

Having a chuckle for breast cancer

This fundraiser will make you laugh, organizer James Uloth said.

A collection of five well-known stand-up comedians will be hitting Alberta roads this October to deliver The Boob Tour to a variety of places across the province, including a stop in Canmore.

And the road that these comics are traveling isn't an easy one Uloth said.

"I think it's easier to become a doctor than it is to become a stand up comedian," he said. "It's a long road. You pretty much have to spend five or six years in the trenches, not making any money. It's a struggle.

"It's not for everybody.

"I was a class clown, I guess, that's how I got into it," Uloth said. "As far back as I can remember, I always wanted to do stand-up. People beat you down especially because I'm from small towns when you're like, 'Oh you know, I want to get into entertainment.'

"And nobody really supports you because that's a tough road."

The Alberta-born and raised stand-up comic has seen his career take him farther a field, but he's back in his home province, having put together The Boob Tour, a tour that doubles as a fundraiser in support of a fight that's been important to Uloth for a number of years.

"When I was around 16, my best friend's mom died of breast cancer," he said. Once his career as a comic started up, Uloth started selling patches of a logo that he had created to honour breast cancer research as merchandise after his shows and he gave some of the profits "to the cause," he said. "And by the end of the year the funds hadn't added up to much and so I thought, 'You know what? I can do more.'"

His attempt to do more is The Boob Tour.

He's proud of the line-up that he's assembled, saying that he's grateful to have friends in the business who will do this.

When The Boob Tour comes to town there's sure to be a lot of laughter, he said.

He and his comic friends have a simple philosophy.

Their aim is: to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer and its associated local charities and to promote comedy and the power of laughter.

Part of the inspiration for The Boob Tour were those in the audience who thanked him for his efforts, but so was the idea that the funds raised, if they were somewhat substantial, could be kept locally, Uloth said.

The money raised from The Boob Tour when it passes through Canmore will go to the Canmore and Area Health Foundation.

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Uloth said he likes the idea of keeping the money local, and while most stops on the Boob Tour will see the money raised at shows donated to local support groups, he said he feels that the Canmore and Area Health Foundation fits the bill nicely.

"It's a premium show, that's what I put together," Uloth said. "This is meant to be sustainable.

"We've got a big stable, or roster, of solid comedians, so people who are coming out are going to laugh."

Uloth himself is one of those comics.

Tommy Savitt, Kelly Taylor, Mark Fry, Lars Callieou and Uloth will perform in Canmore.

Uloth has been a full-time comic now for four years and he's the first to admit that the first year on the road meant sleeping on a lot of couches.

He's off the wall, random even, and his stories range from the personal, to what he's seen on TV.

Uloth was recently invited to the World Series of Comedy in Las Vegas at the end of the month.

The Boob Tour rolls into Canmore's Cornerstone Theatre on Oct. 5. with a \$30 ticket. All proceeds go to the Canmore and Area Health Foundation for Breast Cancer.

For more information go to the-boobtour.com.

Canmore Leader

You can't handle the truth

By Hamish MacLean
Canmore Leader

Tommy Savitt is coming through Canmore with The Boob Tour — a fundraiser and a night for raising awareness of breast cancer.

Savitt's a Brooklyn-born, Los Angeles-based comic with a recent list of accomplishments that includes, winning the Seattle-International Comedy Competition in 2008 and the 2007 Boston Comedy Festival.

He'll bring an act that he describes as satire.

"It's snubbing political correct-

ness and pushing the boundaries of tolerance," Savitt said. "And it's done clean."

The U.S. entertainer calls Canada a second home and calls Canadian audiences more accepting.

Canadians, he said, are "more with it, they're more relaxed, they're not as uptight as their U.S. counterparts are."

His material ranges from what men say about women in the locker room, how parents deal with their children, to challenging today's standards.

"It's a cheeky act, a very cheeky

act," he said.

Growing up in Brooklyn he got laughs off cassettes by some of the classics in stand up: Rodney Dangerfield, Eddie Murphy and Richard Pryor — until his parents heard what he was listening to and promptly confiscated them.

And while he may have always been destined for the life of a touring comedian, the path he was to take wasn't revealed to him until much later in life.

"It was during law school," Savitt said. He's licensed to practice law in Connecticut and New York. "I was discontented, I realized this (law) was not what I wanted to do, but I felt trapped."

He asked himself how he'd make his "boring life more exciting" and decided he would become a judge advocate general — a legal advisor — for the marines.

After his first year of law school, he went to boot camp.

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"What happened was I would make the drill instructors laugh," he said. "And when the administration decided to part ways with me — I did not become a marine. We felt it was best that I should leave. In a good way, it was nothing dishonourable.

"On my way out my drill instructor said to me, 'One day, some unfortunate woman is going to bear you a child and during the next Great War, while you're watching it on TV, your child's going to look at you and your big blue eyes and you are going to tell your son you could have been a marine.'

"He did that to put me down in front of the others, but then he winked at me

and said, 'Savitt don't be a lawyer, be a comedian.'"

And that's what happened.

To this day he's philosophical about what stood in his way from becoming a marine.

"Mostly swimming — I would say swimming was the biggest culprit," he said.

Although he did practice "a little bit" Savitt's been doing comedy since his second year of law school.

He's spent the last 10 years in Los Angeles, pursuing his career.

And now he's looking forward to the mornings that near zero on his Alberta tour with The Boob Tour.

"It's a great line up that Jamie Uloth put together," Savitt said. "It's strong, very strong from top to bottom."



Tommy Savitt

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For more information go to theboob-tour.com.

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