

BROWNSTEIN Ali Hassan hosts second edition of We Ain't Terrorists

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"I can see myself doing this for another 30 years," says Bowman, who would be in his 70s then. "Improv keeps the brain sharp."

"And at the rate our economy is going, improv will probably be considered a good job in 30 years," jokes Derkson, who would also be in his 70s if he happened to be around for On the Spot's 50th anniversary.

"Of course, if I'm still in this company in 30 years, it will mean the other stuff

hasn't panned out," adds Bowman, also a charter member of this city's Vestibules sketch-comedy company. "On the plus side, though, it just could mean that I won't be hooked up to any medical life-sustaining machinery, either."

On the Spot celebrates its 20th birthday with performances Tuesday to Saturday at the Comedyworks, 1238 Bishop St. For reservations, call 514-398-9661.



As my friend funny-man

Faisal Butt is so fond of saying when folks seem taken aback by his appearance: "Some people think that my beard makes me look like a terrorist. I'm a largely unemployed Muslim comedian of Pakistani origin who is dating a white woman. The only people I'm terrorizing are my parents. Why can't I just look broke – which is what I am."

Fittingly, Butt will be centre stage for the second edition of We Ain't Terrorists, a show that seeks to shatter racial stereotypes as well as to in-

duce an explosion of giggles.

WAT, which comes to the Cabaret Just for Laughs on Wednesday, also features veteran non-terrorist organization affiliates such as the sultry Eman and show founder Dave Merheje. In the interests of cultural harmony, also on the bill is member of the tribe, Jeff Schouela. Host is the ever-effervescent stand-up/chef Ali Hassan, back from his second visit to the Amman Stand-Up Comedy Festival.

"This is a show that allows us to laugh at ourselves, and

the often paranoid world around us," explains Hassan, who has been touring throughout Ontario with the show over the last week.

"Sure, that guy has a beard and that girl is wearing a headscarf and that dude smells of gun-powder. But it doesn't mean we're not normal people with great stories to share – maybe not that last dude. He is a little sketchy. Seriously, the show explores the boundaries of what it's like to be a minority in Canada."

"And we want to prove that

we can be just as boring as any other religious group in the country," Butt cracks. "The reality is we're more scared of terrorists than anybody else – because we're the ones who get blamed and who have to live with it."

We Ain't Terrorists at the Just for Laughs Cabaret, 2111 St. Laurent Blvd., Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15. 514-791-8569 or go to www.weaintterrorists.com.

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