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For immediate release: September 24, 2025

Rotary Centre for the Arts Presents The Debaters Comedy Star Charlie Demers

(Kelowna, BC) - The Rotary Centre for the Arts is excited to welcome Charlie Demers, a beloved regular on CBC Radio's hit comedy show *The Debaters*, to the Mary Irwin Theatre on Friday, October 3 as part of the 2025—2026 RCA Presents season. This evening of stand-up comedy will also feature rising Canadian comic Faris Hytiaa and Okanagan's own Alison Lujan, promising a night of sharp wit and big laughs.

Theatre Programming Director, Andrew Stauffer, says, "It's refreshing to see such a thoughtful, artful, and intelligent comedian. Charlie Demers is a true Canadian gem. Rising comedy star Faris Hytiaa is the perfect host for the evening, and the Okanagan's own Alison Lujan is sure to surprise with her eccentric wit."

A Juno-nominated comedian, BC Book Prize-nominated author, and co-star of two Emmy-winning Netflix animated series, Demers has performed at Just for Laughs and on national TV and radio. His debut comedy album *Fatherland* earned a Juno nomination, while his 2022 release *I Hope I Don't Remember This My Whole Life* further established him as one of Canada's most dynamic comedic voices. Beyond comedy, Demers is an accomplished author and playwright, with his Dr. Annick Boudreau mystery series praised for its nuanced exploration of mental health.

Joining Demers is Faris Hytiaa, a rising Canadian comic known for sharp crowd work and laid-back delivery. By his 4th year on stage, Hytiaa had already appeared at every major televised comedy festival in Canada and debuted on *The Debaters* in 2024. He has toured nationally, opening for headliners such as Hasan Minhaj and Neal Brennan.

The evening also features Alison Lujan, an Okanagan-based comedian with a vibrant stage presence and raw, surreal storytelling style. Since returning to comedy in 2023, Lujan has become a local standout, captivating audiences with her ability to turn real-life awkwardness into laughter.

Membership & Ticketing Benefits

Become an RCA Theatre Member and unlock a world of exclusive benefits while supporting Kelowna's vibrant arts community. For just \$45, membership includes 20% off tickets, early access to performances, priority

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seating, free exchanges, special promotions, and more, all while contributing to future upgrades and professional arts in our city.

Tickets are on sale now for RCA Theatre Members. Ages 30 and under receive 30% off.

To purchase tickets and learn more, visit:

https://rotarycentreforthearts.com/events/event/RCACharlieDemers25/

To learn more about theatre memberships:

https://rotarycentreforthearts.com/get-involved/become-a-member/

About the Rotary Centre for the Arts

Located in the heart of Kelowna's Cultural District, the <u>Rotary Centre for the Arts</u> is a multidisciplinary visual and performing arts centre. The RCA improves the economic, cultural, and social quality of life in the community by fostering participation in, and appreciation of the arts. The RCA brings together individuals of all ages and backgrounds to share in the excitement of strengthening art and culture in the Okanagan celebrating creative expression through diverse art forms and disciplines. The Rotary Centre for the Arts respectfully acknowledges that it is located on the unceded, traditional territory of the Syilx/Okanagan People.