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## Four Montreal finalists in CBC ComedyCoup contest



By Walter J. Lyng, November 5th, 2014

When the CBC ComedyCoup competition was announced earlier this year, hundreds of team from across Canada submitted their pitches and teaser trailers in the hopes of winning the grand \$500,000 prize and seeing their project turned into a half hour special in autumn, 2015. Over a 10-week period that started at the beginning of October, the teams advance on ComedyCoup's fan-fueled social web platform, by creating fresh content to package their projects and engage fan support. Now, the competition is down to the top 55 and four of those entries are from Montreal.

The local frontrunner in terms of support and reception at the moment is Dope Ass World, created from the guys at Boo Ya pictures. "We wanted to do a fake news show, a bit like Vice would have done it, but a parody of that," says co-director Charles Muzard.

"We're telling the world's most underreported stories," adds co-director and writer Ryan Coopersmith. "They're so underreported that you've never heard of them."

The show follows a team of journalists as they travel around the globe. Every week they immerse themselves in a different country/culture and get into trouble along the way.

"We've really stayed true to our concept of the news show," says producer Harris Ellison. "We've always justified why the camera is rolling. And I think ComedyCoup has taken a liking to that, because we've been a pro pick twice."

Also in the running is Bad Records, which stars local stand-up Mike Paterson and Paul Spence (of Fubar fame). "Mr. Gross and The Deaner teamed up to make their own TV show," says Paterson.

The show follows the exploits of Mike and Paul whose band, Scar Crow, was a household name in 1996. Following years of obscurity, the two reunite and operate a recording studio, offering their unique services for aspiring bands.

"It's a sitcom about a music studio that solves mysteries for bands," says Paterson. "It's Scooby Doo meets Glee!"

Then, there's Campus Law, from Samuel Brisson, Ryan George and Brandon Calder. The series follows three friends that have found the perfect way to keep living the crazy college life after graduation by working as security guards at their former campus. Wanting to fit in with the students but also demanding that their authority be respected, they constantly get themselves into situations of debauchery and power abuse.

Lastly, Théâtre Ste. Catherine artistic director Alain Mercieca is in contention, along with teammates Erin Hall and Danny Belair with their project Dépfies. A bilingual sitcom about a family-run Montreal dépanneur and its regular customers, the show delves into the many subcultures of Montreal and paints a comedic picture of contemporary Quebec.

Public voting for projects begins on November 6. For more information, visit [www.comedycoup.cbc.ca](http://www.comedycoup.cbc.ca)

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Section editor: Anthony Bonaparte - anthony@thesuburban.com

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## A unique take on Hamlet courtesy the Tiger Lillies



British cult band The Tiger Lillies teamed with Danish theatre ensemble Theatre Republique in order to present this alternative take on Hamlet. It runs from November 12-18 in the Cinquième Salle at Place des Arts.

By Walter J. Lyng  
The Suburban

You may have seen various adaptations of William Shakespeare's Hamlet in your time, but this presentation might just be the most original and creative take on the classic play yet. From November 12-18, British cult band The Tiger Lillies, along with the Danish ensemble Theatre Republique will hold court in the Cinquième Salle at Place des Arts. Recently, The Suburban spoke with Tiger Lillies front man Martyn Jacques about this collaboration that has been touring the world since 2012.

"If people want to work with us then they have to be slightly mad," says Jacques of being approached by Theatre Republique. "It's not like we're going to be doing the next ABBA musical together. What we do isn't commercial. So they must have had some kind of desire to do something strange and artistic."

Described as "punk cabaret," the show features video projections, acrobatic flights of fancy and bawdy songs. The show had its premiere in Copenhagen and was nominated that same year for a Reumert award, which celebrates the

best in Danish theatre.

"It's not a normal play version," says Jacques. "I wrote songs on an emotional level. The sense of betrayal was the main thing I got from it. I wrote quite a lot of songs based on those impressions I got. Shakespeare is pretty dark and heavy. There's quite a lot of reflections on death, hatred and betrayal. It fits neatly into the Tiger Lillies' universe."

Founded in England in 1989, The Tiger Lillies have become known for their aesthetic and sound, which combines burlesque and black humour. Although this might be their first stab at Shakespeare, they are certainly no strangers to theatrical endeavours.

"We are a theatre music band," says Jacques. "We've spent our lives in the theatre. The biggest single influence when I started was the Three Penny Opera and I thought that was the ultimate piece of music theatre."

"Mel Brooks came and saw one of our shows and he's a big hero of mine. He said we were the best piece of music theatre since the Three Penny Opera. It was like having God coming to visit you."

For more information and tickets, visit [www.placedesarts.com](http://www.placedesarts.com)

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