BOBBY SLAYTON, BIG JAY OAKERSON,
KURT METZGER & MORE...**

**IN ADDITION, JFL NORTHWEST HIGHLIGHTS THE BEST IN LOCAL TALENT WITH
“BEST OF THE WEST SERIES” FEATURING**

**INSTAGRAHAM • HIP.BANG! • 10 SPEED • THE HERO SHOW
SIDEKICKS • PHANTOM SIGNAL • THE RYAN AND AMY SHOW
KYLE BOTTOM’S COMEDY BUCKET • ALICIA TOBIN’S COME DRAW WITH ME
JOKES PLEASE! • TEENAGE DIRTBAG • KINGS HEAD COMEDY • VANCOUVERITE**

Trevor Noah – Friday, February 19 | Queen Elizabeth Theatre | 8:00pm

Trevor Noah is the most successful comedian in Africa. He is the host of the Emmy and Peabody Award-winning "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central, formerly hosted by Jon Stewart. Noah joined "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" in 2014 as a contributor.

Wanda Sykes – Wednesday, February 24 | Queen Elizabeth Theatre | 7:00pm

Wanda Sykes has been called “one of the funniest stand-up comics” by her peers and ranks among Entertainment Weekly’s 25 Funniest People in America. She is an American Comedy Award recipient, a 5-time Emmy Award winner, and the recipient of a GLAAD award for promoting a good image of equal rights for gays and lesbians. In addition to her multiple film and television credits, Sykes formed production company Push It Productions, which in its first year, has made a first look production deal with NBC, has a new series on OWN, and has shows currently in development with NickMom (Comedy Camp) and Comcast.

Lewis Black – Sunday, February 28 | Hard Rock Casino Vancouver | 7:00pm

Receiving critical acclaim as a stand-up, actor and author, Lewis Black has performed for audiences throughout Europe, New Zealand, Canada and the U.S. Known as the king of the rant, Lewis Black uses his trademark style of comedic yelling and animated finger-pointing to skewer anything and anyone that gets under his skin. His comedic brilliance lies in his ability to make people laugh at the absurdities of life, with topics that include current events, social media, politics and anything else that exposes the hypocrisy and madness he sees in the world.

Miranda Sings – Saturday, February 20 | The Centre | 7:00pm

International YouTube sensation Miranda Sings brings comedy, hit songs, magic tricks, dramatic readings of hate mail, and never before seen videos to Vancouver! The quirky superstar has over 60 million views on YouTube, has performed her one-woman show to sold-out crowds all over the world, and has made an appearance on Jerry Seinfeld's "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee". Don't miss this lipstick-wearing, epileptic eye-browed, crooked-smiling beauty live in person!

Jeremy Hotz – Friday, February 26 | The Vogue Theatre | 7:00pm

Canadian-born Jeremy Hotz has performed multiple times at Just For Laughs in Montreal to critical praise – including being hailed Best Performer by the Globe and Mail and Best in Fest by the Montreal Gazette. His accolades include the prestigious Dave Broadfoot Comedic Genius Award, Best Male Stand-Up, and a Gemini Award for Best Performance in a Comedy Show or Series for his work in the celebrated series "The Newsroom" on CBC, as well as the Jury Prize for Best International Performer at the Sydney Comedy Festival. Hotz brings his all-new stand-up show, *Jeremy Hotz: International Man of Misery*, to Vancouver as part of a national, coast-to-coast tour taking place in February 2016.

The Nasty Show – February 23-27 | Rio Theatre | 9:30pm

Five nights of nasty! One of JFL's longest running institutions at the Montreal Festival is making its way to Vancouver. The Nasty Show is the most raw, shocking, foul, filthy comedy show of the Festival. Consider yourself warned! Hosted by The Pitbull of Comedy, **Bobby Slayton**, The Nasty Show features **Kurt Metzger, Big Jay Oakerson, Kathleen McGee, and Tony Hinchcliffe**.

Janeane Garofalo – February 23 & 24 | Rio Theatre | 7:00pm

Actress and comedian Janeane Garofalo has been an American institution since she burst on the scene in 1992. In addition to her many memorable and critically acclaimed roles in film and television, most recently including Netflix's "Wet Hot American Summer: First Day of Camp", Garofalo is an outspoken activist, spoken word performer, and stand-up comedy entertainer known and respected around the world.

Ron Funches – Wednesday, February 24 | Biltmore Cabaret | 8:00pm

A regular on NBC's "Undateable", Ron Funches is also known for his roles on Comedy Central's "Kroll Show", Disney's "Crash and Bernstein", Fox's "New Girl", and his stand-up performances on NBC's "The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon", "Conan" on TBS, and Comedy Central's "John Oliver's New York Stand-Up Show". Also, he is one of Southern California's most huggable and squeezable comedians.

Todd Barry – February 25-27 | Yuk Yuk's | 7:00pm

New York City-based comedian and actor Todd Barry is widely recognized for his roles on HBO's "Flight of the Conchords" and the 2009 Oscar-winning film "The Wrestler". Barry is renowned throughout the entertainment industry for his nuanced, measured, and thoroughly original approach to stand-up. His decidedly low-key stage persona belies a deeply intelligent, often biting, occasionally absurdist

worldview - one lauded by discerning fans that seek a fresh, yet honest update to traditional observation and social commentary.

