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Infamous Canadian Olympian turned drug kingpin comes to the Toronto Fringe stage in *El Jefe*

Toronto, May 13, 2026 — In 2002, B.C. snowboarder Ryan Wedding went to the Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, representing Canada. 23 years later, Wedding was named among the FBI's 10 Most Wanted criminals for alleged drug trafficking crimes with Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel under the alias "El Jefe".

In the play *El Jefe*, which **premiers at Sweet Action Theatre as part of the Toronto Fringe Festival** on June 30, the titular Canadian kingpin travels back in time to visit himself on the eve of young Ryan's Olympic debut. Haunted by his crimes, Jefe aims to right the wrongs and rechart his path, while young Ryan becomes intoxicated by ideas of wealth and infamy.

Written by **Nate Simpson (pictured right)**, an emerging Toronto-based playwright and sportswriter, this comedy/drama asks its audience — how far would you go to change your fate?



Associate directing *El Jefe* with Simpson is actor and dramaturg Ella Berger. Co-starring as Ryan and Jefe respectively are Jeff Clement and Josh Palmer. Berger and Clement make up the acclaimed improv comedy duo *Razzle and Dazzle*, which recently placed second in the World's Biggest Improv Tournament in Toronto. Palmer, a seasoned theatre actor, has graced stages across the city and beyond. All four members of the creative team are graduates of Toronto Metropolitan University's Acting Performance program.

"People are calling this show the best Jeff Clement performance to date," said Palmer. "To be fair, I'm hearing that mainly from Jeff."

El Jefe is a (most likely fictional, but the jury is still out) show that you won't want to miss this Summer.

Please reach out regarding any media enquiries.

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El Jefe | Play Ball Theatre Co. | presented as part of the 2026 Toronto Fringe Festival |
written by Nate Simpson | directed by Nate Simpson, Ella Berger | starring Jeff Clement, Josh
Palmer | design by Dawn Simpson, Anthony Allan | fight by Tom Shoshani

****El Jefe* runs from June 30 - July 12. Tickets available as of June 3, 2026***