

THE SECOND CITY/DAVE THOMAS HOSPITAL COMEDY TO BEGIN PRODUCTION IN EDMONTON

February 3, 2003 - Edmonton, AB. Cadavers will be careening through an empty Edmonton hospital when production begins next week on The Second City's *Whitecoats*. Principal photography begins on February 10 and continues through the end of March.

Written and directed by famed Canadian comedy genius Dave Thomas (*SCTV*, *Strange Brew*, *Grace Under Fire*) the feature film captures the follies of six interns who have varying degrees of interest in their education in St. Albert's Hospital, where the dregs of med school are sent when every other hospital turns them down...

Largely built on improvisation, Thomas is currently workshopping the script with his lead cast, all up-and-comers in the Canadian comedy landscape including Peter Oldring (*K:19*, *Lost* and *Delirious*) and Pat Kelly (*Liquid Soap*, *Just for Laughs*), both of whom have competed in the Just for Laughs Comedy Festival World Improv Championships and have been members of The Second City mainstage and touring company. Other cast members include Christine Chatelain (*40 Days & 40 Nights*, *Just Cause*), Viv Leacock (Stephen Spielberg's *They*, *I Spy*), Jane McLean (*Odyssey 5*, *Largo Winch*), Carly Pope (*Popular*, *Orange County*) and Ingrid Kavelaars (*Police Academy*, *National Lampoon's Senior Trip*).

While Thomas spent his early SCTV years in Edmonton, he insists "he is not a trout swimming upstream," but he is happy to have found a supportive city and an empty hospital as the backdrop for his latest improv venture.

The film is being produced by Josh Miller of Minds Eye Entertainment (*MythQuest*, *Mentors*) with Executive Producers Nic Wry of Studio Entertainment (*SCTV*, *In Concert*), Andrew Alexander (*The Second City*, *SCTV*), Executive Producers Marie Claude Poulin of TVA Films and Kevin DeWalt of Minds Eye International.

The Second City's *Whitecoats* is a Minds Eye Entertainment production in association with Maple and Palm Productions, Studio Entertainment and with the participation of Telefilm Canada, the Canadian Television Fund - Licence Fee Program, TVA Films, Minds Eye International, CHUM Television, The Movie Network and Super Ecran, Movie Central - a Corus Entertainment Company, Astral Media - The Harold Greenberg Fund, CanWest Western Independent Producers Fund, Alberta Film Development Program of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit.

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