

HOLD FOR RELEASE UNTIL
4 a.m., Monday, June 1, 2009

SUMMER SEASON FOR ESPLANADE THEATRE INCLUDES GUITAR HERO KIM MITCHELL

MEDICINE HAT, AB – The Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre announced its summer performance schedule, presented by ATB Financial, today. **Tickets go on sale Friday, June 5 at 10 a.m. for the following performances:**

KIM MITCHELL – CANADIAN ROCK ICON
Fri., July 10, 2009, 8 p.m. (*Rooftop Party at 6:30 p.m.*)
Presented by 102.1 The Lounge and ATB Financial

NAZARETH AND THE HEADPINS (*double-bill*) - OLD SCHOOL ROCK
Tues., July 14, 2009, 8 p.m. (*Rooftop Party at 6:30 p.m.*)

BEDOUIN SOUNDCLASH with Ben Stevenson and Vince Vaccaro (*triple-bill*)
Tues., Aug. 11, 2009, 8 p.m. (*Rooftop Party at 6:30 p.m.*)
Presented by My96 and ATB Financial

THE BACKYARDIGANS: SEA DEEP IN ADVENTURE
Thurs., Sept. 17, 2009, 6:30 p.m.
Presented by ATB Financial

GERRY DEE – LAST COMIC STANDING FINALIST
Fri., Sept. 18, 2009, 8 p.m.

MEDICINE HAT MUSICAL THEATRE: THE PRODUCERS
Nov. 12 – 14 at 8 p.m., Nov. 15 at 2 p.m., Nov. 19-21 at 8 p.m., and Nov. 22 at 2 p.m.

There will be a pre-performance roof top party on the Esplanade Terrace before Kim Mitchell on July 10 (sponsored by Moxies Classic Grill), Nazareth on July 14 and Bedouin Soundclash on Aug. 11. **The first 200 tickets sold for each of these performances receive admission to the roof top party.**

Tickets are available at:

- Esplanade Box Office, 401 First Street SE
- Medicine Hat Mall Customer Service Desk
- By phone at 403.502.8777 or online at www.tixx.ca

Esplanade members can purchase a limited number of tickets in advance starting Wednesday, June 3 at 10 a.m. in person at the Esplanade Box Office location only. There will be caps on all advance sales to ensure a sufficient number of tickets are available to the public.

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Attached: Backgrounder – Esplanade Theatre Summer Line-up – Descriptions and Bios

For further information, interviews or visuals, please contact:

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ATB Financial
Where there's a way
The Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre thanks ATB Financial for their continued support of the Esplanade Theatre

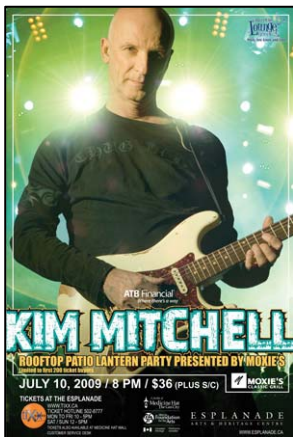
PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTIONS

KIM MITCHELL

Fri., July 10, 2009, 8 p.m. (*Rooftop Party at 6:30 p.m.*)

Tickets: \$36 + s/c, GST

Presented by 102.1 The Lounge and ATB Financial



Ontario-native Kim Mitchell is a Canadian rock icon. His arsenal of songs – from his days in a group called Max Webster to his 27-year solo career – have stood the test of time and enabled him to tour each year to a dedicated fan base. And now he's rockin' the Hat when he comes to town July 10.

With three Juno's under his belt, including 1990 Male Vocalist of the Year, Kim Mitchell remains a mainstay in the category of Canadian guitar icons. In early 1985, the song "Go For Soda" from the Akimbo Alogo album became an international hit and remains his best known song outside of his native Canada. His most successful Canadian album was the follow-up, 1986's *Shakin' Like a Human Being*, featuring the hits "Alana Loves Me", "Easy to Tame", and the biggest hit of his career, "Patio Lanterns".

