

Women Fully Clothed are set to unleash their hilarity on Fredericton

It's a veritable who's who of Canadian comedy

by Ashley Bursey

They've got the seal of approval from the granddaddy of raunchy teenage comedy – Eugene Levy calls them “the five funniest women in Canada” – and for Teresa Pavlinek, that's just one of the reasons she loves being a part of the all-female comedy show, “Women Fully Clothed”.

“I'm in awe of the people I'm onstage with,” says the comedian, who got her start at “Second City” and, after a slew of Dora-nominated scripts, recently wrote and starred in “The Jane Show” on Global Television. She also co-wrote and starred in her own half-hour TV special, “As I Was Saying”, for The Comedy Network, as well as starred in five seasons of the Gemini nominated History Channel/PBS series, “History Bites”.

Women Fully Clothed is her latest venture; after working in television and film for a while, it was refreshing to get back to live comedy, Pavlinek says. And the troupe, featuring Kathryn Greenwood, Jayne Eastwood, Debra McGrath, Robin Duke, and Pavlinek is a veritable who's who of Canadian comedians.

And after a stint touring smaller Ontario cities – “we got a lot of free pierogies in Sudbury; we get that all the time,” Pavlinek laughs – they've decided to go national, with a show at the Playhouse in Fredericton on January 31.

“I think people want to laugh, especially if they've had hard times or this life has given them a crappy hand,” she adds. “I think laughter is definitely the best



Women Fully Clothed, featuring Kathryn Greenwood, Jayne Eastwood, Debra McGrath, Robin Duke, and Teresa Pavlinek bring their comedy to the Playhouse on January 31.

way to put things in perspective. You think, as a comic actor, what do I offer the world? I'm not curing cancer, but it's made me realize that laughter brings a lot to people...we've had people come to the show who have gone through horrible things or have been ill and they say, 'you have no idea what this brought to me'.”

The show, which, ironically, had a nine-month incubation period from the date of inception, gives the fabulous fivesome a chance to really branch out. They tackle subjects from preschool to colonial living without the stereotypical feminist man-bashing that seems so de rigueur for female comics these days.

“It's definitely a show for everybody, and men: don't be scared,” she says. “We're not going to make fun of you. We always joke; we love men! It's definitely not a show about menopause and periods. It's not that show. Although that

can be funny, we're not about that, and we really think it's a show you can enjoy with your girlfriends or your husband or partner or whatever.”

And it's genuinely relatable: jokes about everyday life run rampant, and the actors draw from their own experiences for most of the material.

“People tell us, ‘Oh my god, it was like I was watching my life flash before my eyes. We [write about] the relationships we see and the situations. People tell us they were hysterical, to the point where they couldn't breathe. I love that – when people say they were weeping with laughter. How often does that happen? It's great to unite an audience like that.”

“And men relate, too, because they've got women in their lives. Someone said that anyone who's ever encountered a woman before should see that show, and that's basically it.... We hear from men,

‘oh wow, I learned something.’ Because they see [women] from a different perspective; they see it being poked fun at, which is great. We laugh at ourselves in the show; we don't call men and women stupid.”

Feedback for the show has been wonderful, she adds, remembering an experience in Edinburgh, Scotland, where the show received kudos from an A-list of comedic actors.

“Edinburgh was amazing, it was incredible,” Pavlinek says. “A cool story is Tom Hanks, Rita Wilson, and Nia Vardalos, [who attended the Scotland show]. We always joke to come see our show, because you'll see famous people – not onstage, but in the audience. And that's been awesome, too. When there are peers you really respect coming to see our show...to hear Tom Hanks say, ‘Wow, it was incredible’.... that's definitely been our highlight.”

As for the show itself, a range of experiences light up the stage, including a Heritage-Minute-type skit with a lot more kick.

“I love them all, but I'd have to say the funniest one to do is a sketch that Kathy [Greenwood] and I do that she wrote called Sisters of the Wilderness.”

It's about Susanna Moody and colonial pioneers settling in Canada. It's a historical piece, but with the characteristic glee that made the group famous.

“Basically, Kathy read the book about their life and their struggles and she was like, how did these women do it? We complain about, ‘oh, I didn't get my latte this morning’...and these women were, like, cutting down trees and clearing land and having babies and writing books.

“So [Kathy] wrote this hilarious scene about these two women and how they do everything and still something's mis-

ing. It's basically a mirror about what we do today, trying to have it all, [to be] the mom and the partner and the career person, all of those things. Men and women really relate to it, because it poked fun at the fact that [our lives] really aren't that bad. Our lives are okay, actually.”

