

**Habib Siam and Jean Paul present:
COCONUTS, CEDAR TREES, AND MAPLE LEAVES**

A stand-up comedy special at the 2018 Toronto Fringe Festival

Identity politics appear to increasingly govern our social interactions, the language we use, and the spaces we occupy. As important as it is to recognize diversity and foster mutual respect, we seem to be moving towards broad representations of people's life experiences. We speak of the "immigrant plight," as if all immigrants shared the same story. We've grouped "black history" into a single month, and use "brown" to describe hues ranging from light beige to dark hazel.

"Coconuts, cedar trees, and maple leaves" is a story about culture, identity, and friendship that emphasizes individual experiences over generalized narratives. Habib Siam is a Lebanese immigrant to Canada who completed a Ph.D. at McGill University before committing to comedy. A club owner once described him as "too urban... too Hip Hop... for someone that smart." Jean Paul was born in Trinidad and moved to Canada as a youth. His comedy has taken him to unexpected places, including Jerusalem, where he may or may not have battle rapped a rabbi. He has written for the CBC, with Russell Peters, and was nominated for a Juno award.

This show is actually not a story but multiple stories woven into one; it is a (re)presentation that challenges narrow conceptions of identity, culture, and human relationships. From parental expectations, to personal struggles, and professional success, Habib and Jean invite you to take this journey through space and time... and a few security checkpoints.

Dates, venue, and ticket information

July 4 to 15, 2018 at Sarah's Café and Bar (1426 Danforth Avenue)

Runtime: 80 minutes / Mature language

Showtime: 7PM

Friday and Saturday shows start at 8PM

Admission: \$13

Tickets available at the door (Cash only)

For online ticket information: <https://fringetoronto.com/festivals/fringe/tickets-passes>

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