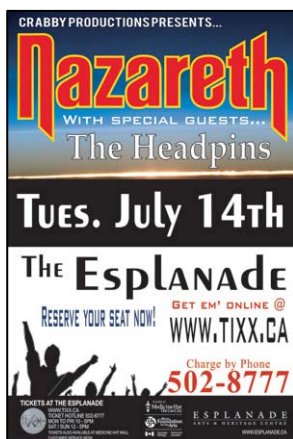
Kim Mitchell's eighth solo album, *Ain't Life Amazing*, is the Canadian singer-guitarist's first set of new material in eight years and he'll bring these new riffs and old classics when he rocks out on stage at the Esplanade on Friday July 10th at 8 p.m.

Moxies Classic Grill will host a pre-performance rooftop party for the first 200 ticket buyers, starting at 6:30 p.m. on the Esplanade Terrace.

NAZARETH AND THE HEADPINS (*double-bill*)

Tues., July 14, 2009, 8 p.m. (*Rooftop Party at 6:30 p.m.*)

Tickets: \$50 (no s/c)



After 40 years of touring success, few can argue the fact that the members of Nazareth were the Scottish Rock pioneers and mavericks of their time. Formed in December 1968 in Dunfermline, Scotland, they were trailblazers for 1980s Scottish acts like Big Country, Wet Wet Wet, Del Amitri, Deacon Blue, and Texas. Some even say they inspired metal superstars Guns N' Roses. Their four-decade career is embellished with hits like the hard-rocking cover of Joni Mitchell's "This Flight Tonight", "Hair of the Dog," which was a staple of 1970s rock radio, and their melodic cover of The Everly Brothers ballad "Love Hurts."

These iconic rockers hit the Esplanade stage July 14 with the Headpins for an old school double-bill.

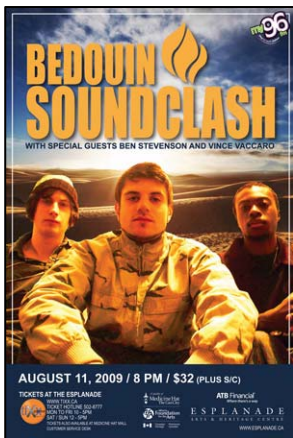
The Headpins are known as the loudest band to ever come from Canada. With backing by Bill Henderson from Chilliwack, The Headpins hit the radio airwaves in 1982 and have since toured with the likes of KISS, Billy Squier, Helix, Quiet Riot and Whitesnake. Don't miss Nazareth and the Headpins, Tuesday, July 14 at 8 p.m. with special rooftop party for the first 200 ticket buyers at 6:30 p.m.

BEDOUIN SOUNDCLASH with Ben Stevenson and Vince Vaccaro (triple-bill)

Tues., Aug. 11, 2009, 8 p.m. (Rooftop Party at 6:30 p.m.)

Tickets: \$32 + s/c, GST

Presented by My96 and ATB Financial



Whether they are sharing the bill with NO DOUBT on their summer tour, or charting world-wide hits like “When The Night Feels My Song” or “Walls Fall Down”, Bedouin Soundclash have melded Reggae dub beats and the funky bass lines of SKA into a unique urban sound that has brought them international fame and fans for the ages.

Bedouin Soundclash hit the stage on August 11, with special guests Ben Stevenson and Vince Vaccaro for a hot summer night of revelry and music that will include an ESPLANADE rooftop party for the first 200 ticket buyers.

(Esplanade Rooftop party begins at 6:30 pm)

BACKYARDIGANS

Thurs., Sept. 17, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 + s/c, GST

Presented by ATB Financial



Who explores a coral reef, plays in an octopus’s garden, and joins the jellyfish ballet...all before snack time? The Backyardigans! Pablo, Tyrone, Tasha, Uniqua and Austin are back on stage, singing, dancing, as they plunge sea deep in adventure.

Dive into the action as the five friends explore clues, discover underwater magic, and match wits with an all-too-tidy octopus and a pair of playful (but messy!) dolphins. And with a splashy range of song-and-dance styles - including psychedelic soul, Bollywood, bossa nova, and more – our heroes save the day.

