



# PRESS RELEASE

## COMEDY BAR



## TORONTO'S LEGENDARY COMEDY BAR LAUNCHES **CBMAX**, A NEW DIGITAL HUB FOR CANADIAN COMEDY

TORONTO, ON – May 23, 2025 – Comedy Bar, a cornerstone of Canada's vibrant comedy scene, is thrilled to announce the launch of **Comedy Bar Max (CBMax)**, a dedicated YouTube channel set to amplify the voices of Canadian comedy. This dynamic new platform is a partnership between Comedy Bar owner Gary Rideout, James Elksnitis, and Rob Metcalfe of **Links Live Media**, with a creative team including Head of Development Nicholas Carella, Head of Post Production Dave Koval, and Dave Luca.

CBMax will launch with a significant offering of content, including **16 full-length comedy specials** slated for release this year. The initial diverse lineup features **Juno-nominated Hisham Kelati**, alongside established comedic voices such as **Rob Bebenek, Ali Hassan, Tamara Shevon** and **Kate Davis**.

Beyond stand-up, CBMax will introduce a panel series, **'Walk Me Through This,'** hosted by the celebrated **Sean Cullen**. CBMax is also excited to announce the launch of a late-night show, **"After Hours with Ryan Belleville,"** to finally fill the void left for many years of Canada not having a late-night talk show to platform Canadian talent, adding another dimension to the channel's programming. Further expanding its content, CBMax also has game shows and podcasts in development for release through 2025."

### About **Comedy Bar**:




Established in Toronto in 2008 by Gary Rideout Jr. and James Elksnitis, is a premier venue dedicated to fostering independent comedy and the development of both emerging and established talent. Hosting over 150 shows monthly across two locations, it has become a central hub for sketch, improv, alternative, and stand-up comedy in Canada, attracting both national and international comedic figures.

For more information, contact Gary Rideout: [gary@comedybar.ca](mailto:gary@comedybar.ca)

"The barriers to entry for a comedian to gain an audience have never been lower. We've seen skilled and talented Canadian comedians like Steph Tolev, Hassan Phillips, Lisa Gilroy, Laura Ramosa, Hoodo Hersi, and Tom Hearn find success online and we see an opportunity to help so many more incredibly talented Canadian comedians do that. We have stars in this country, we just want to give them a platform." - Gary Rideout, co-founder of CBMax

CBMax is poised to become a leading Canadian comedy hub on YouTube, offering a dedicated space for both established and emerging talent to connect with broader audiences. The channel represents a significant opportunity for industry professionals to discover and engage with the future stars of Canadian comedy on a major digital platform

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### About **Links Live Media**:

Links Live Media is a Toronto-based video production company specializing in cinematic-quality content for small and medium-sized businesses across Southern Ontario. Founded in 2018 the company offers a range of services including multi-camera live event streaming.

[\(WATCH THE OFFICIAL CBMAX TRAILER HERE\)](#)

