



For Immediate Release: May 5, 2011

## **TICKETS ON SALE**

### **9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FUNNY GIRLS AND DYNAMIC DIVAS**

#### **A Comedy and Music Cabaret**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2011 • 6 PM RECEPTION, SHOW 7:30 SHOW**

**Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts**

<http://www.sistering.org/events/funnygirls.php>

Back for another year of laughs and spirited entertainment, **Sistering** presents **Funny Girls and Dynamic Divas, 6PM** on **Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>** at the **Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts** in Toronto.

Tickets for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual event are priced at \$75.00 and can be purchased online at [www.stlc.com](http://www.stlc.com) or 416.366.7723/1.800.708.6754 by phone; in person from the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts box office at 27 Front Street East; at all Ticketmaster outlets, [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca) and 1.800.265.5566 or can be purchased from the Sistering Office by calling 416.926.9762 ext.243.

Hosted by two-time Gemini nominee, **Elvira Kurt**, the line up features comedians **Laurie Elliot** and **Sabrina Jalees**. Musical acts include **Sarah Slean, Maiko Watson** and **Alejandra Ribera**, backed by the all-female **HotHouse Band**, led by **Evelyne Datl**. A **silent auction** and **raffle** - featuring lifestyle packages and prizes - will add to the evening's entertainment.

**Elvira Kurt** is one of Canada's most accomplished comedians. She was voted Funniest Female Comic at the Canadian Comedy Awards and received a Gemini-nomination for her one-hour comedy special *Elvira Kurt: I'm A Big Girl Now*. The special also nabbed the Gold Award at the Worldfest International Film Festival. The Second City alumnus has appeared on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and her comedy specials have aired on Comedy Central, HBO, Showtime, CTV, CBC and The Comedy Network. **Kurt** is a frequent guest on CBC show *The Debators* as well as a weekly guest on *Q's* "Cultural Hall of Shame" segment each week. Visit [www.elvirakurt.com](http://www.elvirakurt.com) for more information.

**HotHouse** bandleader **Evelyne Datl** has performed with a wide variety of artists, ranging from The Parachute Club, Allanah Myles and Shirley

Eikhard to the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band and contemporary music orchestra Hemispheres. Over the last few years, **Datl** has been busy composing music for television and film. Visit [www.evelynedatl.com](http://www.evelynedatl.com) for more information.

**Laurie Elliott** has made a name for herself as one of the most versatile and fun to watch entertainers in Canada. She is a winner of the Tim Sims Encouragement Fund Award and has thrice been voted Funniest Female Stand Up at The Canadian Comedy Awards, most recently this year. **Elliott's** stand up credits include the Montreal Just For Laughs Festival, where her recent gala set is nominated for a Canadian Comedy Award for Best Taped Performance, the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, the Comedy Factory in Rotterdam, Raw Comedy Club in Stockholm, and a gala run at the Cape Town International Comedy Festival in South Africa. She has just finished a cross Canada tour produced by Clayton and Russell Peters called "GIRL'S NIGHT OUT" with fellow friends and comics Debra Digiovanni and Kristeen von Hagen. **Laurie** just won a Canadian Comedy award for a Female Actress for her role in *Almost Audrey*, a pilot for The Comedy Network co-created by Laurie and Greg Lawrence. She also has had recurring roles on Much Music's most highly rated show *Video on Trial*, CBC's *The Red Green Show* (Gemini nominee for Best Ensemble Cast) and *The Jon Dore Television Show*. Visit <http://www.diamondfield.com/laurieelliott.php> for more information.

