

Hot list

Oct. 30 – Nov. 12

- 1) The Diableros** from Toronto, for their nomination by the CBC as the best new Canadian act last year.
- 2) Born Ruffians** Made up of Luke Lalonde, Steve Hamelin and Mitch DeRosier, this indie Toronto band released its first EP in August 2006.
- 3) illScarlett** This Mississauga quintet released their debut album, *Clearly in Another Fine Mess*, in 2006.
- 4) The Hidden Cameras** An indie-pop outfit fronted by Joel Gibb, the Toronto band is known for delivering the country's best live performance and has released six albums, including 2006's *Awoo*.
- 5) Mean Red Spiders** for being featured on the popular FOX and Global TV show, *24*. They advertise themselves as playing spacious, psychedelic, avant-pop.

Do it!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

- 1 to 5 **International Environmental Film & Video Festival** (416) 531-1769
- 2 to 5 **Arts Dundas Weekend** (905) 627-4265
- 3 to 5 **Hamilton Writers Festival** (905) 972-0369
- 4 **BarrieFolk: Roots Music Festival** (705) 252-0206
- 9 to 13 **Toronto International Art Fair** (800) 663-4173
- 12 to Dec. 20 **26th Annual Art Show & Sale** (613) 283-1708
- 15 to 19 **Reel Asian Film Festival** (416) 703-9333

The paper bag prince

Robert Munsch shares his experiences of adoring fans and not behaving like an average grown-up in public

Jenny Yuen
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Even though he's 61, children's author Robert Munsch says he'll never grow up. And why should he?

He's got the adoration of the people who'll always listen to him – kids.

"Kids say I don't act like a grown-up," he says. "I play around with sound effects, which grown-ups don't do, especially when they're waiting for a bus, because the men in the white coats might take them away."

Famous for the 42 quirky books he has published, including *The Paper Bag Princess*, *I Love You Forever* and *Thomas's Snowsuit*, the Guelph writer is gearing up for another cross-Canada tour. He'll randomly drop into classrooms unannounced or stay with families for a couple of weeks to

promote literacy and search for new story material.

Munsch recently travelled to Cobalt, Ont., a northern Ontario mining community, to speak to some eighth graders.

He ended up with ideas for *I'm So Embarrassed*, a collection of stories to turn faces beet-

red. "All kids get up and say

(they're embarrassed), Munsch says.

The Pittsburgh-born author hasn't always penned books.

"I was sort of this idealistic Catholic kid who wanted to save the world, but I also know that I was kinda weird," he says. "So I thought that I should be a priest. But turns out I was just weird."

Even weirder to Munsch is the number of fans in their 20s and 30s who treat him as an icon. But he's getting used to it. Slowly.

"I was walking through the student union at University of Waterloo," he says. "A girl screamed, 'Holy s**t! You're Robert Munsch!'"

And there was this big exodus of people running to their dorm rooms to get their Munsch books. I thought, "Oh my goodness, this is strange."

But fun and strangeness will forever attract kids to his stories.

"This is real stuff when you're a kid – mud puddles, the stupid shirts grandma makes you wear," he laughs.

"Kids feel validated, because they say they get it."



Photo courtesy Robert Munsch

"Kids say I don't act like a grown-up. I play around."

– Robert Munsch

FULL STORY: icononline.ca

It's a good morning, Toronto ...with these guys

Pat Kelly and Peter Oldring slip into their alter egos at www.goodmorningworld.comNina Dragicevic
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Movies, television and perhaps the occasional comedy festival is how most people whet their appetite for comedy.

Well, Pat Kelly and Peter Oldring have been there, done that – and moved on.

Taking their absurd humour to the web, these two Toronto-based comics have created a bright little gem called *Good Morning World* at, you guessed it,

www.goodmorningworld.com.

Five days a week, Kelly and Oldring slip into their suited

respective alter egos, Allister Coulter and Andy Peppers, and essentially rip into every morning show that ever saw the light of day.

Wearing orange tans and pale suits and delivering obnoxious banter and absurd segments deadpan, they cover everything – news, entertainment, religion, the occult, parenting tips, agriculture, celebrity gossip and "geopolitical power struggles." It's all packaged in an absurdly chirpy, news-bite form and crammed into a few minutes.

Oldring's Peppers is perky enough to warrant a strangling while Kelly's Coulter

occasionally, and understandably, appears to have a drinking problem – these are two ongoing gags amidst dozens.

It works as an "it's so stupid, it's smart" satire, primarily because the two seem like brothers from different mothers. Oldring and Kelly met as comics in Calgary, their hometown, before making their way to Toronto, and often team up for comedy projects. As a result, their timing is sublime while their delivery is seamlessly complementary.

Half the fun is seeing how long they can keep it up. And yes, they do wear a different tie everyday.



–goodmorningworld.com

Taking their absurd humour to the web, Pat Kelly (left) and Peter Oldring (right), two Toronto-based comics, have created a bright little gem called *Good Morning World* at, you guessed it, www.goodmorningworld.com.



The *Atomic Betty Holiday Special: No L 9* follows Christmas chaos in Moose Jaw Heights.

Betty Breakthrough

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Toronto production company Breakthrough Animation was nominated for three Gemini Awards on Oct. 17, but didn't take home any gold.

The action/comedy/adventure special *Atomic Betty Holiday Special: No L 9* was nominated for a Gemini for best animated program or series. The popular 3-D animated series *Miss BG* is up for best pre-school program or series.

And the top comedy cartoon *Captain Flamingo* is up for best original music score for an animated program or series. Toronto's Jono Grant com-

posed the music for *Captain Flamingo*.

"The Geminis celebrate excellence in Canadian television, and we're truly honoured to be among the nominees with three of our shows," says Breakthrough executive producer Kevin Gillis. "We are extremely proud of the global success these three top-notch programs are enjoying in both worldwide ratings and industry recognition."

The *Atomic Betty Holiday Special: No L 9* follows Christmas chaos in Moose Jaw Heights and in outer space, where Betty finds her nemesis, Maximus, is up to no good.

The Great One's girl

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Well, she's certainly not in it for the money.

Paulina Gretzky, the 17-year-old daughter of hockey Great One Wayne Gretzky and actress Janet Jones, has released a debut single titled *Collecting Dust*, Canadian Press reports.

When Paulina graced the cover of *Flare* magazine last year, she told them: "I want to get into everything – singing, acting, modelling. I love it all."

With long, blond tresses, her mother's good looks and her father's money, Paulina has now officially arrived as a triple threat. Roll over, Paris Hilton.



"I want to get into everything," Paulina Gretzky says.

–paulinagretzky.net

With long, blond tresses, her mother's good looks and her father's money, Paulina Gretzky has now officially arrived as a triple threat.

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