



For Immediate Release – Arts, Entertainment & Business Media
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'LIVE FROM THE ANNEX' - A BROADCAST FROM BATHURST STREET

Toronto, ON – Co-producers **Brian G. Smith (Annex Improv)**, **Sasha Wentges, (Mea Culpa Productions)**, and **Laurie Murphy (MARRAM)** are pleased to announce the launch of 'Live from the Annex,' Toronto's newest unique entertainment showcase. The comedy cabaret series takes place in 'The Garage,' a flexible event space transformed into a 75- seat cabaret studio at the **Centre for Social Innovation - Annex** location, 720 Bathurst Street. May 5, 2015 is the opening night and runs the first Tuesday of the month in 2015, 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. (June 5, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3 and December 1). This comedy cabaret series with musical guests will be broadcast live to the www via Dailymotion.com/YouAndMedia.

"Live from the Annex is about using innovative technology to promote the best of Toronto comedy and music talent to the rest of the world," says Smith, the series' Artistic Director. The series is a cultural and technological experiment, with a lineup that is going to evolve over the course of the eight-show monthly series. "With the digital media sponsorship from **Christine McGlade at Analytical Engine Interactive**," continues Smith, "we're inviting the audience to become a vital part of the shows. Our in studio and online audiences are encouraged to tweet **@LFTAnnex** or use hashtag **#LFTAnnex** about their favourite aspects of the cabarets." Also innovative is the presentation of the Annex Improv Performance Ensemble **Brunswick Stew**, whose performances are offered up to the audience as a "visible classroom". The action on stage will occasionally be paused to illustrate the finer points of improv storytelling. Both the in-house and online audiences get insight into the creative process, as well as a chance to encourage the improvisers with tweets and suggestions.

'Live from the Annex' media partner **Dailymotion** is the online destination for the live broadcasts, and also the principal promoter of the series to a world-wide-web audience. "Our international reach online is considerable," Says **Enrique Soissa**, Dailymotion's Canadian Regional Director, "The potential audience in Canada is 5 million, jumping to millions more internationally, and hundreds of thousands of followers through our social media channels. We're particularly interested in partnering with grass-roots Canadian creators like 'Live from the Annex'."

CSI Events Coordinator **Erin Kang** sees the opportunity to showcase CSI and its Members locally and internationally, as well: "CSI is proud to partner with 'Live from the Annex' to help showcase its community-oriented arts and culture activity in Toronto, and support CSI Members."

Tickets are \$15 each. For the May 5 official opening, they are available on a first-come, first-serve basis at livefromtheannex@gmail.com. Info: **(416) 619-4621**; <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Live-from-the-Annex-Monthly-Cabaret-Series-CSI-Annex-Garage/879257775464071>; & www.livefromtheannex.com.

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