

Rick Wharton

Biography

HEY...IT'S THAT GUY!

Rick Wharton—actor, comedian, writer, producer.

There are two things Rick Wharton loves: show and biz.

Wharton's own history in the music and entertainment industry is a unique one. A music industry exec for Universal Music (he promoted highly acclaimed acts including U2, Guns n Roses, The Who, Aerosmith, BB King) - who turned Second City stage actor, who then went from stage to television as the highly recognizable character and cult fave *The Conspiracy Guy* and as a notable producer and host of live events in music, comedy and theatre makes him one of Canada's most eclectic and well connected producers and performers.

Rick was a co-founder of the popular cult comedy troupe *Plead the Fifth*. In the 90's Rick was asked to audition for Toronto's *Second City*, where he performed with both the touring and mainstage companies for two solid years. He then started his own monthly comedy show at the Laugh Resort in Toronto, *Rick's Improv Café*. The successful strictly improvisational show drew large audiences and rave reviews. Rick's Improv Café had a 4 year run and is considered "one of Toronto's best improv shows." By bringing together players in new and untested combinations, Wharton "gives each show an extra jolt of crackling unpredictability that heightened the wit and vitality of the skits." (Toronto Star)

Wharton's talents as a producer flourished with live shows and his highly acclaimed benefit to fight AIDS—*Yo Adrian*, a yearly variety show featuring top Canadian celebrities, musicians, and comedians which raised over \$50,000 for an AIDS hospice.

Rick also performs for theatre, television, film and commercials and hundreds of corporate events.

Rick excels in voice work and has been featured on many radio spots.

Wharton enjoyed a 4 year run on Canada's SPACE: The Imagination Station Channel for his character *The Conspiracy Guy* and remains a widely popular and recognizable character across Canada. For his performance in *The Conspiracy Guy* Rick was nominated for a Canadian Comedy Award for Best Male Performance in a television category. He has performed in dozens of television commercials including UPS, McDonald's, Coca Cola, Ford, Cheerios and more. Rick has appeared in both dramatic and comedic television roles and in film, and has received accolades for his stage roles in various theatre festivals.

As a live event host, Rick is a natural. He has hosted events too numerous to mention. Currently, Rick produces, performs and tours with his variety show *The Canadian Comic Witness Protection Program* for both public and private corporate audiences and was recently nominated for another Canadian Comedy Award for the category Best Male Improvisor. The show blends a revolving cast of Canada's top comedic actors for an evening of improv, standup, sketch and musical comedy. "Wharton's rotating casts of fellow alumni and others are reminiscent of those imaginary all-star teams of ex Toronto Blue Jays that bitter fans assemble in their heads." (Toronto Sun)

Rick also works with schools and military families with his brainchild *Shenanigans*, a program designed to use improvisation and comedy to promote communication and self esteem.

Rick is available for film, television, radio, theatre and corporate hosting or performance.

Rick Wharton

Corporate Testimonials

Comedian and actor Rick Wharton has been performing and writing his own special brand of humour for over fifteen years.

Rick consistently appears at numerous corporate events as the featured comedian and host/emcee in Canada and the United States. Rick is enthusiastically recognized for his wit, tastefulness, inventiveness and delivery.

Rick is a central figure in the Canadian entertainment industry. He has appeared in numerous television and commercial roles in both Canada and the U.S. Rick has also appeared regularly at comedy clubs.

What Audiences and Companies Are Saying...



"It was a blast...we laughed...and we cried!"

"Rick Wharton will make it come alive"



Chicago—opening for Rik Emmett—*"The spontaneity of your show takes courage and creativity. You created the spark which energized the Raue Centre for the Arts and set the stage for an incredible evening of entertainment. It must have been the socks!"*

Toronto—Hard Rock Café—*We really enjoyed having you host the event. You really do like to have fun! Improv! The event raised over \$47,000. You were a part of this success!*

Pembroke—Youth Group—*You were amazing. Our deepest appreciation—the kids were a tough crowd at first but your expertise worked its charm! We were impressed and can't thank you enough.*

Combermere - School—*We enjoyed your workshop and have passed your info to all of the schools in the Board—well done!*

Quebec—Winter Carnival—*It was a blast! I laughed and I cried. Your interaction with the locals certainly captivated the audience. Comments overheard the next day were overwhelming as well as comments*

from the paper "A crowd saw comedy that elicited roars of laughter with their antics. The mayor and a local well known teacher as well as members of the media bore the brunt of comedian Rick Wharton's antics. The repertoire of jokes & stories were hilarious—a great success!"

