

Comic Vision comes to London

By Colton Kaufman

Gazette Staff

Five popular Canadian comics including Mike MacDonald will be performing at the annual stand-up comedy event Comic Vision in London April 21. The comedy fundraiser will provide students with a chance to donate to the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

Among those performing is comedienne and Comic Vision co-founder Meg Soper. Soper performed at the initial Comic Vision held in 1999, when the event first became a success. Since its initial popularity, the night of stand-up has only grown.

Soper believes students will find Comic Vision to be the perfect opportunity to help the community.

"I think it is important for people to attend because it is an effort in giving back. It is a win-win. You have a great evening, you laugh with wholesome humour that's not offensive and you come away with a feeling like, 'What I did tonight is going to make the world a better place,'" she says.

"It is a fabulous cause to donate to and if people choose to attend the event you can guarantee that it is a night full of laughter and comedy that crosses all socio-economical barriers."

Comic Vision will provide more than just laughs, Ann Morrison, co-founder of Comic Vision, adds.



"It gives
[peo-
p l e
s u f -

fering from eye disease] hope because all of the funds raised through Comic Vision go to funding vision research," Morrison says.

"It gives them hope that treatments and cures for these diseases will be available shortly or in the near future," she continues.

The proceeds from Comic Vision are donated to the Foundation Fighting Blindness, a national research charity funding vision research at Canadian hospitals and teaching universities, Morrison explains. Comic Vision has helped researchers achieve results in the past.

"The scientists we are funding have been responsible for some of the gene discovery that causes these diseases. We are making breakthroughs all the time and we are getting closer and closer to our goals," Morrison adds.

Last year Comic Vision raised more than \$610,000 and, to date, Comic Vision has raised over \$1.5 million. Its success could be attributed to the universal appeal of charity and humour, according to Soper.

"Making the world a better place by laughter. I don't think it gets any better than that," she adds.

At the end of the school year some students lack the finances to buy a ticket for Comic Vision because it is a high price point. These students could ask their family members to take them as a congratulatory gift for completing exams, Morrison suggests.

"Who doesn't need a laugh, especially people finishing exams? We are celebrating a very worthwhile cause by laughing; share the laughter, see the hope. Everybody can use some celebrating at the end of the school year," she says.

"It is a great night and I guarantee everyone will have a ton of fun."

To purchase tickets or for more information please visit www.comicvision.ca.