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ARTS & LIFE

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# EXPLORE THE FRINGE Festival has international flavour

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FOR THE LEADER-POST

The Regina International Fringe Festival is becoming a truly international event with performers from as far away as France and the United Kingdom.

"Every year, we draw more and more performers from around the world," said John Sadowsky, the event's producer.

International performers include Robert Cox from London, UK, in the critically acclaimed play *Frustrated*, about a failed nurse working on an acute psychiatrist who bears the name of God. The show is based on Cox's former experiences as a psychiatrist nurse.

Also from the United Kingdom, and back for his second year in Regina, is Colin Godbout, who will be doing performance poetry in *Can Birds in Flight Off*.

The piece was inspired by audience feedback that told him he is more fun to watch than his performance as a belly dancer. Dublin, a Canadian, who divides his time between Paris and Toronto, will be showcasing his musical talents in "31



Colin Godbout is performing at the 2011 Regina Fringe Festival.

(s) Kaberetti. It's a show about the last remaining performer from a cabaret-dominated period by the government.

Three plays from Regina are also included in the Fringe lineup. *Gramma*, written and performed by Mark, is an autobiographical story about two women from different cultures who end up sharing a home.

Fringe veterans Alan Breat is performing in *Object*, about a man being his fight against time and gravity.

*Relly Sandoz*, *Ada Lee Henry* and *Kerr Evans* will be doing two short plays — *Surprise* and *Survive* — as part of a show called *Time and Death*.

"We like to include more local performers," said Sadowsky, but the festival only

with a few Regina applications each year.

The Fringe will also have children's entertainment on Saturday, featuring a musical by *World Champion hoop dancer Terrance Lintemont* and *Chance Theory*.

"Fringe brings to Regina five independent theatre performances that people might not be able to see otherwise," said Sadowsky.

From New York comes *Spitting in the Face Of The Devil*, a comedy solo show performed by Bob Brader who tells his true story of war-time his character as Marine father in a political.

A number of acts this year also come from Ontario. Ottawa's Emma Goddard stars in the one-woman show *Old Legends* about a twenty-something who revisits a family secret.

These acts are coming from London, Ont., including Jeff Culbert's *The Donnelly Siblings* about Johnny O'Connor, a boy who hid while he had during the infamous Donnelly murders of 1981, where five members of the Donnelly family were killed by snaphans. Also from London are two 30-year-old actors Peter Nelson and Matt Stewart, with their production *Men Telling Stories*, which is

a mix of monologues, song parody, and stand-up comedy. *James McDonald*, who plays a heady, literary man in *East Isle*, is also well-regarded at the Regina Fringe.

Alberta is also well-represented at the Regina Fringe, now in its seventh year. *Comics from Edmonton* is *Mythic*, about two lovers, *Bronson Campbell* and *Michael Davidson*, whose lives are intertwined with the clouds.

From Calgary is *Think It's Our Youth* about antique toys and cars.

The play stars Geoff Brown, Randy Burke and Cassidy Brown.

Sebastian Burns, who can be seen in *Red*, also hails from Calgary.

*Red* is a retelling of the story *Little Red Riding Hood* that allows audience members from both *Red* and the *Wolf*.

Vancouver guitarist Colin Godbout also has put together a musical comedy called *Trans-Canada 98*, which includes *Jeff Culbert's The Donnelly Siblings*, *Colin Godbout's Men Telling Stories*, which is

St. Mary's Anglican Church, the Unitarian Fellowship Church, the Anglican on 14th and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum are the venues for the festival.

More information can be found online ([www.reginafringe.com](http://www.reginafringe.com)).

## Dine + Dash a fast-paced comedy

**Dine + Dash** is a fast-paced comedy that takes place in a diner. In our show, there are two comedians who are combining with the monologues.

It's an interesting concept. The group of which Sadowsky is part — Regina-based The Blue Room Company — look two short plays by *Surprise* by Mark Harvey Lewis and *Survive* by David Breat and tied them together with monologues written by Virginia Lewis, a playwright from Regina who

is now living in Toronto.