**Sabrina Jalees** is a comedian, actor, keynote speaker and writer based in New York City (Brooklyn.) Since stepping onto the stage of (Toronto's) Yuk Yuk's amateur night at 16, she's become one of the most recognizable faces in the Canadian media. Lovers of comedy were immediately intrigued by the ½ -Pakistani, ½ -Swiss teen's humour (...mostly because she was so damned clever and admittedly, partially due to her moustache at the time). She was soon skipping class to tour the country. Going on to record a CTV Comedy Now special, perform at the famed Just For Laughs Festival and break Mike Myers' record as the youngest improviser ever hired by Second City. Between now and then she's crossed over into acting (CBS's *Flashpoint*, Lifetime's *Mom at Sixteen*), hosts a Canadian reality series (YTV's *In Real Life*) as well as a national radio show (CBC's *Laugh Out Loud*) and is best known for her rapier wit as a fixture of the most popular show on Canada's version of MTV (Much Music's *Video On Trial*). Her confidence and ambition has been in the scope of several international publications (Cosmogirl, Marie Claire Italy, ABC's *Switched*) and has led to the birth of a budding career in motivational speaking. Her comedy itself has caught glimpses of the globe, having toured North America, England and South Africa. Cut to now. She's completed her B.A. in Radio and Television Production. She's

moved to the U.S. where she's heavily booked touring colleges across the country. She's turned some important heads (NBC's Last Comic Standing, Logo's Year End Review, Animal Planet's The A-List) and she's working on turning a few more (i.e. You). Check her website out at [www.sabrinajalees.com](http://www.sabrinajalees.com)

Over the course of her 13 year career **Sarah Slean** has made seven albums, starred in two short films and a movie musical, published two volumes of poetry, held exhibitions of her paintings, written two string quartets and shared the stage with four of the country's leading orchestras. During that time she was nominated for three Junos (Best New Artist and Best Adult Alternative Album twice), two Geminis and her records have been released in over 10 countries world-wide. The release of 2004's *Day One* heralded the beginning of a promising career in France, garnering national radio play on major rock stations, several key festival slots and an appearance on the hit television show *Taratata*. **Sarah's** music has also been featured on both big and small screens (*Dawson's Creek, Felicity, Party of Five*). Her last album full-length studio album *The Baroness*, debuted at #1 on iTunes in Canada and spawned three national tours. An EP of its outtakes entitled *The Baroness Redecorates* showcases her remarkable talent as a string arranger, which is an aspect of her craft that **Slean** continues to develop in projects like The Art of Time Ensemble and her upcoming double album recording *Land & Sea*. Sarah has recently completed a degree in music and philosophy at the University of Toronto. Visit <http://www.sarahslean.com/> for more information.

**Maiko Watson** is a singer songwriter from Winnipeg, Manitoba. She released her solo debut album, *Sweet Vibration*, which picked up Urban Record of the Year at the Breakout West Awards 2010. Maiko is also a former member of soul/pop group Sugar Jones, whose debut album went platinum in Canada. A versatile performer, she also played Mimi in the musical "RENT!" with Rainbow Stage and has performed with Ron Paley's Big Band (Jazz) and Moses Mayes (funk/dance). Visit <http://maikowatson.com/> for more information.

**Alejandra Ribera** is an artist with international roots and a style that reminds her listeners of Edith Piaf and Tom Waits and a louder, more powerful Joan Armatrading. **Ribera's** disarming humour contrasts with her frequently dark material, and an unconventional life that's been full of adventures and misadventures. The resumé includes four days at York University's vocal jazz programme (she dropped out to go to the mountains of Slovakia and study with a witch doctor, honest) and childhood music studies. An elegantly simple CD sampler includes eight

of her own songs (including one in French) and a unique version of Cielito Lindo, a Mexican folk standard sung in Spanish. **Alejandra** called the album *Navigator Navigate Her*, and the cover shot shows her smoking a Cuban cigar, her eyebrows and her attitude indicating the surprises contained in the music. The CD led her to play on CBC Radio, on college stations, Toronto area festivals, and cabarets. Her four-piece band — all graduates of the Humber College jazz programme — skilfully match the quality of her voice, the aching ballads of love found and lost again, as well as the international flight-of-fancy excursions and the unexpected pop approach of some of her own songs.

For more information, please visit <http://www.alejandraribera.com/>.

**Ordinary women in extraordinary circumstances, Sistering** has been supporting homeless, under housed and low-income women in the Toronto community since 1981. The core services offered are basic needs for daily living, housing assistance, counseling, advocacy and self-employment programs. For more information, please visit [www.sistering.org](http://www.sistering.org).

*Please add this information to your listings. Images are available upon request. Presently confirming interviews.*

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