The Backyardigans first burst onto the scene in 2004 with the launch of their CGI-animated TV show from Nelvana and Nick Jr. The five high-spirited friends use their lively imaginations to embark on amazing epic journeys. The show, which has garnered both an Emmy Award and a

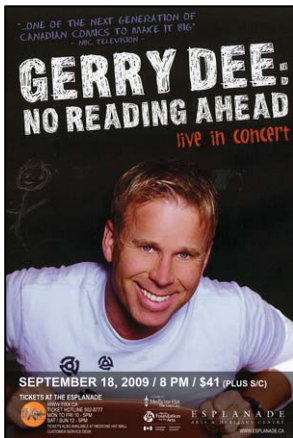
Gemini, is now seen in over 40 countries worldwide; in North America, almost one million viewers (per episode) regularly tune into The Backyardigans and along with the characters, children - and parents - are getting off their couches and their imaginations are taking flight!

Considered by many parents to be the best children's live show in the Esplanade, The Backyardigans return! With non-stop excitement and surprise, this watery tale will mesmerize, entertain and delight audiences of all ages!

GERRY DEE

Fri., Sept. 18, 2009, 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$41 + s/c, GST



Gerry Dee began his comedy career in a very different fashion. The son of Scottish immigrant parents, Gerry was born in Scarborough, Ontario and grew up in Toronto. He currently splits his time between living in Los Angeles and Toronto.

He spent 10 years as a high school phys-ed teacher before making the switch to full time comedy in 2003.

In 1999, he won Toronto's Funniest New Comic competition. He would later tape his own half hour Comedy Now Special on CTV and The Comedy Network in 2001. He has attended a variety of comedy festivals, namely The US HBO Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen and The Montreal Just For Laughs Festival where he made his CBC Gala appearance in July 2004 and again in 2007. He recently performed in Scotland and South Africa.

In 2002, he was the first Canadian in 27 years to win the prestigious San Francisco International Comedy Competition. Former comics who got their start in this competition include Robin Williams, Dana Carvey and Ellen Degeneres to name a few.

In 2003 he made his US network debut when he performed on CBS' "Star Search" with Arsenio Hall. A year later he would appear on The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn as well as on The Mike Bullard Show.

In 2004, he appeared in the CBS Sports reality series PGA Tour 18: Golf's Ultimate Round. As well, National Lampoon featured him in a DVD which was released in 2004.

In 2004, 2006 and 2007 he was nominated for a Canadian Comedy Award for Best Male Comic in Canada.

He was voted as the third best comedy show of 2004 in Toronto by Now Magazine.

In April 2006, he appeared in the CBC mini-series "Canada Russia 72" where he will play the role of Boston Bruin great Wayne Cashman. In the summer of 2006, he played "Donny" in the much anticipated "Trailer Park Boys: The Movie".

He also recently appeared on NBC's Last Comic Standing 5 where he finished third

Gerry recently won Best Comic in Canada at the 2008 Canadian Comedy Awards. You can also watch Gerry weekly on "The Score" with his very humorous segment called "Gerry Dee-Sports Reporter".

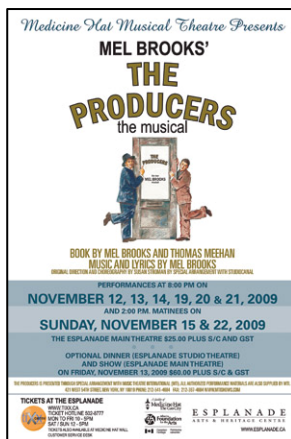
Gerry is a competitive amateur golfer (2 handicap), a former Provincially ranked tennis player and a former University hockey player at St. Francis Xavier University.

MEDICINE HAT MUSICAL THEATRE: THE PRODUCERS

Nov. 12 – 14 at 8 p.m., Nov. 15 at 2 p.m., Nov. 19-21 at 8 p.m., and Nov. 22 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 + s/c, GST

Dinner Theatre on Nov. 13: \$60 + s/c, GST



THE PRODUCERS is, quite simply, the “winningest” Broadway musical in history - nominated for 15 Tony Awards and breaking the record previously set by *Hello Dolly* in 1964.

Outrageous, hilarious, a teeny bit offensive, off the wall, and the winner of a record 12 Tony Awards are just a few things that describe THE PRODUCERS. But it is never boring and you will find yourself holding your sides with laughter as Max Bialystock and Leo Bloom sing and dance their way through the greatest show biz scam there ever was.

The Producers skewers Broadway traditions and takes no prisoners as it proudly proclaims itself an “equal opportunity offender!”

Book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan, music and lyrics by Mel Brooks, original direction and choreography by Susan Stroman by special arrangement with Studio Canal. The Producers is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). www.mtishows.com

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