Kyle Kinane – Friday, February 26 | Biltmore Cabaret | 7:00pm

Kyle's new special *I Liked His Old Stuff Better* debuted on Comedy Central in January 2015. He has made appearances on “@midnight”, “Conan” and “Workaholics”, and can be heard as the voice of Comedy Central. Kinane’s first one-hour special, *Whiskey Icarus*, aired on Comedy Central in 2012.

Hasan Minhaj – Saturday, February 20 | Rio Theatre | 8:00pm

Hasan Minhaj is a comedian, actor, and writer in New York. A correspondent on “The Daily Show”, Minhaj was recently selected by the Sundance Institute to develop his solo show, *Homecoming King* at the prestigious New Frontier Storytelling Lab. He hosted the documentary special *Stand Up Planet*, produced by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and his viral web series, *The Truth with Hasan Minhaj* has been featured in publications such as The Huffington Post, Gawker, and The New York Times, which calls Hasan “a genial stage presence that makes you glad to be in his company and eager to hear what he has to say.” Minhaj has appeared on a variety of television programs including “Arrested Development” on Netflix, HBO’s “Getting On”, and “@midnight” on Comedy Central.

Nick Thune – Saturday, February 20 | Biltmore Cabaret | 9:30pm

Comedian/actor Nick Thune hails from the Great Northwest (Seattle), where he spent his early years growing up. Nick’s absurdist view and deadpan wit combined with the soothing lull of his guitar, have distinguished his unique style of comedy. He has appeared on “The Tonight Show” on eight occasions and has won each time. Nick has also appeared on “Conan” and has his own Comedy Central special. His debut album, *Thick Noon*, was released on Comedy Central Records in 2010 and was included in Amazon.com’s ‘Best of 2010 Comedy Albums’. Nick has also created two web series for Comedy Central – *iThunes* and *NicksBigShow.com*.

Wes Barker: Stunt Magician – Friday, February 19 | The Vogue Theatre | 7:00pm

Surrey, BC’s own Wes Barker has been featured on “America’s Got Talent”, “Wizard Wars” and was the winner on CW’s hit show “Penn & Teller: Fool Us”. His YouTube channel has reached 27 million views and his following keeps growing. Barker’s show features magic, comedy and stunts, and is full of amazing tricks, incredible feats and hilarious audience interaction. Basically, it’s awesomeness from start to finish.

This Is That Live – Saturday, February 27 | The Vogue Theatre | 3:00pm

Pat Kelly and Peter Oldring offer audiences an intimate look behind the studio door of CBC’s award winning satirical radio show, “This Is That”. With a healthy mix of character interviews and mockumentary stories, this live send up of public radio doesn’t just report the news, it makes it up!

Bert Kreischer – Sunday, February 21 | Rio Theatre | 8:00pm

Bert Kreischer is a stand-up comedian, actor, and reality television host (“Bert the Conqueror”, “Trip Flip”). He is a regular guest on “The Joe Rogan Experience” and “The Rachael Ray Show”, and has appeared on “Late Show with David Letterman” and “Jimmy Kimmel Live”. His one-hour special, *Comfortably Dumb*, appeared on Comedy Central and his book *Life of the Party, Stories of a Perpetual Man-Child*, shares the hilarious, outrageous stories that define his comedy and exemplify what has made him one of the best storytellers of his generation.

Hari Kondabolu – Thursday, February 25 | Biltmore Cabaret | 8:00pm

Hari Kondabolu is a Brooklyn-based, Queens-raised comic who has been called “one of the most exciting political comics in stand-up today” by The New York Times. His debut stand-up album, *Waiting For 2042*, was released in 2014 and he is currently NYU’s APA Institute’s Artist-in-Residence for the 2015-2016 academic year.

For more information and details regarding the complete festival lineup, please visit www.JFLNorthWest.com

JFL NorthWest is proud to welcome its partners SLEEMAN BREWERIES and DV BIA to its 2016 event.

JFL NorthWest is also pleased to partner with beVancouver. Representing 35 downtown Vancouver hotels, beVancouver will provide a wide range of accommodations and exciting JFL NorthWest ticket packages that can be found at www.bevancouver.com

For interview requests and publicity images, please contact Teresa Trovato at teresatrovatopr@gmail.com

JFL NorthWest can be found on the following platforms:

Website: www.JFLNorthWest.com

Twitter: www.twitter.com/JFLNorthWest (#JFLNW)

Instagram: www.instagram.com/JFLNorthWest

Facebook: www.facebook.com/JFLNorthWest

Media Contact:

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About JFL NorthWest

NorthWest Comedy Fest and Just For Laughs have joined forces to present JFL NorthWest, Vancouver’s comedy festival presenting some of the best in stand-up, sketch, and improv. The inaugural 2016 festival takes place February 18 to 27 at multiple venues across Vancouver and includes ten glorious days of hilarity and laughter in the middle of winter. Founded in 1983, the Just For Laughs Group has had but one goal in its 30-plus years of operation: Make People Happy. To achieve this goal, the Just For Laughs Group has focused on four major products: Festivals in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Sydney; television production including “Gags” seen in over 130 countries and on over 75 airlines and stand-up specials; live shows, such as Canadian tour dates for Jerry Seinfeld, Louis C.K., Jim Gaffigan and the Just For Laughs Comedy Tour; and talent management. www.jflnorthwest.com