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ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FARCE hit the airwaves on December 9, 1973 on CBC Radio, creating memorable comedy characters and lampooning political targets. In the 1980's they added television specials, summer stage shows, cross-country concert tours, and records. And in the 1990's they returned to television with a New Year's Eve special, *1992: Year of the Farce*. This quickly turned into a weekly topical half-hour, Friday nights on CBC, which immediately surpassed the previously unreachable target for a Canadian comedy show: one million viewers per minute on the Nielsen people-meters.

Having just completed its eleventh season on CBC-TV, ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FARCE continues to be a highly rated Canadian series, alongside imported powerhouse programs from south of the border. AIR FARCE's Friday night average for their first eight years was a mighty 1,273,000 viewers. Their New Year's Eve specials attract over 2 million.

Internationally, AIR FARCE has been seen on PBS stations in the U.S., and on networks in Australia, New Zealand, Israel and various European countries. Tapes have been sent to Canadian peacekeepers in Kosovo, the program plays regularly on the television sets of Canadian Consulates, and sketches are an in-flight staple for Air Canada.

Each week's show is also available on the world wide web at airfarce.com, and classic shows from previous seasons are aired twice daily on CTV's Comedy Network.

Winners of the Governor General's Performing Arts Award in 1998, and recipients of a star on Canada's Walk of Fame in 2000, ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FARCE became the first Canadian inductees into the International Humour Hall of Fame in 1992. Maclean's Magazine chose AIR FARCE for their 1991 Honour Roll of 'Canadians Who Make a Difference'. Air Farce won the World Medal of the New York Festivals in 1996, and the 1996 Golden Sheaf Award for Best Comedy at the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival. They are recipients of Honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Brock University, honorary doctorates from Alberta's Athabasca University, 15 ACTRA Awards for radio and television, and a Juno. At the 2000 Gemini Awards, they received both the Earle Grey Award for their body of work in Canadian television, and the viewer-voted People's Choice Award for favourite television program, which they also won in 2001. Another recent honour (April 2001) is induction into the Canadian Comedy Hall of Fame.

In true Canadian fashion only two of the group, DON FERGUSON and JESSICA HOLMES, were born in Canada - in Montreal and Ottawa respectively. Their two accomplices - ROGER ABBOTT and LUBA GOY - immigrated to this country from England and Ukraine respectively. Founding member JOHN MORGAN was part of the troupe until his retirement in May, 2001. Comic DAVE BROADFOOT was also an original member, from 1973 until his departure in May, 1988. Newest cast member JESSICA HOLMES joined in 2003, making the troupe a foursome again!

Integral off-camera members of the Air Farce creative team are head writers GORD HOLTAM and RICK OLSEN, contributing writers ROB LINDSAY and WAYNE TESTORI and television director PERRY ROSEMOND.



ROGER ABBOTT began his broadcasting career off-the-air in programming and management at a number of radio stations, before accidentally stumbling into comedy with The Jest Society, and helping found Air Farce in 1973. Apart from Air Farce, Roger dreams of spending his time reading mystery novels on a beach in Italy within walking distance of a vineyard and a bakery. Among his favourite Air Farce characters are Jean Chretien, Leonard Cohen, and the misogynist TV critic Gilbert Smythe Bite-Me. With Don Ferguson, he produces the television series.

DON FERGUSON Don graduated from Montreal's Loyola College with an Honours English degree, then worked in radio and as an audio-visual producer and photographer until he discovered that comedy writing and performing was more fun. Don has written and directed documentary programs for CBC television, a science-fiction series for radio, a political farce for the stage, and a stage drama about the ill-fated World War II raid on Dieppe. He recently starred in and produced, along with Roger Abbott, a sitcom pilot for CBC called XPM. His most famous Air Farce characters include The Confused Philosopher, the Chicken Cannon's Colonel Stacy, Bob Dylan and Joe Clarke.

LUBA GOY is a graduate of Montreal's National Theatre School and has performed with Stratford Theatre. She is immensely proud of her Ukrainian heritage and has entertained at many of their events. Her other work includes voice-over for animation, fundraising events, commercials, and film roles (including a feature shot in Kiev, Ukraine). Says Luba, "I've portrayed over 3,000 characters and there's no end in sight... Life doesn't get much better than this!") She's also thrilled with the honorary doctorate degrees. ("Mama is so proud, she tells everyone - Luba barely finished high school, but she's a doctor!")

JOHN MORGAN John came to Canada from Wales, and has at various times been a newspaper reporter, a magazine editor, a school-teacher and a pub owner. He co-created the CBC Radio series Funny You Should Say That; was one of the founders of Air Farce; wrote the pilot for King of Kensington. He's written and performed in England, including his BBC Radio Series It's All In The Mind of John Morgan. His Air Farce characters included Jock McBile, the monosyllabic Mike from Canmore, and the Prophet on the Mount. John both performed and wrote for Air Farce.

JESSICA HOLMES After two years of missionary work in Venezuela, Jessica and some friends at Ryerson's School of Radio & Television Arts dared each other to try stand up. Jessica caught the bug, and soon joined the cast of The Second City Touring Company, performed at Just for Laughs, and landed her first TV gig: Little Big Kid on YTV, where she played an over-grown three-year-old. During the day, she was working at CBC in Master Control doing data entry. She would see the tapes of comics pass by her desk and think: "someday Toto, that could be me." She was able to quit her lucrative typing job when she was hired by Salter Street Films to write and perform celebrity impressions in the entertainment parody: The Itch. Next came her own one woman Comedy Now! special titled Holmes Alone, which was nominated for a Gemini award. That special was the inspiration for her popular sketch series; The Holmes Show. Jessica had a great time working with Roger and Don on the pilot for the sitcom XPM, and was thrilled when they later asked her to join the cast of ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FARCE.