She laughs, adding, “That's my favorite to perform because we get to have funny accents and run around the stage in bonnets.”

And the sorority syndrome? Pavlinek says it's pretty much nonexistent; great actors and great friends, the five women constantly feed off each others' energy.

“I want to make stuff up [about our life on the road], like, ‘Oh, we're desperate housewives,’ but it's been amazing,” she says. “The thing that we love is that it's such a giving mentality, it really is. To a fault, almost. We can sometimes be too polite, and then it's like, no really, someone make a stand here. We're five very strong personalities, as well. You're not going to get comic actresses together without butting heads.”

“But we love traveling. We have such a fun time traveling together. It's such a fun thing for us to be able to leave that behind and have this really fun, rock and roll-esque show. We're not doing the blow and the heroin, but we get this chance to kind of be away and enjoy each other's company and play these phenomenal shows...we really revel in that, as opposed to [saying], ‘I want the biggest dressing room.’”

And now, performing out East for the first time, Pavlinek has high hopes for the show.

“We're friends with [comedian] Ron James who tours a lot through Canada and talks about the different areas. He does so well out East...he's said to us, ‘I'm sure you will.’ [But] you never know, right? You do a show somewhere and think it's universal but different towns are different, just the mentality, and stuff they're looking for and things like that.”

She pauses. “But comedy's comedy. You hope that it's universal enough that if people are out to enjoy themselves, they'll have a good time.”

Goodness, gracious, great wheels of fire!



Columnist Dan Hagerman has a good time playing Stuntman: Ignition

THE FINAL SCORE

by Dan Hagerman

“Stuntman: Ignition” (Xbox 360/PS3)

An action film just isn't an action film without a lot of cool car stunts. Everything from James Bond films, to anything directed by Michael Bay, to my most anticipated movie of the summer, “The Dark Knight,” have sweet chases and crashes. And, while watching these car scenes, haven't you ever said to yourself, “Boy, they sure make that look easy! I bet I could do that!” or, “The only way I'd feel safe doing that is if it was in a videogame!” Well, either way, you happen to be in luck with “Stuntman: Ignition.”

Stuntman: Ignition, as the title would suggest, puts you in the role of a stunt driver working their way from small-budget films and commercials up to summer blockbusters. Inside this game you'll find explosions, gratuitous slow motion, and enough heart-pounding action to keep you on the edge of your seat for hours. Well, if you think you can put up with your distressingly demanding directors, that is.

Graphics:

From the opening movie all the way up to the closing credits, it's pretty clear

that the creators of this game had their eyes on the best of the best of action movies. The cars all look incredibly slick and even the camera angles from your completed scenes look like they're straight out of a movie. From start to finish, your car will get dinged up from all that you'll be putting it through, too. The environments that you're in also show a lot of detail, which is good because some stages will have you repeat sections as a different character.

Gameplay:

This is the one part of the game you're either going to love or hate. In order to perform stunts, you're going to have to listen to your stunt coordinator, who sounds the same no matter which movie you're in. Your goal is to follow the instructions, which are made clear by yellow graphics on the screen showing you what to do and where to do it, within an allotted time period. You're allowed to mess up five stunts altogether in a run before you have to start over. Five stunts sounds like a lot, but there

are some scenes that allow you to do up to 100 stunts in the course of a couple of minutes. Not only that, but if you want to unlock all of the cars for freestyle modes, you'll have to get a significantly high score, and the only way to do this is to continue doing stunts without being interrupted, which can get really hard if you haven't memorized a level.

But, to the game's credit, when you finish your run, and if you've done everything reasonably right, you'll be treated to a theatrical-quality scene of your work. Because the runs are the same no matter what, the game's developers were able to make every scene look good no matter what. When you finish all of the scenes for a given movie, you'll be given a movie trailer, which has some of your best stunts spliced right into the video! The effect of having your “work” show up in a trailer is quite fantastic, and something that kept me quite excited throughout the game.

But what happens when you finish your movies? Think it ends there? Did

I also mention that you can race and stunt online against other people? Or even create your own stunt areas using stunt objects? Because you totally can. It adds to the value of the game, and offers a little bit more competition once you think that you're the Sultan of Stunting.

Sound:

Considering the entire game is about pyrotechnic explosions and car engines, the sounds are all unique and very powerful. The music tracks in each level sound appropriate to the type of movie that you're in (banjo music for the Dukes of Hazzard rip-off, epic score for the Batman rip-off, etc.), and each director has their own individual character that comes across, giving a little bit of a humorous edge to everything.