*Dine + Dash* is directed by Jason Polakovich. The actors are Sadowsky, Ada Lee Henry and Kerr Evans. Yelma-Lampson is the main manager. The Blue Room Company program, in which hours in that room and so we decided to name ourselves *The Blue Room Company*.

The work is tied together by the dinner theme and there may be a couple of sketches on the menu. *Surprise* features a couple on a date. It's a political, but can only see two minutes into the future. That

doesn't please the woman, who's not amused by the fact he can finish her sentence. *Survive* involves a couple meeting for the first time. Every time something goes wrong in the conversation, a bit rips, the story over and the couple gets to redo the conversation.

"I really wanted to put a show about *Prize Party*," Sadowsky said of how *Dine + Dash* came to be. "It's kind of preposterous to us in school that you need to make your own work to need to bring your work to

## C'mon has found the right mix

**C'mon** plays O'Hanlon's in Regina on Friday.

White thousands will flock to Wascana Park on Friday to catch the fireworks, those who check out rock group C'mon at O'Hanlon's will see the venerable pub lit up by one of the hardest working bands in the business.

Featuring members of steady groups like *Change of Heart*, *Monster Voodoo Machine* and *Nashville Pussy*, the three-piece create a symphony of sound greater than its parts.

According to bass player, considered rock royalty by those who choose to venture beyond radio, Friday's show will be no exception and as their previous times through the city.

"Our show has always been a commitment to rock, wit, and sound, but the main difference this time around is that we're playing some different songs."

"It's really a combination of what we always do," said Breat.

"People know that we put on a certain type of show — which is a high-energy rock show — and that plays on a lot of new songs."

Through *Bittern* front-of-reformed groups like *Change of Heart* and *Monster Voodoo Machine*, he's quick to note that the success of C'mon is equally attributed to his bandmates.

"A lot of people focus on me," he jokes. "But I'm really a combination of what we always do." said Breat.

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Whether one makes the band list or listens to one of their essential albums, like *2010 Beyond The Pale*, however or their recently released *10-inch record*, it's instantly apparent that the band's greatest strength is

their chemistry.

Breat notes that the chemistry stems from the necessary respect and perspective that only seasoned musicians can appreciate.

"This, trying to avoid impatience for many years on each other, the trip has been a minimal amount of time, most important being that the band refuses to do anything unless all three parties agree."

"No one wants to be doing something that they don't want to be doing," explains

Breat. "We're too old for that."

The whole idea of some instruments and all that stuff that comes with being in a younger band is non-existent in our band.

Our era is called the *Freedom* because when you get in it you're allowed to do anything you want within reason. It's a reflection of where we've all got to at this point.

"We've all had all these rules that we had from all these bands that we've been in that that feel we can't do all these rules."

If it's a band, when you're younger you tend to think that your band is so important to everything, and it's like we just don't see it that way. It's like we're a band, and while it's awesome and it's super fun to be doing it, it's not going to fix the plumbing in your house or make your car run when you're older work."

"Self-empowerment is one such thing. It's really a mission — it's not like you're going out and doing something that has to do with the world at that particular moment. But you're bringing joy to people and all that, but you're not doing something that's important."

"Music is incredible, but music is bigger than any one band."



C'mon is playing O'Hanlon's in Regina on Friday.

## Jeff Bridges goes folk with new recording

JEFF BRIDGES

LOS ANGELES — Add Jeff Bridges to the long list of Hollywood actors who have branched into rock stars.

He comically played a washed-up country singer in *Crash* (2004), and in real life, Bridges is now a credible promoter of his first album for a major label.

He took the stage at the Troubadour nightclub in Los Angeles Tuesday to perform an hour-long set of folk-oriented songs drawn mostly from his self-titled release, due out Aug. 18 through Blue Note Records.

"This is a surreal, man," he said. "This is very surreal." Bridges, the 50-year-old actor, is no novice on the acoustic guitar, and the album is an intimate project. He recalled that the day he played the ballad *Waves* was his first "necessary" in his early years.

He went on to collaborate with the composer Quincy Jones, who introduced him at Troubadour last year. Bridges is "one of those guys who just doesn't stop playing a reference to the then-prevailing hippie scene."