ARTS & LIFE

PREVIEW

THE GAZETTE | MONTREAL | FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2005 | SECTION EDITOR: MARK TREMBLAY | 514 987 2560 | mtremblay@thegazette.canwest.com



Love rears its ugly head in Wedding Crashers, a raggedly amusing romantic comedy, D5

AnnaSophia Robb is bright, beautiful and Johnny Depp's co-star. She's also 11, D12

JUST FOR LAUGHS

Our goy Woody Allen



BROWNSTEIN

ON SCOTT FAULCONBRIDGE

He is among the brightest and funniest comics on this entire continent.

omedy has rarely been accused of being an educational tool. But Scott Faulconbridge might soon shatter that myth. Faulconbridge never fails to learn ... er ... teach us fascinating stuff. On porpoises, for example.

"Did you know that four per cent of a male porpoise's mass consists of his testicles?" asks the cerebral Montreal wit. "And that's in cold water." Pause. "In cold water, I have a vagina!"

Thanks for sharing, Scott. To his credit, though, Faulconbridge has never been shy about sharing his shortcomings, physically, mentally or spiritually. All of which explains why he is not only among the brightest but also among the funniest comics on this entire continent.

He's been called a goy Woody Allen - when the latter was actually funny - for his dry, droll, often self-effacing insights on the human condition. He, too, has made an art form of mining his neuroses. This conversation between Faulconbridge and his friend Steve, after having spotted a bear while camping, sums it all up: "Do you think we can outrun the bear?" Steve asks him. "I don't have to outrun the bear; I just have to outrun you," Faulconbridge replies. "And that's one race I'm going to win.'

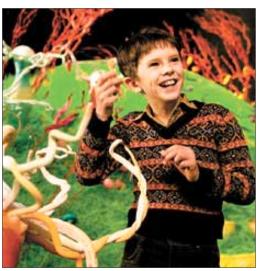
If you have yet to catch him unwind, you've missed out on a local babbling treasure. Take heart, though: Faulconbridge will be almost impossible to miss for anyone taking in Just for Laughs. He appears at the Comedyworks, tonight through Sunday. He moves over to Club Soda, Monday through Wednesday at 7 p.m., to perform in LaughRodisiacs: The Relationships Show. He then hangs around Club Soda on Wednesday for a 9:30 p.m. Bubbling With Laughter gig. It's back to the Comedyworks to do the Best of the Fest, Thursday at 8:30 p.m. On Friday, he'll join Dame Edna for the gala at Théâtre St. Denis. And just to ensure he won't sleep, he treks out to a date at Bourbon St. West, Saturday at 8 p.m.

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Take the twisted fairy tale of Roald Dahl, sprinkle in Tim Burton's surreal dreamscapes and add a dash of Johnny Depp's malevolent whimsy. Stir vigorously. Enjoy

A dark, bittersweet treat





COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS Charlie is the lucky winner of a factory tour.

This, then, is not your father's Willy Wonka, a slightly more enigmatic character created by Gene Wilder in the 1971 version of

That was a rough-edged, low-tech film whose special effects, production design and all-around weirdness weren't anywhere near the level of the new version.

Please see CHOCOLATE, Page D4

