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# Niagara Falls Comedy Fest super-sized for 2011

*Popular celebration of stand-up expanded to three nights, four shows*  
*Komedya for Kidneys Rodney Pentland Memorial Benefit Show kicks off Fest Feb. 3*

Niagara Falls, ON – The Niagara Falls Comedy Fest is building a bigger barrel to hold all the laughs this year!

The annual celebration of stand-up comedy – billed as “A Barrel of Laughs” in reference to the city’s checkered history of barrel-riding daredevils – has been expanded to three nights from its traditional one, with comedy shows scheduled for February 3, 4 and 5.

“We may need to change our tagline to ‘A Vat of Laughs’ or ‘A Super Tanker of Laughs’,” joked Dino Fazio, General Manager of the CAA Winter Festival of Lights and organizer of the Niagara Falls Comedy Fest. “I would be thrilled to be expanding the Comedy Fest for no other reason than it means more laughter, something the world sorely needs. But the fact that we’re also helping a couple of great charitable causes makes it that much better.”

The centrepiece of the 2011 Comedy Fest is *The Big Show*, a night of cross-border comedy featuring well-known Canadian comedian John Wing and equally-popular U.S. comedian Jebb Fink. The catch? Wing has been living in Los Angeles for years while Fink, a Los Angeles native, now calls Calgary home. Their respective views on both their native and adopted lands may cause an international incident! The show starts at 8pm at the Seneca Queen Theatre on Queen Street in Niagara Falls. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door. Advance tickets are available from the CAA Winter Festival of Lights at 905-374-1616, ext. 40, or email [janet@wfol.com](mailto:janet@wfol.com).

New to the Comedy Fest this year is *The X Factor Show*, sponsored by Bev Hodgson Law and Ken Lankin Mortgage Intelligence Niagara. Named for the X chromosome, the show features three gifted female comedians in a show on February 4 that will be the perfect opportunity for a girls’ night out. The show starts at 8pm at the Seneca Queen Theatre, but the doors open at 5:45 for a pre-show party featuring hors d’oeuvres, mini massages, sexy firefighters, door prizes and a cash bar. Tickets are \$50 (including the party and the show) and are available by calling Bev Hodgson Law at 905-354-1600 or Ken Lankin Mortgage Intelligence Niagara at 905-356-8984. Tickets for *The X Factor Show* only are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the YWCA.

Later that night, the Seneca Queen will host a late show called...*The Late Show*. Okay, the name isn’t great, but the comedians sure are – Canada’s favourite Italian Canadian comedian Frank Spadone and Niagara’s own Donnie Coy. The show starts at 10:30pm and is likely to include a little mature content. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. Advance tickets are available from the CAA Winter Festival of Lights at 905-374-1616, ext. 40 or email [janet@wfol.com](mailto:janet@wfol.com).

The festival opens on February 3 with a Niagara Falls entertainment tradition – *Komedya for Kidneys: The Rodney Pentland Memorial Benefit Show* at the Greg Frewin Theatre. Pentland was a popular comedian from Niagara Falls who passed away in 2009 after a long battle with kidney disease. Some of his closest friends from the tight-knit world of stand-up comedy will perform on the same night, with all proceeds going to a new dialysis unit in Niagara Falls. The show begins at 8pm. Tickets are \$25 each and are available by calling the Greg Frewin Theatre box office at 905-356-0777 or sending an email to [tickets@gregfrewintheatre.com](mailto:tickets@gregfrewintheatre.com).

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