

Arts: Toby Hardgrave Leaves Cultrual Centre Audience In Stitches

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By Mike Archer.

Roman Danylo opened the show but Toby Hardgrave stole it during a full house performance of comedy at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre Friday night.

Danylo, a headlining stand-up comedian, a top Canadian improviser, and a regular TV superstar, appearing on CTV's Comedy Inc., Corner Gas, CBC's Just For Laughs, Made in Canada and The Debaters, did a fabulous job of MC'ing the show and keeping the audience in a funny mood throughout the evening.

Not Available In Canada kept the audience guessing and performed a beautiful series of sketches that were one of the highlights of the evening. It's Nice To Know People (INTKOP) at first confused, and then enveloped the audience in their peculiar brand of satire.

Bringing audience members into their skits, the two delighted the audience with their sly wit.

Voted the funniest Comedian in the Vancouver Comedy Festival, stand-up comedian sensation Toby Hardgrave was the featured guest and he wowed the audience with his intelligent, self deprecating and ruthlessly honest discussions of marriage, child rearing, honesty, masturbation, and just getting by in the modern world. Hardgrave's brutal and hilarious relationship with the audience grew during his performance as he appealed in his own, human and avuncular way to an audience that, at first, didn't know what to make of him.

Though some were shocked (and indeed left early) the vast majority of the crowd became a part of his deeply personal and revealing performance.

A series of improv skits closed the show with an extra dose of hilarity provided as an encore. Well worth seeing and the packed house seemed to agree.



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