

Embargoed until July 13, 2023 – 7:00 AM ET

JUST FOR LAUGHS

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL LINEUP WAS
DONE...

Just For Laughs MONTRÉAL

REVEALS A ROSTER OF NEW ARTISTS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMING
ADDED TO THEIR 41ST EDITION

The prestigious JFL Awards Show will honour

Actor, Rainn Wilson

who will be in attendance to accept the Comedy Impact Award
and will give a Keynote Address not to miss!

Joining the Awards festivities, presenters include

Neal Brennan, Carolyn Taylor, Ramy Youssef, Rachid Badouri

**And hosted by the master of Award Shows,
Comedian, James Davis**

Back by popular demand, the one-of-a-kind crowd work series,

SURROUNDED

With comedic heavyweight headliners,

Mae Martin, Marlon Wayans, Jess Hilarious, Sam Morril, Fortune Feimster

Joining these headliners,

**Chris Redd, Jay Pharoah, Sasheer Zamata, Brad Williams, Steph Tolev, Che
Durena, Hannah Berner, Preacher Lawson, Joel Kim Booster, Brian Simpson,
Rosebud Baker, Nate Jackson, Felipe Esparza, Dan Soder, and Annie Lederman.**

ComedyPRO's Live All-Star Cast Read of the iconic film,

"Airplane!"

Directed by David Zucker

Cast will include,

**Jack Whitehall, Sasheer Zamata, Craig Robinson,
Brad Williams, Joel Kim Booster, and many more surprises**

Keynote Address with Rainn Wilson,

Canadian Pie: Keynote Address with Steph Tolev,

The State of the Industry Address with Jessica Kirson

**And an All-Star TikTok Panel with Jonathan Van Ness, Hannah Berner,
and more!**

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New solo shows added include,
Marlon Wayans, ALOK, Trey Kennedy, Alingon Mitra, Noel Miller, Ali Macofsky,
Sydnee Washington, Robby Hoffman, Dulcé Sloan, Debra DiGiovanni,
Josie Long, Nimesh Patel, and a special podcast recording to commemorate
The Comedy Store's 25th Anniversary!

The festival runs from July 14th to July 29th, 2023

Tickets for Just For Laughs MONTRÉAL can be purchased at www.hahaha.com

MONTRÉAL July 13, 2023 - Just For Laughs is excited to announce a whole new roster of artists who have joined the 41st edition of the festival.

JUST FOR LAUGHS AWARD SHOW - Friday, July 28 2023 | DoubleTree by Hilton, Grand Salon Ballroom | 3:00 PM

Hands-down, the funniest celebration with the biggest stars in comedy is the Just for Laughs Award Show! Don't miss the raucous festivities and sincere camaraderie as friends, mentors, and fellow comics honour the comedy stars who made us laugh the most in 2023.

This year's recipient:

Comedy Impact Award – Rainn Wilson

Award-winning actor, writer, producer, and NY Times Best-Selling author, **Rainn Wilson** is known for his diverse comedic and theatrical roles. He gained recognition in HBO's "Six Feet Under," which earned him a Screen Actors Guild Award. However, his most iconic role was the unforgettable "Dwight Schrute" on NBC's Emmy-winning comedy "The Office," which earned him three Emmy nominations. As an author, Wilson's most recent NY Times best-selling book dropped last spring titled, "Soul Boom: Why We Need a Spiritual Revolution". In the book, he explores the possibility and hope for a spiritual revolution to address today's greatest issues – mental health, racism and sexism, climate change, and economic justice. Wilson's digital media company, SoulPancake, has over 3.5 million subscribers and explores various topics such as religion, art, science, philosophy, and culture. In 2020, Wilson hosted a six-part docuseries, "An Idiot's Guide to Climate Change" on YouTube that he created with SoulPancake. In the series, Wilson embarks on a quest to better understand climate change basics and how individuals can help combat its dangerous effects on the planet. Most recently, Wilson hosted a six-part travel docuseries "Rainn Wilson and The Geography of Bliss" in which he travelled around the world to discover how different cultures find happiness. In addition to his artistic endeavours, Wilson co-founded the non-profit organisation "The Lidè Foundation," providing arts and literacy education to at-risk adolescent girls in Haiti, alongside his wife, author Holiday Reinhorn.

