



Canuck Comedy Quintet Kicks Caboose!

By Emer Schlosser, Photo By Richard Desmarais

If laughter's good for the soul, then the sketch-comedy stage show **Women Fully Clothed** could be considered a complete cleanse, which will not only perk up your spirits, but tighten the tummy by making you howl till it hurts. (Plus it's way more enjoyable than the cabbage cleanse). The cast members, all Second City alumni, are Robin Duke (**SNL**), Jayne Eastwood (**Billable Hours**), Kathryn Greenwood (the first to win the Canadian Comedy Award for Best Female Improviser of the Year), Debra McGrath (**Little Mosque on the Prairie**) and Teresa Pavlinek (**The Jane Show**). Dudes shouldn't be deterred by the title – audiences are full of guys. "We probably started out making it a show for women," Eastwood told Inside E, "but as you notice we don't talk about vaginas or our periods or anything like that." So how better to keep warm this winter than with an evening filled with laughter!?

The story began when Duke was asked to put together an all-girl night during Second City's alumni week. That went so well that when she was asked to do a benefit, the gals agreed to regroup. "The five of us just really clicked and then we decided that maybe we should just do our own show," Pavlinek said. "We're all writers so we thought: why don't we write our own material?"

Having worked on Canada's greatest sketch television show, **SCTV**, Duke was a pro. "When I worked with SCTV... the actors were also writers. It was about what made them laugh," she said. "So if they were all in agreement about an idea or scene or a character, and it made everybody in that room laugh, then it was written and put onto the show. Which is very close to the way we work... We're not going to put anything out there that we're not all in agreement on."

Greenwood (**Whose Line Is It Anyway?**) also has serious sketching under her belt. "I love sketch. I've always loved it," she says. "I think there's a lot of mediocre crappy kind of sketch [and] I also think there's a lot of humour that people call edgy; I don't know if it's just lazy or kind of bad. So, obviously, I like this kind that has a little more depth to it..."