

CANADIAN COMEDY FESTIVAL & AWARDS BACKGROUNDER

The Canadian Comedy Festival & Awards was founded in 2000 to recognize and celebrate major achievements in Canadian comedy.

The Awards Gala was held in Toronto from 2000 to 2002. In 2003, the event moved to the City of London, Ontario, where it has been held since. The eighth annual Canadian Comedy Festival & Awards are being held in London on October 9-13, 2007.

2008 marks the first year that the Festival & Awards are leaving their traditional home. The ninth annual Canadian Comedy Festival & Awards will be hosted in Regina on October 2-5, 2008.

The City of London estimates that the Festival & Awards returns \$2.5 to \$3 million to its economy every year.

The province of Saskatchewan made a bid of \$150,000 to host the Festival & Awards. The City of Regina also contributed \$50,000.

Two of Canada's most popular television comedies, *Corner Gas* and *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, are produced and set in Saskatchewan. *Corner Gas* has six nominations, including Best Direction in a Series. *Little Mosque* has three nominations, including Best Female Performance.

The Awards Gala is broadcast on the Comedy Network as a two-hour special.

LAUGHING GAS REGINA INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

The Laughing Gas Regina International Comedy Festival is coming to Regina in 2007, to be held in conjunction with the Gemini Awards. The Festival will be held in Regina every year thereafter.

The Laughing Gas Festival runs from Thursday October 25 to Saturday October 27, 2007.