KELLY DOODY

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Inspiring climber ready to rock local audience

If you don't know the name **Andrew Brash**, you may have been living under a rock back in the summer of 2006.

The Calgary mountain climber made international headlines when, 200 metres from attaining his life-long dream and reaching the summit of Everest, he stopped to help Australian climber **Lincoln Hall,** who'd been left for dead by his team, 8,500 metres up on an icy ledge at the top of the world.

Hailed as a hero and adamant that he made the right decision back on that fateful day on the world's highest mountain to save a life rather than make it to the top of a "piece of rock," as he later called it, is what makes this man's story so incredibly interesting.

In the three years since then, the Terry Fox junior high school teacher from Calgary has made it to the top of Everest, and now has hundreds more unbelievable stories, inspiring photos and harrowing tales from his tremendous travels.

He'll be telling them all to an enthralled audience tomorrow night at the John Dutton Theatre in the downtown library at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are just $15 at the door and all proceeds will go to the Rosedale Community Play School that was recently forced to relocate.

For more on this amazing local man, check out AndrewBrash.com

SUN FILE

Andrew Brash, a local climber who made headlines for the rescue of a man left for dead on Mt. Everest, is giving a talk tomorrow at the downtown library's John Dutton Theatre.

Visions of comedy

The world-famous 11-day Calgary Funny Fest kicks off tomorrow, and in a sheer matter of coincidence, an unrelated comedy show that'll leave you rolling in the aisle is taking place tonight.

The Foundation Fighting Blindness is hosting their second annual Comic Vision event at the swanky Hotel Arts, all in support of new eye research projects involving universities and hospitals across Canada, including the U of C.

The laughter-filled fundraiser offers a great deal of hope and support for the drive to find a cure for degenerative blindness — a cause close to Comic Vision volunteer and Calgary ultra-marathon runner **Norma Bastidas'** heart, as she is halfway through her quest to run seven ultra-marathons on seven continents this year in the name of her son **Karl,** who has cone rod dystrophy.

"When my son was first diagnosed, I decided to take action, go out there and raise awareness of the challenges people with vision loss face on a daily basis," said Norma. "I want to tell people that there is hope for all those affected by blindness."

Also affected is event chair **Dagmar Jamieson**, who suffers from a type of macular degeneration called Stargardt's disease.

"Recent developments in the fight against my disease and other degenerative eye diseases causing blindness give me hope," said Dagmar.

"We encourage everyone to attend Comic Vision because it's a great night out to socialize with friends and enjoy laugh-out-loud comedy, all for a great cause."

Canadian comic **Mike MacDonald** will be causing a stir as the headliner in tonight's lineup, having taken his act to *The Late Show with David Letterman, The Arsenio Hall Show, Just For Laughs,* Showtime's Comedy Club *All-Star Show* and Comedy Central's *The A List.* You're not too late to buy tickets: Head to ComicVision.ca and help build on the $1.5 million the event has raised to date towards vision research across the country.