

news

Comedian ready for a Saint John 'first'

online today

TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Garrett Clark's road to the stage and becoming a rising voice in Canadian comedy started at 14 when he moved from Sydney, Australia, to Toronto. It was just months after landing he got involved in sketch and improvised comedy as a way to make friends. A few years later he worked up to the guts to perform his first four-minute set at the Yuk Yuk's in Toronto, a stage where comedians like Jim Carrey honed their craft.

Over a decade later, Clark is ready to be the first to be professionally

recorded at Saint John's Yuk Yuk's, which opened its doors early January. Clark was also the first to tell a joke on the comedy club's stage, back at its soft opening. Read about him Thursday at telegraphjournal.com

With the weather warming up this week, telegraphjournal.com will share a Rothesay man's harrowing story of falling through the ice and being rescued by a friend. In addition, the Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department have shared some potentially life-saving tips in case you do fall through the ice.

Sommelier Craig Pinhey will be sharing his wine of the week and what he looks for when he reads a wine review. Read it at telegraphjournal.com

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Steven Barnes, left, is the owner of Saint John's Yuk Yuk's. Garrett Clark, right, will be the first comedian to professionally record a set at the club. PHOTO: BEN SILCOX/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Kennebecasis valley fire Department : ing after plunging through the ice in : tions about ice safety. we don't say yes : a mobile phone to call 911, rope and a :

Comedian first to record set in Saint John's Yuk Yuk's

BEN SILCOX
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN • Garrett Clark's road to the stage and becoming a rising voice in Canadian comedy started with a flight across the world.

At 14 he moved from Sydney, Australia to Toronto, and it was just months after landing he got involved in sketch and improvised comedy as a way to make friends. A few years later he worked up to the guts to perform his first four-minute set at the Yuk Yuk's in Toronto, a stage where comedians like Jim Carrey honed their craft.

Over a decade later, Clark is sitting in the Second Cup in Saint John with hundreds of stand-up gigs under his belt and his go-to coffee, a flat white, in his hand. He is days away from a three-night run that will be recorded for an album, and filmed with three cameras for an eventual DVD.

He speaks lightning-fast and wide eyed, teeming with excitement for the set.

The show will be the first to be professionally recorded at Saint John's Yuk Yuk's, which opened its doors early January. Clark, who calls Saint John his second home, was also the first to tell a joke on the comedy club's stage, back at its soft opening.

Despite being a pillar in the scene, Clark's New Brunswick connection started only a year ago.

"I'd never done a show in New Brunswick until about a year ago and since



Garrett Clark will record his upcoming album *Night Danger* at the Saint John Yuk Yuk's March 2 to 4. PHOTO: BEN SILCOX/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

then I've been doing them all over the place," he said. "When I got word there was a club opening here I was excited."

Beyond just an interest in the new Yuk Yuk's, Clark also met his girlfriend, a Saint John resident while doing a set in Saint Andrews last year.

"I'll make a point of booking quite few shows here now," he laughed.

"To be perfectly honest I would have chosen this club to record even she weren't here," he said. "I really like what the club is turning into and it's been great to watch it grow from nothing."

Now he is preparing for a three-day run at the club from March 2 to 4. The best material of the three sets will be cut into a single CD, titled *Night Danger*, which will be available on iTunes April 5.

The CD's title carries a dual meaning. Clark first saw the phrase on a sign warning about moose on a New Brunswick highway. He also related it to the rough life of a rising comedian.

"I did once get punched in Kelowna and it knocked my tooth out," he said. "Someone drunk was yelling at all

the comedians, she headbutted another comedian. That's Kelowna for you."

After playing a handful of shows in Saint John, Clark befriended some of the figureheads of Saint John's comedy scene — Rothesay resident James Mullinger and Steven Barnes, the owner of Yuk Yuk's.

"There's something about this town that is just so welcoming," he said. "I feel a big part of something that's happening. There's something embracing about the people so I'm taking a big sense of pride in recording the album here."

Barnes said he is excited for Yuk Yuk's to be hosting the recording of an album as it rounds out its second month of business.

"It's going so fast," he said. "It's exciting to see our club taking things to these heights. Six weeks into the business we've had both this and comedy legend Mike MacDonald join us for entire weekend. We are making a lot of noise in the comedy business coast to coast."

Clark said the club has quickly become his favourite to perform at.

"The downtown aspect, the low ceiling, and a good couple beer in the fridge," he said. "It's got all the right elements."

Clark downed the remainder of his flat white.

"I feel like the community has really welcomed growth," Clark agreed. "You can feel that as a comedian."



Garrett Clark will record his upcoming album *Night Danger* at the Saint John Yuk Yuk's March 2 to 4.

Photo: Ben Silcox/Telegraph-Journal

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Garrett Clark

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