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Sugar Sammy doing what he knows best, making people laugh!

Sugar Sammy sweet success

By Alyssa De Rosa
mtimes.ca

Comedy is definitely alive and well in this city — both in French and English! With his hit Anglo/Franco TV show *Ces gars-là* returning for season 2 in February and a brand new set of dates for his incredibly funny show *You're Gonna Rire*, Sugar Sammy is not slowing down anytime soon.

He's been in the comedy game for over a decade now but for the last two years, this 38-year-old has taken Montreal by storm providing the population with a string of hit

shows as well as a TV show he and actor/comic Simon Olivier Pecteau co-created and co-star in. The response to this unique television show has been nothing but positive reviews and has many curious to see what happens next.

Admitting to only watching news or sometimes sports in French, Sugar Sammy felt there was something missing on television.

"It's the first time there's something on French Quebec TV that has a Québécois undertone to it but at the same time represents ethnics and Anglos," Sugar Sammy says. "There was a lot of criticism that Anglos weren't

watching French TV or doing what the French stars are so my theory is — if you put something on French TV that they can relate to, they'll watch it, and I was right," he laughs.

This upcoming season, fans can expect to get to know the characters a lot more. He explains how the show gets more into the personal lives of the characters — getting to know their psychologies and the ins and outs of their relationships.

Sugar Sammy is always very open about his life at home with his parents. Born to Indian parents and raised in an ethnic neighborhood, a lot of his material stems from personal experience. He jokes in

every interview how he still lives with his parents and says how so many people don't understand that. As an Italian living at home with her parents, I can say I understand him quite well!

"The characters that play my parents in the show are very close to my real parents," he explains. "Now, people understand why I still live at home. In the show the parents are so cool and fun and in real life my parents are like that. My dad actually has no filter and my mom runs the house even though my dad thinks he does," he jokes.

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MTL's addiction with coffee



By Jillian Clark
mtimes.ca

The streets of Montreal are slathered in a thin layer of coffee shops, tucked between fripperies and gourmet grub. Walking down the street, most people can be seen attached to a travel mug, to-go cup in hand, full to the brim with a fresh brew. Cafes fuel the city, pumping dark coffee into almost every adult citizen.

No one likes their first sip of coffee, but the benefits soon outweigh the bitter taste. Coffee is more than just a drink. Coffee wakes us up after a long night, and prepares us for a long day. Its bitter taste becomes welcomed, desired and eventually a necessity for most Montrealers. Coffee is embedded in our culture.

We bond over coffee dates, warm mugs and croissants. Coffee exceeds dietary boundaries and language barriers. Coffee fills us up and keeps us warm, especially through Montreal's harsh winters. What is it about its bitter

taste that leaves us yearning for more? Complimented by sugar, or perfect alone, Montreal cannot get enough coffee.

A typical Montrealer's breakfast consists of a black coffee, a cigarette and a croissant. Is coffee the first thing you think of when you wake up on a workday? Are we all addicted to this savoury black liquid?

Starbucks alone boasts over 50 shops, city-wide, with the highest concentration in the downtown core. They supply us with lattes, frappes, blonde roasts and iced coffees year round. Tim Hortons is next in line for popular coffee, pushing their newly created dark roast down eager throats. Apart from franchised coffee, independently owned cafes make a killing daily on the average Montrealer's addiction, especially on the Plateau.

Montreal's Plateau takes cafes to the next level, housing the world's smallest coffee shop right next to the Mont Royal metro station. Some cafes go even farther —

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Montreal Times reporter, Alyssa De Rosa with comedian Sugar Sammy

continued from Page 1 Like many actors and comedians, the person you see on stage isn't the person you get to know in

real life. In Ces gars-là, Sammy plays a player like he does on stage during his shows – flirting with girls in the audience and stirring trouble. “I’m sure I’ve disappointed a lot of girls on dates. In real life, I’m pretty calm and quiet and drink green tea,” he says with a grin. “It’s just a fun character to play on stage and on screen. I enjoy watching the fictional Sugar Sammy from afar.” Sorry ladies, he’s not a player!