Joining the Awards festivities,

Rachid Badouri – who will present to Ronny Chieng

Neal Brennan – who will present to Bert Kreischer

Carolyn Taylor – who will present to Mae Martin

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Ramy Youssef – who will present to Quinta Brunson
Hosted by the Master of Award Shows,
Comedian, James Davis

SURROUNDED - Tuesday, July 25, 2023 – Thursday, July 26, 2023 | Studio Hydro-Quebec
| 7:30 PM & 10:00 PM

Join us at Surrounded, an electrifying comedy show where the audience is the material. Today's best comedians take the stage with nothing more than the mic and their wit, turning everyday interactions into memorable punchlines. In the intimate venue, anyone surrounding the comedian is fair game. It's all about the unexpected! With no script or pre-planned jokes, we guarantee a night of hilarious improvisation, one-of-a-kind moments, and uproarious laughter. Because each show is 100% crowd work, all six shows will be completely different! Get ready to be "Surrounded" by today's best comedic talent and have a chance to become a part of the action!

Star-studded lineup includes **Mae Martin, Marlon Wayans, Jess Hilarious, Sam Morril, Fortune Feimster, Chris Redd, Jay Pharoah, Sasheer Zamata, Brad Williams, Steph Tolev, Che Durena, Hannah Berner, Preacher Lawson, Joel Kim Booster, Brian Simpson, Rosebud Baker, Nate Jackson, Felipe Esparza, Dan Soder, and Annie Lederman**, with more names to be announced on the website shortly!

COMEDYPRO SPECIAL EVENT

AIRPLANE! Live All-Star Cast Read directed by David Zucker - Thursday, July 27 2023 |
DoubleTree by Hilton, Grand Salon Ballroom | 4:00 PM

JFL celebrates the 43rd anniversary of the ground-breaking and legendary comedy film, *AIRPLANE!* with a raucously fun live staged reading of select scenes from the original script, by an All-Star cast of comedians including: **Jack Whitehall, Sasheer Zamata, Craig Robinson, Brad Williams, Joel Kim Booster, Chris "Shockwave" Sullivan and more surprise guests.** Lead by Writer-Director **David Zucker** the reading will be followed by an "In Conversation" revealing candid insights and true stories from his upcoming book, *"Surely You Can't Be Serious: The True Story of Airplane!"*

Rainn Wilson Keynote Address - Friday, July 28 2023 | DoubleTree by Hilton, Grand Salon
Ballroom | 11:30 AM

Rainn Wilson delivers the American Keynote Address at this year's ComedyPRO.

Canadian Pie: Steph Tolev Keynote Address - Wednesday, July 26 2023 | DoubleTree by
Hilton, Inspiration Room | 2:00 PM

Comedian Steph Tolev delivers the Canadian Keynote Address at this year's ComedyPRO.

State of the Industry Address with Jessica Kirson - Friday, July 28 2023 | DoubleTree by
Hilton, Inspiration Room | 4:45 PM

Jessica Kirson is being hailed as an overnight success...even though that night has been 24 years in the making. And now the next milestone, Jessica Kirson is taking the reins of one of most anticipated and (for some) dreaded Just For Laughs traditions, the annual State of The Industry Address. Previously delivered for 20+ years by Andy Kindler (and once by his hologram) the State

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of the Industry has always been a comic's comic event. Come this year to hear a new perspective—some roasting, a sear, and some low simmer pot stirring from one of the industry's funniest members.

Building Your Comedy Audience Up Close and Vertical, presented by TikTok - Saturday, July 29 2023 | DoubleTree by Hilton, Inspiration Room | 2:30 PM

This timely panel brings together popular comedy creators **Hannah Berner (@hannah_berner)**, **Jonathan Van Ness (@jvn_official)**, and **Zarna Garg (@zarnagarg)** who's dedicated and engaged followers on the platform have empowered them to find new paths to success. Join moderator **Darcy Michael (@thedarcymichael)** and TikTok's Head of Entertainment, North America, **Catherine Halaby**, as they delve into the role of entertainment platforms in the future of the comedy industry, successful social strategies, the connection between on-platform community and IRL audiences, and how the platform will continue to shift comedy culture.

Panel Features:

Darcy Michael (Moderator)

Hannah Berner

Jonathan Van Ness

Zarna Garg

Catherine Halaby (TikTok Head of Entertainment, North America)

Hulu presents The Out of this World cast of Solar Opposites - Saturday, July 29 2023 | DoubleTree by Hilton, Grand Salon Ballroom | 2:00 PM

Join stars Thomas Middleditch and Sean Giambrone as they crash land at JFL for a fun and insightful trip through the world of "Solar Opposites." In anticipation of its season 4 launch they'll share sneak peek clips, discuss their characters' otherworldly chemistry, and reveal if we really are all just bricks in "the Wall." Season 4 of Solar Opposites premieres Aug. 14 on Hulu.

