

Media Release: Arts and Entertainment

PACO ERHARD: WORST. GERMAN. EVER. (Stand-up Comedy, Toronto Fringe Festival)

This award-winning German comedian has a humble 6-month goal: fix Canada and America

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TORONTO, ON - Toronto Fringe 2022 marks the Toronto premiere of acclaimed German stand-up comedian Paco Erhard, who is bringing his darkest and most personal show yet.

In *Paco Erhard: Worst. German. Ever.*, Erhard mixes biting political satire with deeply personal experiences: his father's slide into dementia, his ideas to get Red and Blue States to compromise ("make abortion 100% legal, but arm the fetuses"), baffling encounters with the far right in Calgary, the pandemic destroying his relationship, and why he is nervous about moving to New York: "I've been woke for quite a while now, but I've never done it competitively." Erhard is going all in.

"It's an adventure", says the Munich-born comedian. "I would normally introduce myself to a new city with my comedy calling card, *5-Step Guide to Being German*". But instead of playing it safe with his globally sold-out festival behemoth, he hits Toronto with this more dark and daring show.

He explains: "I realized that the more I opened up about my struggles and rough times recently, the more people went 'oh my god, me too' and opened up themselves. The personal and the political haven't been this intertwined in a long time – and laughing about it all together has been cathartic."

"I may take digs at America... but Canada needs fixing too. Buckle up, my friends!"

The German funnyman may not be a household name in North America yet, but he has been a staple performer at comedy festivals worldwide since 2011, selling out shows at Edinburgh Fringe, Edmonton Fringe, and Melbourne International Comedy Festival to name but a few.

Now based out of America on a 3-year artist visa, Erhard is hot off a stupendous run at the USA's largest fringe festivals, Orlando and San Diego, winning multiple awards, including Critic's Pick and Patrons' Pick. And he has his eyes on yet more impact in Canada and the US.

"I am well aware that nothing makes people dig out the word 'oxymoron' more than a German comedian", he jokes. "It's like a freak show thing: the bearded lady, the calf with two heads, the German with a sense of humour."

But being from a funny family, using humour to fit in as he grew up in eight different regions of Germany, and finally discovering stand-up as an exchange student in North Carolina at 17, he quips "helped me overcome this of course completely factual developmental disability of all us 82 million Germans. I'm an inspirational story of what is possible."

And, he says, being German and the great-grandson of a high-ranking German politician ousted by the Nazis and reinstated by the Americans after the war, his political comedy he says may "have a lesson or two from German history to help America not completely f*** up in 2024".

However, Toronto audiences should not think that *Paco Erhard: Worst. German. Ever.* is a show about Germany and America only and that Canada will escape Erhard's mischief: "If your trucker protests earlier this year showed us anything, it's that Canada needs fixing and deserves lampooning too. So buckle up, my friends!"

German Comedy International in association with **The Toronto Fringe Festival** presents:
Paco Erhard: Worst. German. Ever. – *written and performed by Paco Erhard*

Venue, dates, and times:

Tarragon Theatre (Extraspace), 30 Bridgman Ave, Toronto, ON M5R 1X3

Thu 7th July – 7:45 pm

Fri 8th July – 10:00 pm

Sun 10th July – 3:45 pm

Mon 11th July – 6:45 pm

Tue 12th July – 3:00 pm

Runtime: 1h15 mins.

Tickets: Tickets will go on sale June 22nd and can be purchased online at fringetoronto.com or by calling the box office at 416-966-1062. Tickets can also be purchased in person during the festival at each venue.

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