Toronto Foundation Fighting Blindness National Event—*thanks so much for your great help in m.c.'ing our kick-off. You did an amazing job! I hope you enjoyed yourself as much as we enjoyed having you. The feedback was great.*

Ottawa—Rogers House/ Ottawa Senators Foundation—*Thanks for a wonderful evening of entertainment. With such demanding jobs, providing end of life care to young people who should be looking forward to childhood adventures and fun, it was good for us to get out and enjoy some laughter together. I hope that the comedians had as much fun as we did!*

Brokerlink.ca—*The performance was fantastic and I got many kudos for hiring you guys! The whole troupe was hilarious! The big boss almost cut out after dinner but said he was very glad*

he didn't!

Philadelphia—Panzelyr Entertainment—*Rick is the whole package; professional, talented and an absolute pleasure to work with. We look forward to our next event together*

Carol Priest Entertainment—*Thank you for the tremendous job you did for the communications company. I know I can always count on you to deliver a fabulous show—and the process of working with you is always top notch. That means a great deal to the corporate market. Reliability and talent—great combo!*

Brock Centre for the Performing Arts—*thank you—you were a fabulous host and did a wonderful job keeping the show moving!*

Pizza Pizza Head Office—*Rick, Rick, Rick = thanks again for a wonderful job! Lots of great feedback on the game show you put together in Ottawa and Toronto.*

The Event Bureau, Toronto—*The event went very well. You and your team were great and we will be keeping in touch FOR SURE!!*

Elevations Event Marketing—We have had the pleasure of working with Rick Wharton and his team of improv players. In fact, we have worked very closely on a large project with Rick. His team exceeded our client's expectations. Rick took the time to do research on our client, determined the vision for the event, and conveyed it perfectly to his team. The improvisers went the extra mile but creating a comedy song, which enhanced their usual custom comedy performance.

Orpheus Choir School of Toronto Gala Fundraiser—What a night at Casa Loma! Everyone enjoyed the show and told me “the comedians were so funny” which may seem obvious—but is a true compliment, as we have all sat through comedians who are not particularly funny. *YOU GUYS WERE FUNNY!* On behalf of the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, I would like to thank you for agreeing to perform at our annual gala. Your performance and professionalism guaranteed this success, and working with you certainly made my job easier!

Senior Vice President of Operations, CHUBB Insurance—Your group made the evening!!

Teletoon Television—I wanted to tell you what a success our Teletoon 5th Birthday party was—and you were certainly the hugest part of that.

The whole committee would like to thank you for all of your hard work, especially coming in to meet with us to gather information. That is the kind of special effort you don't see too often. The improv was great—it was a lot of fun! The performance was a great way to wrap up a fun day.

President, Fordam & Associates—During my recent lecture series at Ryerson School of TV and Radio Arts in Toronto, I had the pleasure of hosting Rick as a Guest Speaker. He was the most eloquent and thoroughly engaged the class of mature students in the “art of the TV pitch” and the importance and role of publicity and promotions to support established shows and stars. Having known and worked with Rick for some 15 years, I was confident he would enlighten as well as entertain the somewhat jaded group of students. However, I was pleasantly surprised to find myself hanging on his every word; this old dog learnt several new tricks that evening! Thanks Rick, you were great, and the students all commented very favourably on your breadth of knowledge and professional demeanor...as well as the jokes and insider comments. You definitely get an A++ for that effort!

MDS Pharmaceuticals—Our sincere appreciation for the fantastic performance orchestrated by you and your colleagues. The celebration of

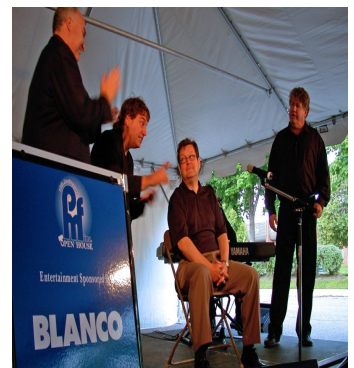
our CEO'S special birthday was enjoyed by all, even John, the subject of the roast! Many people dropped by to express their appreciation and admiration of the work done by you and your fellow comedians. I was completely amazed how you were able to take such bare bone facts and turn them into truly funny and memorable scenes.