Panel Features:

Thomas Middleditch (Silicon Valley)

Sean Giambrone (The Goldbergs)

NEW SOLO SHOWS ADDED

Marlon Wayans - Thursday, July 27, 2023 | Le Studio TD | 9:30 PM

Marlon Wayans is an actor, producer, comedian, writer and film director. His films have grossed more than \$736-million in domestic box office and \$1-billion in global box office. As a stand-up comedian, he is selling out nationwide and adding shows every weekend. His newest stand-up special, *God Loves Me*, premiered on HBO Max in March 2023. Wayans can most recently be seen on the big screen in Ben Affleck's Nike drama *AIR* for Amazon Studios. Wayans is commonly recognized for his role as Marcus Copeland in Columbia Pictures' 2004 hit comedy *White Chicks*. He also starred in the horror comedy spoof films *Scary Movie* and *Scary Movie 2*.

Mae Martin & Friends - Thursday, July 27 & Friday, July 28, 2023 | Théâtre Sainte-Catherine | 11:59 PM

Award winning comedian, actor, writer, and producer, **Mae Martin** is seeing their star rise to fame at record speed. Their hit Netflix series, *Feel Good* is a scripted, semi-autobiographical comedy drama series, which they also created and co-wrote continues to collect international awards and nominations, making it one of the most trending series on the platform. They are also an

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accomplished author of *Can Everyone Please Calm Down?: A Guide to 21st Century Sexuality*, published in May 2019 by Hachette imprint Wren and Rook. Their standup specials have garnered rave reviews. First, Netflix's *Dope*, which focuses on addiction; and most recently, Netflix's *SAP* that continues to rake in high praise from critics and fans. The festival is honoured to have them return this year to accept the JFL Award for "Rising Comedy Star of the Year".

ALOK – Saturday, July 29, 2023 | Salle Ludger-Duvernay – Monument-National | 7:00 PM

ALOK (they/them) is an internationally acclaimed author, poet, comedian, and public speaker. As a mixed-media artist their work explores themes of trauma, belonging, and the human condition. They are the author of *Femme in Public* (2017), *Beyond the Gender Binary* (2020), and *Your Wound/My Garden* (2021) and the creator of #DeGenderFashion: an initiative to degender fashion and beauty industries. Over the past decade, they have toured in more than 40 countries, most recently selling out their runs at the Soho Theatre in London, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and the Kennedy Performing Arts Center. On television, they can next be seen in the critically acclaimed series *SORT OF* opposite Bilal Baig. They have also appeared on Hulu's *Planet Sex* with Cara Delevingne, ABC's *PRIDE: To Be Seen – A Soul of A Nation*, Netflix's *Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness*, HBO's *Random Acts of Flyness* and *The Trans List*.

Trey Kennedy: Grow Up – Saturday, July 29, 2023 | Club Soda | 9:30 PM

Trey Kennedy never expected to enter the entertainment industry. While attending college at Oklahoma State University, Kennedy found fame on the mobile app Vine, amassing more than 2.5 million followers. He was a top creator on the app for more than three years and, through this experience, discovered a passion for entertainment. He has now continued his social media success on platforms such as Instagram and TikTok where he has a combined 12+ million followers. He currently has a podcast titled *Correct Opinions* and just concluded a sold-out comedy tour selling out cities across the United States. Trey's self-produced comedy special *Are You For Real?* can now be streamed on YouTube. He hopes to continue creating fun and relatable content in order to deliver some joy where it's needed and help people find some common ground through comedy.

Alingon Mitra – Tuesday, July 25, 2023 | Le Studio TD | 9:30 PM

Alingon Mitra is a stand-up comedian and comedy writer living in New York. He has written for Comedy Central's *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah* and was also staffed on TruTV's *Adam Ruins Everything*. He has performed stand-up on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, *CONAN*, *Late Night with Craig Ferguson*, and *Adam Devine's House Party*. After becoming a semi-finalist on NBC's *Last Comic Standing*, Mitra won the coveted "Comic Comeback" award to appear in the season finale. He was selected for the prestigious honour of being named a "New Face" at Just For Laughs Comedy Festival in Montreal in 2015. He graduated from Harvard, where he was a writer for the illustrious Harvard Lampoon.

