

## **SO YOU THINK YOU CAN ACT 2015 – POWER PLAY**

### **Bios**

#### **HOST - Jon Ljungberg**

Jon Ljungberg has been entertaining audiences on comedy stages across North America for over 25 years including a stint at the Riviera Hotel and casino in Las Vegas. He has worked in Television and film including a role in Samuel L. Jackson's film *Reasonable Doubt* shot here in Winnipeg this past December but most of you will remember Jon as the host of Breakfast Television. He's the Father of two grown children and has a passion for gardening, vintage toys and Politics.

#### **JUDGES**

##### **Trish Cooper**

A Theatre graduate from the University of Winnipeg, Trish has worked as an actor and a writer in Winnipeg and Toronto. She began writing sketch comedy with the *Royal Liechtenstein Theatre Company* (RLTC) and wrote for the Fringe Festival circuit including *The Year of the Panda*, *The Comment Card* and *Homely Woman #2*. Recently, she was both a writer and performer on the web series, *Wind City*, and last year she toured all over Manitoba as an actor in Manitoba Theatre Centre's production, *Miracle on South Division Street*. Trish's first full-length play *Social Studies* was first produced last year at Prairie Theatre Exchange and just finished its run at The Centaur in Montreal. She is thrilled it will also be programmed next season in Vancouver at the Firehall. Trish is excited to be performing soon in *Blythe Spirit* for Cowardfest with an all-star Winnipeg cast.

##### **Toby Hughes**

Toby is a Winnipeg-based actor and improviser, and a graduate of the University of Winnipeg Department of Theatre and Film. He has performed with almost every professional theatre in Winnipeg and is a co-producer of the Outside Joke Season of Yuks (2012-2015) at the Gas Station Arts Centre. Recent theatrical credits include *Le Jardin* (Cercle Moliere) *The Cherry Orchard* (Theatre by the River, Little Echo Theatre), *Maple Route* (Theatre Incarnate), *Comedy of Errors*, *Julius Caesar*, *Henry V* and *Henry IV 1&2* (Shakespeare in the Ruins), *The Valley*, *The Dishwashers* (Prairie Theatre Exchange), *The Walworth Farce* (Incompletely Strangled Theatre) and *The Courier* (Fringe Festival 2012). Toby is a founding member of the musical improv company Outside Joke and has travelled across Canada performing improv.

##### **Gord Tanner**

Gordon Tanner is an actor and writer who has lived in Winnipeg his whole life long. He has performed on every stage in the city - some that no longer exist – and on others across the country. Sometimes he appears in films and on television, which can be quite a lot of fun. He is also very experienced at judging people. It took you this long to read five sentences? No, no, I'm sure that's totally normal. Somewhere .

#### **Celebrities**

##### **Rana Bokhari**

Born and raised on a family farm in Anola, Rana Bokhari learned the value of hard work at an early age. After helping out with the family business during her early adult years, Rana decided to take the academic route. She attended the University of Manitoba, where she earned three

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degrees including a law degree. Having always displayed a passion for public service, she decided to make a more active contribution to public life in Manitoba. After working with the Manitoba Liberal Party for years, Rana declared her intentions to lead the party. Now, as elected leader of the Manitoba Liberal Party, Rana is determined to work tirelessly to reach out to Manitobans across the province and give them a more viable option for a better Manitoba.

#### **Chris Cvetkovic**

Cvetkovic has made Winnipeg his home after 12 years in the CFL & 10 with the Blue Bombers. Cvetkovic was a 2 time Winner of the Ed Kotowich Good Guy Award presented annually to the player that best contributes to the team & community. Cvetkovic is currently an Ambassador (for) the Children's Wish Foundation of Manitoba/Nunavut and Ambassador & Spokesperson for the Manitoba Status of Women speaking out against gender violence. This father of 2 is also the Founder of Cvet's Pets & President of Courageous Companions working to train dogs from shelters for medical services & donating them to military veterans struggling with PTSD for free.

#### **André Lewis**

André Lewis has spent the majority of his career with Canada's first professional dance company, accepting the position of Artistic Director in 1996. Since then he has been the driving force behind the new and innovative works that have dramatically rejuvenated the Company's repertoire. A native of Gatineau, Québec, Lewis began his dance training in Ottawa before being accepted into the Professional Division of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School in 1975. He joined the RWB Company in 1979 where he enjoyed an accomplished career as a dancer for over ten years. Lewis has commissioned numerous blockbuster ballets for RWB including *Dracula*, *Moulin Rouge* ® - *The Ballet*, *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Going Home Star – Truth and Reconciliation*. In addition to his position as Artistic Director, Lewis is a sought-after ballet instructor and has guest taught throughout Europe and Japan.

#### **Kelly Linehan**

From Twitter to Facebook and every social media site in between, Kelly Linehan is logged in as CTV Winnipeg Morning Live's Social Media and Web Reporter. Kelly grew up in Calgary and Victoria and loves the beach and Stampedin' equally. After graduating from Ryerson University with a Bachelor's in journalism, she got her start in radio on Vancouver Island before anchoring the evening news and sports for CFX 1070 in Victoria. Prior to joining CTV, Kelly had her first taste of winter in Prince George, BC. She wore many hats at CKPG News, anchoring news, weather and occasionally sports as well as reporting. When she's not at the office or online, she's running, playing soccer, cheering for the Habs and likely burning something in the kitchen.

#### **Romi Mayes**

If Keith Richards, Joan Jett and Ray Charles could somehow spawn a love child, it'd be Romi Mayes. With a ballsy, heart on her sleeve, straight shootin' attitude, her raw, edgy songs take no prisoners and tell it like it is. Not at all a one speed driver, Romi Mayes can also gear down the big rig and hypnotize you with honest sultry, sweet and sexy tunes that have schooled young men and made grown men cry. Juno nominated, multiple CFMA nominated and four time WCMA winner for songwriter of the year and album of the year, Romi Mayes is a force to be reckoned with that will be a household name for years to come. She is only getting better with

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each album and one thing you can bet on is this hard core prairie gal has no plans to burn out or fade away.

#### **Doug Speirs**

Doug Speirs' humour column, *In the Doug House*, has appeared on Page 2 of the *Winnipeg Free Press* at least three times a week since 2006. Doug has held almost every possible job at the newspaper — reporter, city editor, night editor, tour guide, hand model — and his colleagues are confident he'll eventually find something he is good at. He can frequently be found hosting, or competing at, charity events around the city. His new column, *Speiriscopes*, graces Saturday's new 49.8 section. His book, *Bite-sized Doug*, a collection of critter-related columns, is *still* for sale at local book stores. Doug was born in Vancouver and still worships the B.C. Lions. He was one of three Canadian columnists nominated for the 2008 National Newspaper Awards in the column writing category.

#### **Taz Stuart**

Taz Stuart is the Director of Technical Operations - Entomologist for Poulin's Pest Control in Winnipeg. Taz's list of acting accomplishments is short, not like his hair though. Taz has appeared many times on TV and in several documentaries on insects and their control but since then his 'acting coach and manager', these people do not exist, have been fielding calls on his nonexistent talent as an actor. This will be seen when you come out and watch all the other aspiring 'actors'.