

# LIVE ON STAGE

**H**e admits to being flaky and easily distracted, yet award-winning comedian Darcy Michael has been able to secure accolades and a performance resume that many envy. Under the influence of flakiness, or something else, it has taken him from stages across the country to CTV, Comedy Network, CBC, CW Network, CityTV, OutTV and *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, amongst many Canadian comedy festivals. His favourite gig, or a least the one he still remembers, continues to be the international sought after *Just for Laughs* in Montreal. His best memory on stage, though, comes from Winnipeg Comedy Festival (now a CBC show). "I distinctly remember being on stage during the

taping and thinking to myself: remember this moment, it's never going to feel the same again." And I guess we won't really know either since we were not there. His first stand-up performance was not until June 2005, though he had done much improv and theatre acting prior to that. He advises counseling is still available through victim services for those that witnessed his earlier work.

Darcy Michael got his birth certificate in Toronto, but North Vancouver is the place that shaped his life. He now lives in Langley with partner Jer, daughter Grace and two cats Juanita and Felicia.

One never knows when Darcy is "just joking" or being for real, therefore I ask you to read this portrait as if it were a show. And writing a show is exactly what Darcy is occupying much of his time these days. During the Vancouver Pride Season he



by Terry Costa

photo courtesy of darcy michael

will be premiering a brand new hour-long show called *The Gayest Show on Earth*. The talented comedian admits that the show is, by far, probably the exact opposite of the title. "The show itself is me, my life and everything that's happened over the last 5 years. I'll try to make it funny. But it may just come across as a balding stoner talking about his gay feelings. Either way, it's a guarantee that I'll be sweating while I do it."

And speaking of sweating and gardens, what really gets him off are garden gnomes. So, remove those from your porches ladies and gentleman because Darcy Michael is in Vancouver this summer.

*The Gayest Show on Earth* premieres July 27th at *Pride in Arts: Queer Arts Festival at the Roundhouse Performance Centre*. [www.darcymichael.com](http://www.darcymichael.com)