Noel Miller – Friday, July 28, 2023 | MTELUS | 7:00 PM

Noel Miller's biting one-liners and topical social commentary has made him a force to be reckoned with in the comedy world. Between directing, touring, podcasting, music and streaming, Noel's rise has been nothing short of meteoric. In addition to starring in popular YouTube series *That's Cringe*, and comedy duo + podcast *Tiny Meat Gang* with fellow comedian Cody Ko, Noel has created successful series on his own including his format around hit British Reality show, *Love Island*. His broad reach has landed him deals with companies such as SeatGeek and Old

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Spice, as well as solo comedy gigs across the country. Miller has also found success as a filmmaker, being the creative mind behind Tiny Meat Gang's hit music videos including Walk Man, which has garnered over 19 million views, and their recent releases, Broke Bitch, Daddy and Sofia, which have collectively gathered 20M+ views. Outside of music, he recently released his first short film, *Suki*, a dark comedy about a relationship between a detective and a serial killer. Additionally, he has recently leaned into streaming, resulting in a rapidly growing Twitch following.

Ali Macofsky – Saturday, July 29, 2023 | Théâtre Sainte-Catherine | 8:30 PM

Ali Macofsky is a stand-up comedian, actress, and writer who began her comedy career at the age of 7 when she would join Ryan Seacrest on KIIIS FM every weekday morning and prank call listeners as her character “Lil Ally” and has continued to pursue comedy ever since. Shortly after high school, Ali quickly established herself in the L.A. comedy scene where she became the first regular to perform on over 100 episodes of the Comedy Store’s weekly *Kill Tony* podcast. Soon after, she started to open for huge names in the comedy world like Russell Peters and Joe Rogan. In 2022, Macofsky was named a “New Face of Comedy” at the Just for Laughs Comedy festival in Montreal. Ali’s stand up has been featured on Just For Laughs digital receiving over 3 million views and her stand up has been seen on TikTok over 10 million times. She has a popular series on her Instagram where she talks to strangers online and she hosts a weekly podcast called *Resting Bitch*.

**New OFF JFL performances have been added featuring,
Sydney Washington, Robby Hoffman, Dulcé Sloan, Debra DiGiovanni,
Josie Long, Nimesh Patel, and a special live podcast to commemorate
The Comedy Store’s 25th Anniversary!**

Just For Laughs MONTRÉAL would like to thank its sponsors without whom this edition would not have been possible: **Beneva** and **Chevrolet**. We would also like to acknowledge the exceptional help and support of our public partners: **Government of Canada** through **Canada Economic Development** and **Canadian Heritage**, the **Gouvernement du Québec** through the **ministère du Tourisme**, the **Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine** and the **SODEC**, as well as the **City of Montréal**, **Tourisme Montréal** and **Montréal centre-ville**.

TICKET DETAILS:

Tickets are available at www.hahaha.com

Looking for the best way to experience Just For Laughs MONTRÉAL? Get a JFLMTL Pass! Passes available include: the JFL 2-Show Pass for \$115.00 + tax, 3-Show Pass for \$155.00 + tax and 5-Show Pass for \$235.00 + tax. Each pass includes up to 12 free tickets from July 14 to July 29, 2023 (*some restrictions apply*).

PRESS MATERIALS: To download high-resolution images of festival artists, [click here](#)

Join us on social media:

#JFLMTL

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Facebook: [Just For Laughs](#)

Twitter: [@justforlaughs](#)

Instagram: [@justforlaughs](#)

ABOUT JUST FOR LAUGHS GROUP

Global leaders in comedy, Just For Laughs Group has been launching and championing top comedic talent - from Jerry Seinfeld, Kevin Hart, Amy Schumer, Ali Wong, Hasan Minhaj, Trevor Noah, and countless others for close to 40 years. Founded in 1983, the company is a vertically integrated international powerhouse in the creation of multiplatform comedic content. Every year, millions of spectators are entertained at its worldwide festivals, from Montréal – the biggest comedy event in the world – to Toronto and Vancouver, Canada; Austin, U.S.A.; London, UK; and Sydney, Australia; featuring thousands of Canadian and international comedians - from well-established artists to aspiring up-and-comers. With concentrated growth on television development and production, the Group's digital and televised content is shown in over 150 countries and followed by an online audience of over 14 million. In addition, the Group produces touring shows, stages its own musicals, provides talent management services for Quebec artists and is the originator of the ComedyPRO and JPR Pro industry conferences together with the daytime, fan centric, ComedyCON event. For more information, visit www.hahaha.com

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