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Shelburne sitcom hopeful moves up in national CBC contest



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The sitcom *Scratch Tracks* has made the top 55 finalists, narrowed down from hundreds, and is looking for the public's help to make it to the top 15.

SHELBURNE -A locally-based sitcom hopeful is climbing the ranks, jockeying for the top spot in the national CBC ComedyCoup contest and the \$500,000 in production financing to air in prime time.

The sitcom *Scratch Tracks* has made the top 55 finalists, [narrowed down from hundreds](#), and is looking for the public's help to make it to the top 15.

The final chance to vote will be Nov. 6 to Nov. 9 at <http://comedycoup.cbc.ca/scratch-tracks>.

Once there, people need to sign up to be a fan and can earn extra votes if they earn badges.

"We are roughly 18th in popularity overall so it is very possible to make the top 15," said Darcy Rhyno, creator and scriptwriter for the sitcom.

He and his two team members, Alex Buchanan and Rob Stork, have set the sitcom in a small town recording studio much like HarbourTone Productions, owned and operated by Buchanan.

In fact the studio and its various real-life characters Buchanan has worked with throughout the years was the inspiration for the show.

Rhyno who is a professional writer would hang out at the studio and listen to Buchanan's stories.

"A lot that was happening there was kinda funny," said Rhyno.

Realizing this had potential to be a story, he wrote out a script for a 30-minute pilot.

While the concept was solid, the script was shelved until Rhyno came across the ComedyCoup contest.

"There was only one week before the deadline and I thought how hard can it be to make a 90 second video," said Rhyno. "It was a hell of a lot of work, but it was a hell of a lot of fun too."

The team had to learn fast, learning to operate the camera and editing software as they went along.

"Once we submitted the video I thought we were done," said Rhyno but the people of the contest are working the team hard, getting them to complete projects on a weekly basis and making sure they can do the work if they are chosen as the final winners of the contest.

Rhyno said it may be difficult to come out on top but there is a great prize for coming out in the top 15 spots.

If a team advances to the top 15, ComedyCoup producers will present an option agreement for the script and if negotiations are agreed to will offer a maximum of 10 teams a renewable two-year option on their script.

Rhyno is confident in that the sitcom will carry its weight with a plethora of stellar cast, an award winning writer, two time Emmy nominated writer and Emmy winning producer and professional music producer.

The premise of the sitcom is about an L.A. music producer, Nathan Williams, who returns to his Canadian hometown to rebuild his life.

He is caught between the flower-child grandmother who raised him and her scrapper tomboy foster child who wants to become him.

“Through these three generations, we see how life is more often like a scratch track than a polished performance,” he said. “Using character, situations and music both funky and fine, Scratch Tracks mines the humour that comes from life in a small town where everyone wants to be a star.”