



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 1, 2017

Komedya for Kidneys performs transplant

Niagara Falls, ON – Organizers of the **Komedya for Kidneys Rodney Pentland Memorial Benefit Show** received notice late last night that Jeremy Hotz fell ill and would not be able to fly from Los Angeles to perform at tonight's 10th Anniversary Fundraiser gala.

"All we were told was that Jeremy's condition is not serious but it would keep him from being on the show," indicated Mark Matthews, Komedya for Kidneys Show Host, Producer & Co-Manager. "We wish Jeremy a speedy recovery. We are determined that the show must go on," he continued.

Tonight's show will now feature two of Canada's premier stand up comics -- James Cunningham and Derek Edwards." The comedy community was quick to help. "We were overwhelmed by the response to step up and help at our event by the industry's best" said Matthews.

James Cunningham is the hilarious host of the TV series, *Eat St.*, which airs on Food Network Canada and Cooking Channel USA. James also featured on many international network shows including *Last Comic Standing*, *Just for Laughs*, and *Comedy Now*.

Derek Edwards is a two-time Gemini nominee and has been nominated numerous times as Best Stand-Up Comic at the Canadian Comedy Awards. His numerous TV credits include *The New Red Green Show*, *A & E's Comedy on the Road*, and *CBC's Comics*. Recently hailed as a "virtuoso at the peak of his performance" Derek is a regular at *Just for Laughs* in Montreal.

Doors open at 7:00pm and the Show starts at 8:20pm. As always, proceeds are donated to the OneFoundation for Niagara Health System in support of Dialysis Care in Niagara.

The two-hour stand-up comedy show also features **Mark Matthews, Paul Haywood, Shannon Laverty, Clifford Myers, Chris Quigley, and Nicholas Rizzi.**

The charity event was renamed in memory of comedian, Rodney Pentland, who passed away in 2009 from complications related to kidney disease. Pentland, who grew up in Niagara Falls, continued to entertain crowds throughout his long battle with renal disease and is best known for his outstanding impressions of Robert DeNiro and Marlon Brando. To date, Komedya for Kidneys has raised nearly \$50,000 in support of Dialysis Care in Niagara.

-30-

Contact:

Dino Fazio, Komedya for Kidneys
dinofazio@cogeco.ca
905 329-2334

Mark Matthews, Komedya for Kidneys
markemattthews@hotmail.com
289 257-9854