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Halifax comedian finalist for Canada's Next Top Comic

By Our Staff

Halifax comedian Pardis Parker has been named as a finalist for Canada's Next Top Comic in a contest from satellite radio broadcaster XM Canada.

The only finalist from the Atlantic provinces, Parker is up against Jeff Elliott, John Hastings and Matt O'Brien, all of Toronto; Geoff MacKay of Ottawa; Leland Klassen of Abbotsford, B.C.; and Julie Webster and Danny Mendlow, both of Vancouver.

The contest was launched July 5 and the eight finalists were chosen by an XM panel of comedy experts from audio and video entries.

"It's always nice to have your work recognized," Parker said in a news release. "Winning this one is going to be tough, though the winner is determined by a public vote and I'm the only comedian from a small city."

Online voting in the nationwide stand-up comedy competition started Monday at www.canadasnexttopcomic.com and ends Aug. 29. The winner will be announced Sept. 1 and will be invited to perform live at Global ComedyFest Vancouver on Sept. 22. The winner will also take home \$2,000 cash as well as a professionally recorded and mixed CD of their material.

It's been a good year for Parker, who is a nominee in four categories at the Canadian Comedy Awards to be held in Toronto in October.

He also recently won Brit David Baddiel's international stand-up competition and previously became the first Canadian ever to book the CBS Diversity Showcase.

In separate news, Parker's short film, Two Men, Two Cows, Two Guns, will receive a silver award at the upcoming JamFest Indie Film Festival in Hammond, La.

Local film buffs eager to watch Two Men, Two Cows, Two Guns can catch it Wednesday at 8 p.m. It'll screen as part of LaughterBurner, a weekly alternative comedy revue in Bearly's Pub on Barrington Street.

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