The Final Score:

This isn't a game for everyone. The sheer difficulty and repetitive nature of re-doing your scenes often will turn some people away. But I'm a perfectionist, and re-doing things until they're perfect is right up my alley, and is especially gratifying considering the finished product. The graphics may not be 100% perfect, but when you're driving really fast and trying to hit specific markers, it becomes less of an issue.

In many ways, this game is a lot better than the first Stuntman game due to the increased power and storage of the Xbox 360 and PS3, but the big driving force behind the game (pun most definitely intended) is doing stunts and looking cool while doing them, and the game achieves that without a doubt. Plus, this game gets bonus points just for having a movie inspired by the new Batman film.

7 out of 10 burning tires.

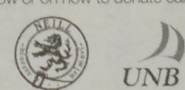
Neill House presents



the Annual Coffee House and Silent Auction

Local Talent for a Great Cause

Neill House's Annual Coffee House is a major fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society and features many young talented people from the residence community at UNB as well as local acts. Look forward to musicians, poets, actors and comedians as this year's show draws close again. For information on the show or on how to donate call 457-3191.



What: Coffee House and Silent Auction

When: Friday, January 25, 2008

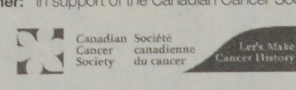
Where: SUB Ballroom, UNB

Cost: \$5.00

Time: Doors open at 6 pm

Auction closes after the intermission

Other: In support of the Canadian Cancer Society

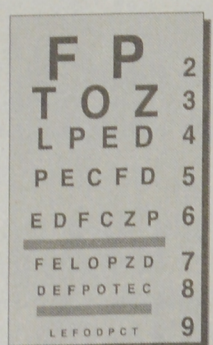


BEST SUMMER JOB EVER!

KEN MONT
KEN WOOD

Join our team! Premier brother/sister camp located at the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains in Kent, CT. World class facilities located 2 hours to NYC, 4 hours to Boston. 200 acre facility includes waterfront activities, team sports, individual sports, outdoor adventures, extreme sports, performing and visual arts programs. Looking for staff who have a love for working with children and enjoy being a part of a team. Jobs available include specialty counselors, general counselors, office/secretarial staff, camp store staff and other administrative staff positions. E-mail tom@kencamp.com or Phone Tom Troche at 305-673-3310. Browse our website at www.kenmontkenwood.com and fill out our application. Contact us if you would like to meet one of our staff on your campus.

Dr. T. Wayne Lenehan / Dr. M. Michele Leger Optometrists “Family Eye Care”



Eye Examinations
Contact Lens
Frame Selection
Laser Care

458-8986

New Patients Welcome



Office Hours
Monday-Friday: 8am - 5pm; Thursday: 8am - 8pm
512 George St.



So here's the deal.

After a weekend at the Canadian University Press conference, taking seminars about heteronormative reporting, Jack Layton's stance on marijuana possession, the indie album phenomenon, copyright laws, and open source (I'm looking at you, Doug Estey) and the journalist syndrome, as well as hearing from the nation's entire hipster population (please, please, please, I'm so sick of pashminas and ankle boots), I've realized that I could write a kick-ass column full of fascinating things I learned – or, I could do something a little bit better.

I could ask you guys what you want to learn.

That's right. We've got a small staff at The Brunswickian, so I'm going to be honest with you. I try to cover stuff happening around town and on campus. I'm not funny, so I try to bring in writers who tickle a funny bone or two. I want to focus as much on popular culture, the fine arts, music, books, television, movies, and technological entertainment as I can. With some newspapers across the country going so far as to appoint a ‘Culture’ editor, or separate ‘Arts’ and ‘Entertainment’ into two distinct entities, I realize that there may be something severely lacking in my own coverage of the stuff you read.

So I have a plan: Write to me. Tell me what you love and what you absolutely despise. Tell me what I should cover, what you'd read about, what would get you riled up. Tell me if you'd like to write for me. Direct me to that killer book you read, the phenomenal movie you saw, the jaw-dropping art exhibition, the amazing band, or the terrible webcomic that's just so bad, it's good (as we say Powerthirst?)

Come visit me at the Bruns office in the SUB or drop me a line at bruns.arts@gmail.com. We've got a full semester left and we want to make the Bruns as kick-ass as we can. Oh, and Jack Layton? Let's just say he's very grassroots.