PRESS RELEASE - DEC, 2022

The Montreal Grand Finale

The city's premiere comedy competition comes to a close on December 11th and a new "Grand Champion" will be crowned! Who will win the \$1000 Grand Prize?

Sunday December 11th, 2022 **The Diving Bell Social Club**3956 Boul St-Laurent, 3rd floor
Doors - 7:00 | Showtime - 8:00

\$25 ADV - \$30 DOOR

Tickets: www.troystark.net/mtl-grand



troystarkcomic@gmail.com

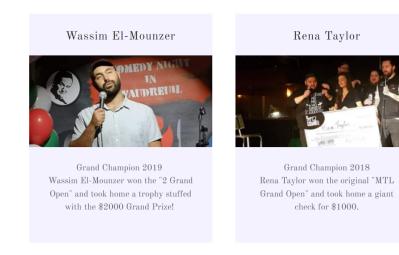
(438) 865-6452

In June 2022, <u>Troy Stark</u> announced that after a 2-year break the Montreal Grand Open would be returning for its 3rd Season in Fall 2022 and that this year's Grand Prize is \$1000. He quickly realized this season was going to be the biggest contest yet, with over 140 local comedians signing up to compete.

HISTORY

Back in 2017, was Creator Troy Stark's first foray at running a comedy competition "The Comedyworks Invitational," with a \$500 prize going to the winner. After the loss of Comedyworks, the contest became The MTL Grand Open in 2018 (with a \$1000 prize). In 2019 the MTL 2 Grand Open boasted a \$2000 prize for its Grand Champion.

GRAND CHAMPIONS





Previous winners have gone on to perform at Just For Laughs, Edinburgh Fringe Fest, CBC, CTV and more. Allie Pearse is currently writing for Letterkenny.

With the uncertainty of the last few years, it would have been impossible to run a 17-event tournament, starting in September and running all the way through to the Grand Finale on December 11, but creator/producer Troy Stark is determined to build the Grand each year.

Troy's goals in running the Montreal Grand Open are simple: create stage time and paid opportunities for English comedians in Montreal; give comedians an opportunity to showcase their best jokes in front of industry professionals; and grow the grand prize to \$5000, making it one of Canada's biggest comedy competitions.

THIS SEASON SO FAR

Starting back in September, Troy and compatriots have been running two MTL Grand shows a week, a total of ten Preliminary rounds and two Wild Card shows. In these shows, the audience voted for their Top 3 favorite acts of the night.

The 140 hopefuls became 36 Semi-Finalists who battled it out in November. Over the course of 4 Semi-Final rounds, the judges and audiences agreed on the eight funniest stand-ups. Now, these Top 8 finalists only have one obstacle left between them and the \$1000 Grand Prize:

THE GRAND FINALE

On Sunday, December 11th, the Top 8 comics will bring their best bits for one final showdown. A panel of judges will decide who walks away \$1000 richer and will be given the title of 2022's *Grand Champion*.

TOP 8 FINALISTS:

John Cotrocois, Oumer Teyeb, Harrison Weinreb, Liam Reid Juliette Danger, Zak Kik, Dawn Ford, Yumi Blake



troystarkcomic@gmail.com (438) 865-6452

HOST

Troy Stark

Troy Stark's stand-up comedy has been featured on SiriusXM's Canada Laughs, The CW and MTV Canada. He's performed at Zoofest/Off-JFL and Montreal Fringe Festival.



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HEADLINER

Leighland Beckman

by popular Back Leighland demand. Beckman and his playfully dirty songs have appeared on Just Laughs, For CBC Television. Montreal Fringe Festival and more.