If you haven’t watched Ces gars-là yet, I urge you to before Season 2 begins – you won’t regret it. You can also hear Sugar Sammy and his buddy Simon Fecteau as the voices of Apple Canada – the same spots Jimmy Fallon and Justin Timberlake hold in the Anglophone community for the iPhone 6 and 6 plus.

After much demand his hit show “You’re Gonna Rire” is back at L’Olympia! “People are coming back cause’ they haven’t seen it yet or are bringing new friends,” he says. “When you get down to it I think people just think it’s a funny show. A lot of material speaks to people especially in certain parts of

the population, the same way the TV show works.”

If you haven’t seen the show, Sugar Sammy’s “You’re Gonna Rire” is an Anglo/Franco comedy show where he pokes fun at Quebec’s realities – both culturally and politically. It’s definitely a show that requires a “laissez-faire” attitude, keeping in mind that the jokes are in good humour and never mean to insult anyone. That being said, after attending the shows in the past two years, I can definitely say each one is a breath of fresh air. Yes, there are some parts that repeat themselves but like any successful comedian, Sugar Sammy improvises and adds new material to give his audience a fresh perspective.

“It has a political angle but it’s also a reality and people see that. It’s a very honest show. People have a great time and every time they come it’s like a party. It’s become a must see at this point and that’s pretty cool,” he admits. “It was a show I thought I was going to do for a couple of months... two and a half years later and look at where we are.”

He has more than just

his show’s success to smile about. Billboard magazine featured him in May, highlighting him as the top-grossing Canadian tour of the past 12 months. “I’ve always wanted to be in Billboard...like Michael Jackson or something,” he laughs. “But it’s really cool to be in Billboard as a comedian.”

So what’s next for this comedian turned actor? Definitely more acting if the shoe fits. “I never want to do something where I feel I’ll just hate myself for doing it. Some people say yes to everything but I would rather wait and do things my friends and fans will be proud of. I won’t play the typical Indian cab driver. I want to step outside of that box,” he explains.

As previously mentioned, if you haven’t seen any of his shows yet, you must! Sugar Sammy’s You’re Gonna Rire and En Français SVP will take place at Théâtre L’Olympia. For more information on tickets the schedule visit: sugarsammy.com

Montreal Fine Arts Museum



By Sergio Martinez, mtimes.ca

Right on Remembrance Day, The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) opened its exhibition “The Patriotism of Death,” a sample of posters mostly from McGill University and the Stewart Museum, which provides an illustrative notion of how Canada, the United States, Britain, and Germany tried to convince their citizens of the justice of their cause and how vital it was to support the war effort be it by enlisting for military service or by contributing financially to it.

War is of course not a thing easy to sell to people, especially to those who are supposed to enlist to be on the front line. Art has a role here, it is important to instill in the population a sense of patriotism, a sense that one has a duty to enroll or to support the war effort somehow. Before radio and television, posters were the most effective medium to convey messages and information, including the promotion of patriotism and the call for military duty.

Nathalie Bondil, the director and chief curator of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts remarked the role of posters and the tradition of artistic design that were involved in their production: they had to



be effective in carrying their message but they were also influenced by the artistic tendencies of the moment, the German ones for instance by expressionism. Ms. Bondil thanked the support from McGill and from that great contributor to Montreal museums, the late Mrs. Liliane M. Stewart. Suzanne Fortier, McGill University Principal also joined in the tribute to Mrs. Stewart and then made reference to the meaning that World War I had for McGill and for the many students who then enrolled to fight in Europe. The posters on display

are not only interesting as artistic products or conveyors of a message in critical times but also in the approach they take to persuade people: one of them goes right to the point, quoting Lord Kitchener it reads in big letters, “Be honest with yourself. Be certain that your so-called reason is not a selfish excuse.” Other posters appeal to a sense of national or ethnic identity as in the cases of the ones addressed to French-Canadians and Jews. The exhibition also includes some posters from Germany, which are of a very good design, probably the most im-

pressive is the one calling Germans to “fight Bolshevism, the Poland threat,

and famine.” The MMFA is located at 1380 Sherbrooke Street

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