Milltronics Inc.—For the last celebration we booked a comedy show with Rick Wharton. All we asked of Rick was that it be entertaining and fun. The interaction with the employees was unbelievable. The actors had a way of making everyone feel comfortable and at ease, and had no problem getting people up to take part in the skits. The audience couldn't believe that it had not been rehearsed in advance. The quality of the performance was well worth the price we paid. Rick took care of everything—all I had to do was sit back and enjoy the show!

AstraZeneca Canada—We laughed, we cried, we got our money's worth! That is how we feel about the two occasions we've had to enjoy the fun and laughter of Rick Wharton. We wanted to liven up an event to mark our newly merged company. Having you as our MC meant that we had someone on stage who could deal with the duties in a light, upbeat manner. You entertained us with hilarious, appropriate, audience involved comedy.



“Your comedy sketches were a pleasant diversion from the normal wining and dining and it was equally for us up-towners to enjoy the company of familiar TV faces.”



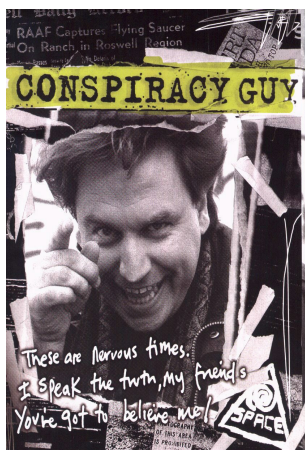
AstraZeneca Canada cont'd—People still talk about how much they enjoyed the humour. Both times you have found the right balance between having fun and making fun, and involving our employees, including our Vice Presidents and CEO. We appreciate the professional manner in which you have worked with us, incorporated our needs into the shows, and helped us to accomplish our goals.

President, Universal Studios—We just wanted to take a minute to thank you again for a job well done at our event. Your contribution was very well received and added a whole new dimension to the party.

AC Intramural Council—It was a great honor for our school to have you and your talented colleagues perform in support of the charity foundation. The professionalism, skillfulness and distinctly unique humour of your presentation were a pleasure to be a part of.

UNI-SELECT INC.—Thank you for being a part of our annual Gala Dinner and Dance. Your comedy sketches were a pleasant diversion from the normal wining and dining and it was equally for us up-towners to enjoy the company of familiar tv faces. Rick, if I may, I would like to confess that I had my doubts as to the attention span of people in a ballroom of that magnitude—but your kindly whisper to me of “it’s gonna be fine, you’ll see” prior to the show was so appropriate, and it was proven that you certainly know how to work a room professionally—as evidenced by the eager audience participation.

OFFSA Convenor—Our goal at the hockey championship was to improve the entire experience surrounding the tournament to relieve player stress during a tension filled week, and to explore



The “fun” side of sport. The cast planned out a performance based on my audience’s needs & desires. They were interactive and explosive on stage, creating an atmosphere of friendship for 300 coaches, athletes and parents. When I saw them making my athletes laugh and smile, I realized the true meaning of production. Each of them has a commanding control of humour, but your ability to motivate 16-20 year olds was outstanding. The cast takes pride in their work, they were very professional and this desire to achieve success is remarkable. We have had countless letters of praise for this one event. It is important to note that many people can have a production, but Rick Wharton can make it come alive. You obviously love what you do!

Brother Andre High School—Rick was not only willing to be involved with the charity benefit, but also committed to provide & produce an entertaining evening. All I can say is that it went beyond the call of duty. The evening was nothing short of spectacular! Rick’s improvisational talents included active audience participation which allowed many to be “actors” themselves. The show was hilarious and the feedback for the evening was very positive.

Lucent Technologies—Your improve act was a wonderful climax to the day’s activities. You were very successful in interacting with the audience in a meaningful way, maintaining a spontaneous repartee while providing humour that was appropriate to our firm. The feedback we received from the attendees rated the evening’s entertainment tops.

Midnite Hour Productions—We’ve done a lot of sound for Rick’s corporate shows across Canada and the U.S. Wharton and his comedy troupe are always top notch, classy, entertaining, & have the audience on the edge of their seats laughing!

Dion, Durrell Law Firm— A crowd of actuaries, lawyers and their spouses is probably not the ideal comedy audience, but you and the other comics quickly broke the ice and had everyone laughing hysterically. The high energy, warmth and improv talents of Rick Wharton (aka) The Conspiracy Guy, was a particular favourite with our crowd, many of whom recognized him from t.v. Enthusiastic comments on your comedy night are still coming in!